KYHC

August 2026 Newsletter

Irish News

- Irish roster has a total of 17 skaters and 1 goalie, with one skater being a part time/dual roster player.
- Coaches will remain: Head Coach – Mark Calahan, Assistant coaches – Elliot Kraft and Matt Zagorski
- Reminder that all 2008 and 2009 birth year players need to complete their SafeSport training prior to the first Irish practice. This link can be found on the KYHC website as well as USA Hockey's website. Thank you to those that have already completed.
- All jerseys, socks, jackets and bags are ordered and should be in by the beginning of September. Shells will be passed out as well with the jerseys if not earlier. Once the new players receive their shells; any returning players will have the option to purchase any of the remaining shells if they like.
- Irish practices will start August 24. On ice practice is scheduled for Tuesday and Thursdays from 7-8:30pm until September 8th. Starting September 10th, Irish will start weight room at 7pm, (chalk talk if needed) and on ice practice will be 8:45-10:15pm on Tuesday and Thursdays. We realize the frustration with practices now being pushed back 15 minutes later than last year, but this the solution in response to the ice availability we received from Ice Valley in order to still offer both our Coyote Bantams and Irish full 90 min practices each night.
- Crossbar chats are now open on the app, please watch for any schedule updates as we prepare to get the season started.
- Lisa has received a mockup, from our contact at Jerrys, for a hoodie replica (as close as he could get it) of our Irish dark jerseys. This would be available to any parents or players. We need a minimum order of 12 since it is a new style. (Future orders can be any number and will only be an extra fee if ordering 3 or less.) The cost will be $77 each with no extra charge for personalization on the back. Lisa will assess interest and communicate details.

Irish – ISHSL Updates

- Lisa attended the meeting on July 29th
  - Varsity will have 16 teams and they are anticipating JV 15-18 teams (waiting on evals for final determination). Tiering will be released around August 24 so that teams can begin scheduling that week.
  - Season games will start as early as the weekend of September 12 with all regular season games being completed by January 23rd.
  - All Star game and All Conference games will be scheduled for January 24th at Fifth Third Arena in Chicago this year.
  - Playoffs will start the week of January 29th and be the same set up as years past dependent on West Cup or McKeague Cup placement.
  - Illinois West has sent out the zero-tolerance form for the season. Lisa will have paper copies for players and their parents to sign at the first practice. Please return these the next practice.
  - Illinois West did clarify their suspension and fines policy for this season as well. If a parent/spectator is thrown out of a game, IL West will assess a 3 game suspension on top of the AHAI 5 game suspension. Fines are as follows: First suspension: $100 (5) AHAI games/ at least (3) West games (if offense was during a league game), Second suspension: $500 fine and one year suspension, Third suspension: $1,000 fine and permanent suspension.

Due to a lack of interest, there will not be a 16u Coyote Midget Team.

Coyote News

- Registration has officially wrapped up! We are excited to have the following numbers for the upcoming season: 13 Mites, 16 Squirts, 14 Peewees, 15 Bantams
- Jersey, Sock and Jacket orders have been placed.
- Practices begin September 9th and 10th. The current practice schedule will be:
  - Mites: Mondays & Wednesdays
  - Squirts: Mondays & Wednesdays
  - Peewees: Mondays & Thursdays
  - Bantams: Tuesdays & Thursday

Peewees & Bantams – CSDHL Update

- Kari attended a CSDHL meeting on Saturday and was given several upcoming dates and important pieces of information.
  - September 6th: Our teams should officially appear on the CSDHL website.
  - September 9th-12th: Scheduling will take place.
  - September 18th: Games can begin as early as this date.
  - October 18th: All 6 declaration games must be completed by this date.
  - October 21st-25th: Regular-season schedule is expected to be finalized.
  - October 30th: Regular season begins.
  - January 30th / February 6th: Regular season is expected to end, depending on tiering.
  - Early February: Playoffs will take place over the first few weekends. Please note that playoffs are not guaranteed.
  - The regular season will consist of 20 games.

Mites & Squirts – NWHL Update

- We don't have much information yet regarding dates for the Mites and Squirts. There is an NWHL Zoom meeting August 18th, where Kari will find out more about:
  - Any rule changes for the upcoming season
  - Scheduling dates
  - Other important league information

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Goalies Inc is Back

We are lucky enough to have Coach Ryan from Goalies Inc. back with us again this year! Coach Ryan will be conducting 10 goalie training sessions throughout the season. There will also be opportunities for players to rotate through and participate as shooters during these sessions.

Volunteers Needed

This is a reminder that as a combined high school team we are required by AHAI to have a subcommittee for the Irish team. AHIA asks that this committee is made up of a representative from each school of our combined hockey team. The parents serving on this committee should have a high school aged player from that school.

We are still in need of a volunteers to represent the following school: **Clifton Central.**
If you are interested or have questions, please reach out to volunteer@kankakeehockey.com.

We still need jpeg images for Clifton Central and Reed Custer. If we do not receive these image files, we will unfortunately be unable to provide a patch for these schools.

Family Fundraising

These are optional fundraisers that families may use to go directly to their accounts.

Beat the Stink

Hockey season brings great memories… and some legendary smells. Help support your player while tackling the toughest opponent of all—hockey gear odor. With our first FAMILY fundraiser of the year, you're selling high-quality soaps that are perfect for players, families, and anyone brave enough to ride home after practice.

Stock up, share with friends, and help us "Defeat the Stink!"

Please see the attached flyer for details. (also available in the parent resources tab on the website.)

https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/kyhc-shop

Pre-season Clinic

We are offering a preseason clinic. Register now to knock the rust off and get ready for the season. Register online at www.kankakeehockey.com.

Saturday, August 22nd

~~Bantam and Irish Checking Clinic/Refresher~~ This portion of the clinic is canceled.

Bantam & High School: Practice Session
4:30-6:00 On Ice Session
6:15 -6:45 Off Ice session

Peewee & Squirt: Practice session
Registered Mites Included
5:30- 6:00 Off Ice Session
6:15-7:45 On Ice Session

Upcoming Dates

Pre-Season Clinic: Saturday August 22nd
Irish Practice Starts: August 24th
Coyote Practice Starts: Septmeber 9th and 10th
Board Meeting: September 10th 6:30
Team pictures: October 26th/27th More information regarding specific times will be sent out.

Stay Connected

Find us at www.kankakeehockey.com where you can find resources, program and team information.

Make sure you are logged into your team Crossbar account and notifications are on.

Check that KYHC emails are not going to your spam folder.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Follow Ice Valley for extra ice time, programming, and opportunities on the ice!

