
Pee Wee Travel Teams Parent Meeting

West Madison Polar Caps
2019-2020 Season





Agenda

- Introductions
- Coaching Philosophy
- Locker Room Policy
- Safety
- Evaluations
- Player & Parent Expectations
- Schedule
- Team Organization
- Volunteering & Fundraising
- Wrap Up & Questions



Introductions

- Age Level Director for PW - Andy Mendyk
- Coaching Directors - Jeff Belshaw, Mike Wenkman, Scott Meskin
- Age Level Lead Coach for PW - Bob Boyle

Pride
Passion
Purpose





Coaching Philosophy

- We focus on USA Hockey's American Development Model.
 - Please familiarize yourself: <http://www.admkids.com/>
- We provide structured/safe environment to develop your child both individually and as a teammate.
- We want to foster a lifelong passion for the game of hockey.
- We praise work ethic and growth mindset.
- We encourage creativity and failure on the ice.
- We focus on process and effort -- NOT results.
- It's NOT about winning. Winning is byproduct of point above.
- We want playing hockey to be fun!



Coaching Philosophy

- Playing time will be equal for all kids.
 - Unless there are disciplinary issues or commitment issues with missing practices/trainings.
- Kids will play different positions throughout the year.
- Please accept the decisions of coaches.
- Direct questions first to your team manager, then coaches.
- Leave coaching to coaches.
 - On walk to car, you can talk about hockey. After that, STOP! Only ask if the kids are having fun and let them be kids.
- If you have questions, just ask!



Locker Room Policy

- Policy is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms.
- A coach or voluntary parent locker room monitors will need to be present directly outside of the locker rooms and changing areas.
- It is discouraged at the Pee Wee level and above for parents to be in the locker room unless it is truly necessary.
- If your player needs assistance with uniform or gear, are injured and have a disability that warrants assistance, let the coach know beforehand so that someone is available to help your player.
- Polar Caps adhere to USA Hockey's SafeSport Program as a means to protect its participants from physical or sexual abuse and other types of misconduct including bullying, threats, and harassment.



Locker Room Policy

- Co-ed locker rooms. Players are asked to arrive at the rink wearing hockey base layers under their street clothes when entering the locker room. If your player is unable to do this ahead of time, then we suggest they use a restroom to put on their base layers.
- Cell phones or other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras are NOT permitted to be used in the locker rooms.
- The ONLY exception is for players or coaches to play music through their mobile device or via connected speakers.
- Pictures or video recordings may be taken by coaches or locker room monitors IF all players are fully dressed in their hockey uniform.
- Parents and volunteers may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of the locker room policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse that violates the USA Hockey SafeSport policies.



Safety - Equipment

- Ensuring that your skater has the proper equipment is the best way that you as a parent can help minimize your skater's risk of injury.
- Be certain equipment is in good shape and fits properly.
- Helmets: Get a good one and make sure it fits well. Must have sticker verifying it is not expired!
- Mouth guards: Have a backup mouthguard in skater's bag.
- If you aren't sure about whether something fits or if it's appropriate, ask for help: equipment@westmadisonpolarcaps.com



Safety - Concussion Awareness

- <http://www.westmadisonpolarcaps.com/page/show/986020-concussion-awareness>
- [http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0031/9036/Suspected Concussion - Checklist for Parents.pdf](http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0031/9036/Suspected_Concussion_-_Checklist_for_Parents.pdf)
- <http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0106/2435/WAHAConcussionPolicy.pdf>
- [http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0106/2429/WAHA Parent and Athlete Fact Sheet v3.pdf](http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0106/2429/WAHA_Parent_and_Athlete_Fact_Sheet_v3.pdf)
- [http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0031/9039/WAHA Concussion Parent-Athlete Acknowledgement Form.pdf](http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0031/9039/WAHA_Concussion_Parent-Athlete_Acknowledgement_Form.pdf)



Safety - WAHA Rules

- Charging/Boarding/Contact to the Head will all be misconduct penalties.
- Two misconducts in a game will result in a Game Misconduct.
- HECC Helmet Rule: A player can be removed from the ice if he/she does not have the sticker with a date that is within the 8 year window.

49 players

29 are 2nd year Pee Wees (2007)

20 are 1st year Pee Wees (2008)





Evaluations - Tryout Process

- Tryouts are a player evaluation and team placement process.
- There are no cuts -- every player gets placed on a Polar Caps team.
- Goal is to group like-skill players on teams for better development.
- We want to put each kid in position to have success for the season.
- Majority of evaluators are independent (meaning no child playing at level they are helping evaluate).
- Team placements are determined by Coaching Committee with input from evaluators and past/present coaches. Committee will consider tryout rankings/results as well as such things as coachability, physical, mental/emotional maturity, and attitude.



Evaluations - Tryouts Process

- 1st session: Focus on core skills
- 2nd and 3rd sessions: Focus on gameplay situations
- Tryouts are done in groups to make it manageable (typically less than 30 skaters at a session).
- Note that not all skaters will be at final sessions. The purpose is to be more efficient in evaluating groups of players and to help make sure that each player gets looked at properly.
- For example, if your player gets called back for the final session, it means that the evaluators need another opportunity to see them on the ice.



Player & Parent Expectations

- **Commitment:** All players are expected to attend practices and games
 - Hockey is a team sport. Being a good teammate means being present and engaged.
 - Coaches will communicate when a practice is optional.
- **Responsibility:** Please communicate with coaches if your player will be absent from a practice or game
 - Email your coaches and team manager.
- **Priority:** Family and school events are more important than hockey
- Read and understand the Code of Conduct.
- Polar Caps will enforce the Code. You will be notified via email of any violations.
 - No yelling at coaches, refs, or players from the stands. This will be seen as a violation.



Schedule

- Typically 2-3 practices during the week and 2 games on the weekend
- Practice times and days of the week can vary considerably
- Typically 30+ games during the season
- Game times vary from early morning to late afternoon to even early evening
- Games are played within greater Dane County, as well as other areas in WI and potentially in northern IL, MN, and IA (e.g. Dubuque)
- Not all of the games are scheduled at the start of the season (this is done on purpose to allow us flexibility in adjusting games to the level of competition)
- Not all practices will be at MIA (subscribe to the calendar, team managers will also send updates)
- Typically 3 tournaments (one local in the Madison area, two away tournaments with overnight stays in hotels usually leaving on Friday evening and coming back on Sunday afternoon)

79%

Planning to participate in off-ice training for travel teams





Schedule - Off-Ice Training

- New this year: We are using TAP (Total Athlete Performance) to run off-ice strength & conditioning training for travel teams
- We have done some trainings with them before in previous years and a number of Polar Caps players are already familiar with TAP's training through summer programs
- TAP will also be doing the same off-ice training each week for Verona's teams and the Mavericks 14U girls' teams
- We are planning to run training 1/week by age group for Squirts, Pee Wees, and Bantams
- In addition, teams whose coaches choose to do 2/week will have their 2nd training scheduled by team (e.g. typically 2 teams together)
- Cost is \$200 for the season (16 weeks) for 1/week and additional \$120 for 2/week
- You will sign up and pay directly through an account with TAP
- Off-ice training is optional for travel teams this year (note that we have committed at least the A & B teams to do the training for each age group to secure scheduling and pricing)

Schedule - Tournaments

- **Pee Wee A**
 - Chicago Silver Stick (Dec 6-8)
 - Proctor MN (Jan 17-19)
 - Appleton (Feb 21-23)
- **Pee Wee B**
 - Sun Prairie (Dec 14-15)
 - Eau Claire (Jan 3-5)
 - Eagle River (Feb 28-Mar 1)
- **Pee Wee C1 Blue**
 - Sun Prairie (Jan 4-5)
 - Green Bay (Jan 24-26)
 - Chippewa Falls (Feb 21-22)
- **Pee Wee C2 Green**
 - Dubuque (Nov 16-17)
 - Washington County (Feb 22-23)
 - 3rd TBD (Sheboygan?)

Schedule - Playdowns and State Tournament



- Travel teams play for the opportunity to win their regional playoffs (Playdowns) and earn a spot in the State Tournament.
- Polar Caps play in WAHA Region 4 Division 1
- Pee Wee Playdowns date: Jan 31-Feb 2, 2020
- Pee Wee State tournament date: March 14-15, 2020



Team Organization

- Each team will need:
 - **Team Manager** to help schedule games, arrange tournaments, and prepare weekly email updates.
 - **Social Director** to organize food and fun, particularly at tournaments.
 - Some teams have additional roles such as Treasurer and Off-Ice Official Organizer (see next bullet).
 - Plenty of opportunities to get involved!
- Off-Ice Officials volunteers are needed at all home games:
 - **Official scorekeeper**
 - **Penalty Box door operator** (may be needed at away games also)
 - **Scoreboard operator**
 - SignUpGenius.com is a good way to get these spots scheduled/filled
 - Learn to do these functions... and they can be fun!
- What is the Slush Fund?
 - Slush fund is a team fund used to pay for any extras that come up (particularly at tournaments), end-of-the-year party, and coaches end-of-the-year gifts.
 - It is up to each team to determine the amount for their slush funds.



Volunteering

- Must work 12 hours during the season (unless you did buyout during registration).
- **Get your hours done early -- Don't wait until the end of the season!**
- You will be charged \$30/hour for each hour not worked.
- Head coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers are exempt (credited 12 hours).
- Use the DIBS part of the Polar Caps website to sign up for hours.
- Majority of hours are typically filled by staffing the concessions at MIA.
- We have some of the lowest volunteer hours requirements around.
Let's do our part!



Fundraising

- Our primary fundraiser will again be the Skate-A-Thon this year.
 - Date TBD
- Concessions at MIA are also an important part of raising funds.
 - Sign up for shifts -- We don't make anything when it's not open!
- Dasher board signs for the Outdoor rink are available for purchase by families and businesses.
 - Contact Jennifer Baer
- Some one-off fundraisers are also held throughout the season.
 - For example, Chipotle fundraiser night
- Questions about fundraising?
 - Contact Jamie Beyler

LiveBarn



- Provides online broadcasts of hockey games at many rinks across the US and Canada.
- Games are broadcast both live and via on-demand replay allowing friends and family to watch online when they cannot attend a game.
- <https://livebarn.com/>
- Remember: The microphone picks up voices in the stands!

If you remember nothing else from this...



We are an ALL VOLUNTEER organization!

Coaches are NOT paid!

We have a fantastic 4-5 month program for your child, and we need your help!

Questions?

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