



MARCH 6, 2023

Parents and Players,

Thank you to all of our amazing coaches, managers and age group coordinators who helped make this 2022-23 Texas Rising Stars and Super Stars season amazing!! It takes a village to raise a hockey program, and we have one incredibly special village. After losing Phil this season (our TRS Director) our volunteers and coaches committed to helping bridge the gaps in our program and stepped up to the plate to bring home a big WIN.

In 2022-23 season we saw 333 registrations across 6u, 8u, 10u, 12u and 14u. We were incredibly excited to be able to hit those numbers in light of all of the uncertainty over-shadowing this season. Despite all odds we were able to run a robust youth hockey program. Our goal for 2023-24 season is to continue to grow these numbers and continue to expand awareness of the great game of hockey throughout Central Texas. In order to reach this goal, we're continuing to look into community outreach opportunities for our youth players and we'll continue to introduce hockey into more elementary schools across central Texas by utilizing our partnership with the Texas Stars and Austin Ice Bats Jr Hockey Club.

We are also committed to improving our TRS offerings and taking all of the feedback we received from this year and putting it to good work. Bring on the DJ's, Hockey IQ, Leadership classes and Parent Education seminars.

6U Age Group:

At the 6U age group we saw fantastic growth and development under the leadership of our amazing volunteer coaches and bench monitors. All of the players improved immensely from skating, to shooting, to stick handling and game play. The excitement and passion that the coaches and bench monitors showed was reflected in the excitement of the players during games and practices. We were able to add players throughout the season to our rosters and teams and cannot wait to watch these players continue to grow and thrive in the sport. Coach Kevin, Miguel, Meridith, Matt, Colton, Stef, Geoff and Sherie worked tirelessly with me to give the kids the best experience on and off the ice!

8U Age Group:

The 8U age group was incredibly lucky to have TJ Johnson step up into the role of Age Group coordinator. His incredible organizational skills were reflected in the smoothness and professionalism of the 8U program. The players were able to develop and grow under his and all our amazing 8U coaches and volunteers' watch. The "Game Night" basket the 8U families organized for the scholarship raffle was overflowing with items, reflecting the commitment that this age group has to the program. We were also able to offer a Goalie 101 program ran by Lenard Swain on Monday nights. 8-10 goalies were trained on a weekly basis giving us the building blocks of a robust goalie program for the future.

The passion and joy that the players showed on and off the ice was inspiring. Without this group of coaches and managers the organization wouldn't be able to reach its full potential and the growth we're hoping for in the future. We cannot thank you enough!



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10U Age Group:

Our 10U Age Group was led by a fantastic core of dedicated volunteer coaches. Their focus on improving the players and giving them the best experience both on and off the ice was amazing. Most of these players were introduced to full ice rules for the first time this year and the mental development was amazing to witness. Along with physical skill, they developed hockey sense, spatial awareness, puck support and the understanding of rules. The coaches persevered at times when the adversity they faced seemed unsurmountable, but they never gave up and they taught their players what being on team truly means. The year end mini tournament (won by the Flyer Nation) marked the final hurrah for the players and teams and certainly was the cherry on top of a super successful season.

12U Age Group:

The 12u age group flourished under the guidance of Age Group Coordinator Chris Dockens and the coaches. It was fantastic to see the players come into their own as they honed their physical skills and began playing the game at a faster pace throughout the year. We began to see more structure and knowledge from the players, which is a direct link to great coaching throughout the year. We purposefully kept the rosters sizes small for our teams and introduced an upper and lower level division so the players could get a lot of puck touches and that they did. Some players playing in 2-3 games per weekend. We were also able to add in 12 players once the season started, allowing the league to grow and more players to get a chance to participate. A huge shout out to our coaches for managing all our special circumstances and roster challenges. You made the season amazing!! A special congratulations to all of the coaches and players from Flyer Nation for winning the 12u Championship at both Green and Grey with a shout out to our second place finishers the Ranger Nation. Blackhawks Nation came in a strong 3rd in both divisions, but Nordique Nation was hard on their heels.

14U Age Group:

As the Age Group Coordinator of our 14u group, Todd Floyd was at the helm of our oldest age group. Todd has been volunteering as a coach in our program since back at the old I-35 days almost 15 years ago. He and the coaches at 14u (Wende, Dockens, Sanders, Miguel, Patrick, Brian) have been wonderful to work with as always. They're understanding, flexible and willing to work through any circumstance with a positive demeanor. They are dedicated to making sure the players grow as young adults and as hockey players and they are always available for their players and families. The players under their leadership have grown and developed into great athletes and members of our hockey community.

While this is the oldest age group the TRS offers in its programming, I believe these players will continue into TJS, high-school hockey and beyond because the coaches have inspired lifelong hockey players. A special congratulations to the coaches and the players from Todd Nation (Rangers) for winning the 14u Championship, with Nordiques taking 2nd place and for the Blackhawks for cleaning up 3rd place! Flyers will get a chance to work in the offseason to battle again next year.



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A Look Toward 2023-24:

We at the AMHA are always looking to make our programs better and stronger. Having joined the AMHA in May of 2022, I am excited to be able to instill change and growth from the beginning of this hockey season and create a hockey program that is committed to player development at all levels starting at 6U and ending at 18U, Ice Bats, or wherever our players choose to take their playing careers. Following the mantra of the North American Hockey League by creating a “Ladder of Development” for our players and it begins by giving them access to knowledge and opportunities.

Some changes we will be implementing next year for our TRS leagues:

- Continuing to work on parity among teams across our leagues.
- Creating a bridge between Austin Ice Bats and our TRS hockey community.
- Establishing Age Group Leads at all our age groups well in advance of the season.
- Organizing coaches in August and hosting coach clinics in July and August.
- More robust tournament team options for TRS teams.
- Informal player progressions on their fundamental skill sets
 - Beginning of the year
 - End of season
- Continued skating, PEP and SAG into the 3rd Day/Skills option
- Age Group team bonding events
- Year-end Austin tournament
- In-House Coaching Seminars
 - Team Leadership for Players
 - Culture- creating it and maintaining it
 - Puck University Hockey IQ sessions – faceoff U, Power Play U, Penalty Kill U
 - Coach Skills Breakdowns
- Teaching Points – skating, stopping, turns, crossovers, pivots, etc.
- Teaching Points – Stickhandling, Shooting & Passing

Spring Programming

The AMHA is offering 3 levels of development for spring:

- Ice Bats Training Camp- Intensive spring training designed to ready players for TJS tryouts
- Lite League- pick up games at an advanced level to help improve play.
- Development League- Training and games for TRS players looking to improve their skill level and game knowledge and IQ.

The rinks Chaparral Ice, and The Crossover have their own spring offerings as well, so check their websites.

Summer Programming

The summer programs will be run by the rinks and skills coaches. Rink websites will contain information regarding those details.

Fall 2023-24 Season

Registration for the 2023-24 Season will begin in July as a first-come, first-served registration. Details will be announced on the website.

Sincerely,

Angie Vaught

AMHA Hockey Director



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