

August, 2017

Dear Oswego Hockey Families:

Welcome to the inaugural season of the Oswego Hockey Club!

We are thrilled you have decided to join this exciting new hockey program for students attending Oswego and Oswego East high schools. In the upcoming season, we have the opportunity (and the challenge!) to start fresh — to set the bar high and proudly represent our schools and our community.

It was only last summer that a group of Oswego students began dreaming about the possibility of one day playing hockey for their own high school. Although a large number of Oswego students were involved in our great sport, Oswego did not have a team it could call its own. Interested families began reaching out to others, and soon, an organizational meeting was held at Oswego High School.

Once word was out, there was no stopping the budding Oswego Hockey Club. A number of volunteers signed on, conducting research, filing the necessary paperwork, providing technological support, establishing a presence on social media and interviewing potential coaches. Finally, when the time was right, the OHC petitioned the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois (AHA) to approve us as an official club.

That approval came on June 14. Now we are once again in the dog days of summer, running a 4x4 program and Summer Skates and looking forward to our first pre-season conditioning and tryouts. So let's get to it!

For the 2017-18 season, Oswego Hockey Club will be a "combined" high school hockey club composed of students from OHS and OEHS. Some of our players will be familiar to each other, having played together in the past. Others will be new. Supporting and encouraging new teammates goes hand in hand with learning to play as a new team. That flexibility and determination is what will make good players great.

Oswego's hockey program will grow players of all skill levels and provide players with leadership opportunities. As a high school club, we are a no-cut organization. We intend to field two teams, a highly competitive Varsity team and a developmental Junior Varsity team. Both teams will be part of the Hayes Suburban league. Both teams will follow the same practice models with the goal of JV players eventually moving up into Varsity slots.

We are excited to embark on a new adventure in high school hockey and hope this letter will explain everything you need to know to be a part of the Oswego Hockey Club. It is divided into four parts.

Part 1: What the Oswego Hockey Club has to offer

Part 2: Important dates

Part 3: What you need to do to register your players

Part 4: What is expected of Oswego Hockey Club members

## **Part 1**

### **What the Oswego Hockey Club Has to Offer**

**Community Spirit** — One of the driving forces behind the creation of the Oswego Hockey Club is community spirit! Our skaters will wear Oswego colors, invite classmates to games and have the opportunity to earn Oswego numerals and letters to display on school athletic jackets. Our board members, coaches, players and parents have ties to the Oswego community. We plan to deepen those bonds and promote the Oswego Hockey Club name within the community and the schools. We will strive to make the sport of hockey a memorable, enjoyable part of the high school experience for our players at both Oswego and Oswego East high schools.

**Quality coaching** —Our board has contracted with an extremely talented and dedicated coaching staff.

First, we could not be prouder to introduce **Paul Dukovac** as the Oswego Hockey Club's first Varsity head coach. Coach Dukovac has been coaching and training hockey players for more than 25 years. He played junior hockey and was team captain for the Barrie Colts in Ontario, Canada. He also played collegiate hockey at Cornell University, serving as team captain his senior year. He was a draft choice of the Vancouver Canucks and played two years of professional hockey.

A Level 4 coach, Coach Dukovac has coached for the Naperville Sabres for the past 17 years. He also has coached at Team Illinois and the Chicago Young Americans.

Coach Dukovac also has served as a team chiropractor for three different professional sports organizations where his understanding of the body's mechanics and hands-on care helped athletes perform to the best of their abilities. His understanding of skating stride mechanics and the technical side of the various hockey skill sets bring added value to his skills coaching.

Next, we extend a warm welcome to our Junior Varsity coach, **Troy Arneson**. Coach Arneson, who has earned a Level 5 coaching status from USA Hockey, comes to the Oswego Hockey Club with many years of hockey experience with the Sabres. For the past three seasons, he has served as the head Bantams travel coach, and prior to that was a Squirt and Mites coach. He also has served as an assistant coach for various teams his son has played on

In addition, Coach Arneson was the JV coach at Conant High School in Hoffman Estates and also served as the Midget and Bantam coach for the Schaumburg Kings. He also helped run the CIHL roller hockey league.

Oswego Hockey Club is pleased to announce the appointment of **Anthony Petrak** as goalie coach. He will be responsible for the direction, philosophy and development of the goalie program.

Coach Petrak played Division 1 hockey at Robert Morris University, backstopping the team's incredible run to a Central States Collegiate Hockey League regular season championship, a playoff championship and into the ACHA National Championship Game in the 2013-14 season. For his efforts, he was named to the Central States All-Star Team and was the First Team All-Tournament goalie at the National Championships.

Coach Petrak has established himself as one of the elite goaltending skills coaches in the Chicagoland area, assisting in the development of players advancing to AAA, collegiate and professional hockey. Over the past seven years, he has helped develop goalies at various goaltending schools including The Mitch Korn Goalie School, Midwest Goalie School and

Bandits Goalie School. He has previous instruction experience at the Laura Stamm Power Skating School and was an assistant coach/film coach at Robert Morris University, where he specialized in video analysis.

Assistant Coach **Tony Lindeman** grew up playing hockey in Minnesota and has been coaching for 17 years. He is a level 4 USA Hockey certified coach and has coached at various levels including most recently the head varsity coach at Lincoln Way for three years, where he led the team to two consecutive years in the State Quarterfinals and the 2015 USA Hockey National Championships.

Coach Lindeman began his coaching career with the Dallas Stars youth hockey organization, coached in Arizona with the Roadrunners Youth Hockey Club, and since arriving in Illinois, coached with Rockey Hockey, Chicago Mission and is going into his second year with the Sabres.

**Ice times** —The Oswego Hockey Club has secured the following ice times for our players:

Junior Varsity will practice at 9:45 p.m. Monday at Downers Grove.

Junior Varsity will attend skills at 3:50 p.m. Thursday at Canlan.

Varsity will practice at 3:50 p.m. Tuesday at Canlan.

Varsity will attend skills at 3:50 p.m. Thursday at Canlan.

Starting Sept. 10, the JV and Varsity teams will practice for one hour Sunday mornings at the Rocket. We have reserved ice time from 6:10 to 7:40 a.m. We will be running a 30/30/30 split.

Practices are subject to change as more favorable ice slots become available.

**Off-ice conditioning** — Members of both the Varsity and Junior Varsity teams will be required to participate in twice-weekly off-ice conditioning at an additional cost of \$6 per session. Varsity conditioning will be held after practice and skills at Canlan. Junior Varsity conditioning will be held twice a week at the Oswego YMCA. See below for details on payment.

**Fundraising** — The Oswego Hockey Club recognizes that hockey is an expensive sport. We do not receive funding from Oswego School District 308. Our board is dedicated to keeping costs down and making the club affordable. To that end, we are seeking corporate sponsorships. With a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status pending, we will gratefully accept cash contributions, gift card donations and fund-raising opportunities from local businesses. All support will be acknowledged through the sharing of logos and web links on our website. We also hope to provide team photos for display at sponsoring businesses. For more information about our corporate sponsorship program, please contact our fundraising committee chairman John Paul Dehler at (630) 554-0802 or [mmfjpd@aol.com](mailto:mmfjpd@aol.com)

**Tournaments:** The Varsity and the Junior Varsity teams will participate in two tournaments this season. Each will attend the Indianapolis Firestorm tourney Oct. 6-8 and The Big Chill Tournament Jan. 12-15 in Ann Arbor. The cost of the tournament registration is included in our fees.

**Other Activities:** Stay tuned for holiday and year-end activities.

## **PART 2 IMPORTANT DATES**

Following are some key dates leading up to the beginning of the 2017-18 hockey season:

### **Pre-Season Meeting:**

- Tuesday, Aug. 8, 7 p.m. at Oswego Fire Station, 3511 Wooley Road, Oswego

### **Pre-Season Conditioning:**

- Monday, Aug. 14, 7:20-8:20 p.m. at Canlan
- Tuesday, Aug. 15, 5-6 p.m. at Canlan
- Friday, Aug. 18, 7:20-8:20 p.m. at Canlan
- Monday, Aug. 21, 9:45 p.m. at Downers Grove

### **Try Outs:**

- Tuesday, Aug. 22, 6:00 p.m. at Canlan
- Thursday, Aug. 24, 6:40 p.m. at Canlan

All prospective Oswego Hockey Club players are strongly encouraged to attend pre-season conditioning as well as try-outs. Your registration fee includes both.

**Team Selection:** The Varsity Head Coach will select our Varsity and JV teams as soon as possible following the completion of our tryouts. Rosters will be posted on our web site by August 25<sup>th</sup>. Players must commit to the team assigned before the first scheduled practice. Positions will not be held for players after the first practice date listed below.

### **First Practice:**

Varsity: 3:50 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29 at Canlan  
Junior Varsity: 9:45 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28 at Downers Grove

## **Part 3 How to Register Your Player**

The required forms are as followed. Please click on the embedded links to access each form.

1. [USA Hockey registration link](#)
2. [2017/2018 Fall Registration Form](#)
3. [Try Out Policy](#)
4. [AHA! Participation Form](#). pdf (must be printed)
5. [IHSA Pre-Participation Form](#) (2 Pages)
6. [USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy](#) (Print and Sign)
7. Copy of Birth Certificate
8. Credit Card Authorization Form, if applicable. (Print and Sign)
9. Confirmation of letter of USA Hockey Registration (Print and turn in)

The printed forms and the first payment of \$350, are to be submitted to:

Bob Alesia  
403 Raintree Drive  
Oswego IL 60543

on or before Aug. 14, which coincides with our first ice slot for pre-season conditioning. If you have any questions, please contact Angela at [oswegohshockey@gmail.com](mailto:oswegohshockey@gmail.com)

Please note: Your player will not be allowed on the ice without payment, confirmed USA Hockey registration for the 2017-18 season, and all forms completed, except for the IHSA pre-participation examination, which is due on Sept 2nd.

The fee for our inaugural year will be \$4,500, including a \$350 nonrefundable registration fee. This includes the cost of our warmups (pants and jacket), Home and Away jerseys, socks and shells. Players will be fitted for jerseys and warmups at registration. Please see Part 4 for more information about the Uniform Policy. Goalies are required to pay one-half of the regular player fee, \$2,250.

The following payments plans are available:

**Option 1:** Pay in full and receive a \$100 discount. (\$50 for a goalie.) The amount, \$4,400 (\$2,200 for a goalie) will cover registration for the preseason conditioning clinic, the tryout and fees for the whole season. All mailed packages must be postmarked by Aug. 14 to be eligible.

**Option 2:** Post-dated checks totaling \$4,500 made payable to Oswego Hockey Inc. for the following amounts:

\$350 non-refundable registration fee due by Aug. 14 with registration packet.

\$292.90 (271.43 for goalies) deposited no sooner than August 31st

\$642.85 (271.43 for goalies) deposited no sooner than September 18th

\$642.85 (271.43 for goalies) deposited no sooner than October 16th

\$642.85 (271.43 for goalies) deposited no sooner than November 13th

\$642.85 (271.43 for goalies) deposited no sooner than December 11th

\$642.85 (271.43 for goalies) deposited no sooner than January 8th

\$642.85 (271.42 for goalies) deposited no sooner than February 5<sup>th</sup>

**Option 3:** Credit payments are accepted via Paypal for a small charge. The initial nonrefundable registration fee of \$350 will be assessed at 2.9 percent. Thereafter, a recurring automatic charge will occur at a 2.75% fee. We must have credit card information and authorization.

\$360.15 charged Aug. 14 via Paypal.

\$300.95 (\$278.90 for goalies) charged on August 31st

\$660.53 (\$278.90 for goalies) charged on September 18th

\$660.53 (\$278.90 for goalies) charged on October 16th

\$660.53 (\$278.90 for goalies) charged on November 13th

\$660.53 (\$278.90 for goalies) charged on December 11th

\$660.53 (\$278.90 for goalies) charged on January 8th

\$660.53 (\$278.90 for goalies) charged on February 5<sup>th</sup>

Cost of 21 weeks of off-ice conditioning is \$264, to be paid in three separate installments of \$88 each, in September, November, and January.

#### **Part 4**

### **What is Expected of Oswego Hockey Club Members**

*It is imperative that all parents and athletes read, understand and agree to abide by the guidelines of the club. The best interests of the team will always be put ahead of the interests of an individual. Parents' and athletes' actions and behaviors can have a positive or negative impact on the team as a whole.*

- The Oswego Hockey Club has a uniform policy in order to maintain a consistent appearance that reflects well on the organization and its participants. The purpose of the policy is to have all representatives of the OHC presented in a consistent and positive view. The organization is stressing the team aspect of the game, and this is one way that each player can show their commitment to the team and the organization. The club has a game day dress code which requires all players to wear a warm-up jacket and warm-up pants provided by the organization. All OHC players will be required to wear approved jerseys, shell and socks which also are made available by the organization. Each player must have a home and away jersey with matching socks. The club also recommends that each player wear a navy helmet and navy gloves. Players new to the organization may have another color helmet and/or gloves and we do not require them to purchase new equipment. We do request players and parents comply when purchasing new pants and helmets. This policy will be strictly enforced in the 2019-2020 season. Any deviation from this Club policy, following one warning, will be dealt with by a suspension and, if necessary, additional sanctions. Any team deviating from and/or altering this dress code policy will require board approval.
- During events, please allow the team to prepare and perform without interruption. The coaches need the athletes' full attention to prepare and perform to their best ability. The athletes need to make sure they have everything they need before each event. Parents should not need to bring items to their athletes.
- All players will adhere to the same academic eligibility requirements as OHS and OEHS students involved in IHSA sports. Students must be passing 25 hours (5 academic classes) each week, semester, year in order to remain eligible for league games. Any student ineligible for 6 weeks in a single season will be removed from the team for the remainder of that season. A student's main focus should be on academics; therefore, we reserve the right to remove anyone who is consistently struggling with academics to focus more on grades.
- Oswego Hockey Club is no-cut. However, not everyone will make the Varsity team, and not everyone will play the exact position they might wish. The purpose of the Junior Varsity team is developmental, to prepare athletes for the Varsity program. The Junior Varsity practices will follow the same model as the Varsity. Coaches will attempt to equalize playing time for Junior Varsity players. Exceptions may be made during key plays of momentous games such as playoffs. The Varsity team is highly competitive. There is no guarantee of playing time. All decisions about playing time and positions will be made by the head coach.
- Oswego Hockey Club will allow double-rostered skaters. However, due to an abundance of available goalies, we will not accept double-rostered goalies. At this time, there will not be a discount for those choosing to double-roster.
- All will respect the coaching decisions made and allow the coaching staff to coach the team. All understand that decisions made by the coaching staff and/or Oswego Hockey Club board will be final.
- All will wait 24 hours before contacting a coach if there is an incident or concern unless it involves a serious injury/incident. Emotions often run high during a game, practice, competition or event, and a 24-hour minimum waiting period gives all parties an opportunity to reflect on the issues at hand. Please wait at least three days for a response; do not send a

second email or call again until this time has passed. Please refrain from calling the coach unless there is an injury or emergency.

- It is the responsibility of the athlete to contact the coach in advance if the athlete is going to miss any or all of a team function. Any communication after the fact (call, text, e-mail, etc.) will not be accepted to excuse an absence. The coach will communicate to the team the best way to contact him.
- It is important to be proactive in the prevention and management of head injuries and concussions. Prior to the start of each season, the Oswego Hockey Club strongly encourages all members to take advantage of the free Baseline Testing initiative offered by AHA! in partnership with Athletico Physical Therapy, the Chicago Blackhawks and NorthShore University HealthSystem. For more information, email [baselinetesting@athletico.com](mailto:baselinetesting@athletico.com)
- The USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy will be strictly enforced.
- Oswego Hockey Club players must respect parents, coaches, athletes, game officials and administration for all teams. Oswego teams are role models of good sportsmanship and behavior. Both athletes and parents will cheer for our team, not against the opposing team. Bullying and harassment will not be tolerated.
- Parents and fans must understand they are representing our program and our schools and will behave in an appropriate manner. Encourage and support all athletes on the team. Make sure all your comments are positive.
- Parents will refrain from talking to or commenting about members of the team other than their own athlete.
- Informational e-mails, tweets or Facebook messages sent to the entire team or to all of the parents will be sent by the coaches or the team manager as directed by the head coach. Mass messages sent to the team and/or parents to voice opinions and concerns are not appropriate.
- Oswego Hockey Club players will adhere to the Code of Conduct for Oswego High School and Oswego East High School.
- Oswego Hockey Club players are expected to use social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc) in a responsible manner. Any derogatory, offensive, slanderous, bullying or hazing comments made by or toward any Oswego Hockey Club athlete, coach, team or opponent that is proven and brought to the attention of the Oswego Hockey Club board will be dealt with immediately. Consequences will be swift and may include suspension and/or removal from the team. Consequences will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

The Oswego Hockey Club Board

Teresa Porter, President, [tpmcpporter@comcast.net](mailto:tpmcpporter@comcast.net)  
Angela Paravola, Vice President, [oswegohshockey@gmail.com](mailto:oswegohshockey@gmail.com)  
Bob Alesia, Treasurer, [ralesia@fssialarms.com](mailto:ralesia@fssialarms.com)  
Deborah Johnson, Secretary, [debb.jay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debb.jay@sbcglobal.net)  
Tom Kennedy, Communications, [oswegohcwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:oswegohcwebmaster@gmail.com)  
Patricia Cifone, OEHS Representative, [powersk8@comcast.net](mailto:powersk8@comcast.net)  
Brian Allen, OHS Representative, [ballen@sd308.org](mailto:ballen@sd308.org)