

Getting excited for season start!

The start of our season is right around the corner! The regular season will start on Sunday, September 10 with our 6U's taking the ice first. The practice schedule can be found <http://casperhockey.com/practice/>, so please review that at your convenience.

Here are a few reminders that need to be reviewed prior to our 2017-2018 season...

Fees & Financial Responsibility

By CAHC policy, 80% of each player's registration fees must be paid by October 1st or the player will be ineligible to participate until the account is brought current. Yep. No pay, no play. Please make sure your account is paid up. Please check your accounts online and make sure your account is current. You can access your account from our website home page at <http://casperhockey.com/24/7>. The instructions for how to access your family account invoice can be found on the News page of our website at <http://casperhockey.com/news/>. To be in good standing with CAHC, it means that you are complying with all Club policies and your account is current.

From the policy manual...

"For any check written to CAHC, fees of \$30.00 will be charged for each returned check. After two checks have been returned, the Club may request cash or money orders."

"All accounts 90 days or more past due shall be assessed a finance charge of \$35.00 per month until the account is made current."

"Individual Fees: All League team members will pay a league fee calculated and assessed by the Club's Treasurer in an amount to cover all the current season expenses associated once rostered on that team. All Travel Tournament team members will pay a travel fee calculated and assessed by the Club's bookkeeper in an amount to cover all the current season expenses associated once rostered on that team."

Fees and sponsorships

There has been some misinformation circulated in the past about non-profits and fees/sponsorships, and so hopefully this will clarify a couple of things.

First, if you register your player with CAHC you are registering your player to receive a service. Even though CAHC is a non-profit, you cannot legally claim those registration fees on your income tax as a donation to CAHC. The fees are not a donation. You are paying for a service. So, **registration fees or any other fees paid to CAHC are not tax deductible.**

Second, **player sponsorships are not allowed.** The IRS considers this funneling money through a non-profit to benefit one individual (basically, a form of money laundering). The Club cannot accept funds solicited by families as player sponsorships for their player. **Please do not go and solicit funds this way.** This is one of the fastest ways for the Club to lose it's non-profit status. :(

Commitment letter and Casper First

Please note that your player will not be added to a Casper team (10U and older) roster unless a commitment letter has been received and the commitment indicated on the letter is reflective of the opportunity(ies) being offered at that divisional level. There will be a deadline for commitment letters to be submitted during tryouts. Once the team rosters are received from the divisional head coaches, the rosters will be sent for approval and set for the season.

For all registered players, the commitment level expected to the Club and to your player's team(s) is for the entire season. We do not offer a partial season commitment option.

From the policy manual...

“CAHC offers two levels of competitive play for age groups above the 8U division: League team play and Travel Tournament team play. At the discretion of the coaches of an age group, the registration numbers within that age group will determine the viability of separate and distinct League and Travel Tournament teams. Separate and distinct League and Travel Tournament teams will occur when registration numbers at an age group allows for more than one League team. If registration numbers at an age group do not allow for more than one League team, try-outs will determine the roster for the League/Travel Tournament team.”

The Casper First policy is clear on how CAHC manages these conflicts. A player who is also playing on another team may ask permission to be excused from a Casper Travel Tournament team commitment. If permission is granted, all that excuses the player from is any sort of team consequence for missing that particular commitment (i.e. the player cannot be benched or short shifted or disciplined in any way due to lack of attendance). However, the family is still financially responsible for the associated Casper Travel Tournament team expenses for that team commitment whether they attend the commitment or not (the only exception for not being financially responsible for a commitment is if a player is injured and cannot play and a waiver of fees request is received and approved by the board).

From the policy manual...

“Casper Amateur Hockey Club does not wish to prohibit or even discourage players from seeking additional opportunities to participate in youth hockey. However, given the potential disruptive effect of players playing in other programs, some guidelines for such participation must be set forth. It shall be the policy of CAHC that all of its players must give Casper Amateur Hockey Club games and practices priority over the games or practices of other programs, leagues, or tournaments. This policy does not preclude players from participating in additional programs, leagues, or tournaments, but does require that CAHC players will play with their CAHC team if there is a conflict with another program, league or tournament. Player’s may petition the Casper First Policy. This petition must be submitted to the Club in writing at least a month prior to the conflict. There must be unanimous consent by the Coaching coordinators and the Chairman of the Coaching committee, after the coaching staff has been consulted. This will only be considered if it is deemed the player will be playing at a higher competitive level with the opportunity presented in the petition than the Casper team is playing at the time of conflict. Players and parents will be required to sign letters of commitment prior to the beginning of the season agreeing to abide by this policy.”

From the Casper Amateur Hockey Club Code of Conduct Release and Waiver, Participation Release, & Media Release document...

“Casper Amateur Hockey Club PARTICIPATION RELEASE/TRAVEL POLICY AGREEMENT: I/We, the undersigned, state the online registration information provided is correct and am voluntarily participating in, or giving my/our approval for the skater above to participate in any and all of the activities of the Casper Amateur Hockey Club (a non-profit organization), and its member teams and clubs, during the current season. I/We do further hereby release, absolve, and hold harmless, the Casper Amateur Hockey Club, its Directors, Officers, Coaches, member teams and clubs, organizers, and the Arena Supervisors, any or all of them against any claims. In case of injury, I/We waive all claims against the above named organization and representatives. I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to comply with all CAHC bylaws and policies, including the CAHC SafeSport Travel policy, which can be found at www.casperhockey.com.”

Injuries & Return to Sport

If a player is injured while playing hockey during a CAHC event (practice, game, dry land, etc.), the family needs to inform the Club President and request an insurance form. This form needs to be completed by the family, signed by the Club President and submitted to USAH as soon as possible.

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More information regarding the USA Hockey insurance can be found at <http://www.usahockey.com/page/show/837177-claims-reporting>.

Once the player is able to return from an injury hockey related or not...

If a player has been off the ice due to injury, the family is required to submit a medical release received from the player's physician indicating that the player is able to return to hockey activities to the Club President prior to taking the ice again. Once the medical release has been received, that release has to be sent to the WAHA President, Risk Manager, and respective Age Director prior to the skater returning to our program. This takes time. Do not expect your player to be able to return to the ice on the day the medical release is obtained.

From the policy manual...

"Players who are injured, or have an illness, that keeps them from participating may petition the CAHC Board for an adjustment of Travel Tournament team fees. The petition must be presented to the CAHC Board within 30 days of the injury or illness. A letter and/or order from a physician must accompany the petition and a medical release must be submitted to the Board prior to the player actively returning and participating in the program. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, and the decision of the CAHC Board will be final."

Withdrawal from the program

If you are considering withdrawing your player from the program, please note there is a policy to deal with that.

From the policy manual...

"CAHC registration refunds shall be given under the following schedule if fees have been paid in full and CAHC Treasurer is notified in writing by handwritten letter or email that a player is withdrawing from the program by his/her parent:

- a. Skater withdraws prior to October 15: 100% refund*
- b. Skater withdraws after October 15 but prior to November 15: 66% refund*
- c. Skater withdraws after November 15 but prior to December 15: 33% refund*
- d. Skater withdraws after December 15: No refund*
- e. Refunds and Suspensions: Fees shall not be reduced to players under suspension. No refunds are given for League team fees. The CAHC Board shall determine refunds to players who leave a Travel Tournament team for any reason. No refunds/adjustments given for players who are unable to participate due to school ineligibility requirements."*

Fundraisers are super important and not only help out the Club to keep expenses low, but also help out your family account. Please take advantage of the opportunities provided. It is a win-win for everyone!

Schwan's fundraiser

Thanks to all those who purchased some great Schwan's food and donated to our Schwan's fundraiser! Every little bit helps and the profits raised will help to offset the expenses for the new 8U home and away jerseys.

AmazonSmile

Please also remember that when you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to Casper Amateur Hockey Club Inc. Support us... <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/83-0211124>

Wreaths

We will again be doing another wreath fundraiser. Wreaths will be delivered sometime in mid November. Volunteers will be needed to help unload the truck on delivery day and also needed on

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the distribution nights which will be communicated when scheduled. The wreaths sell for \$25 and a \$5 non-refundable credit will be applied to your player's hockey account for every wreath you sell. Please make sure all checks are made payable to CAHC.

Seller options:

Option 1: Pre-pay (check or credit card) for total amount of wreaths taken. Sell the wreaths and keep the monies collected.

Option 2: Take 20 wreaths or less to sell without providing a deposit. If the monies are not returned to the Club for the wreaths taken on/before December 11, the amount due will be charged to your player's account and the no pay/no play policy will take into effect immediately.

Option 3: Take more than 20 wreaths to sell and leave a deposit check for the total amount of the wreaths taken post-dated for December 11. If the amount due is not returned on/before December 11, the check will be deposited. This option allows you to sell the wreaths, collect the payments, turn the payments in prior to December 11, and have your deposit check returned. No returns... We need to lessen the costs associated with wreaths that are returned in unsellable condition, or so late into December that it is difficult to get them sold. If you sell all the wreaths you have and would like more after the scheduled distribution dates, we will make arrangements with you to get you some more. So, spread the word and start your sales pitch to friends and family.

NCSD Attendance Policy

For those with players who will be missing school due to hockey, please ensure you are calling your player's school in advance and communicating with the attendance person that your player will be absent due to hockey. More information can be found here

<http://natronaschools.org/parentsstudents/attendance/>.

Students in High School also need to meet the Activities Eligibility Requirements, which can be found here http://www.ncsdathletics.com/uploads/3/8/2/8/38288109/high_school_handbook_-_09-09-16.pdf.

Communication

Club emails like this one from Pointstreak will be about the Club stuff (registration, payment deadlines, events, fundraisers, etc) the majority of the time. Team Locker Room emails are going to be about divisional and team information and you can expect those to come closer to season start (practice reminders or cancellations, game information, etc). And, don't forget to like our Facebook page, as there is lots of information posted there as well about events, etc.

Thanks!

Diane

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