

Dear MCSA Players, Parents, and Members,

The dog days of summer are upon us, the sun is finally shining, and yet it is time to start getting ready for another hockey season. If you have not aired out the hockey bag yet, you might want to get on that!

We have had a very busy off-season preparing MCSA for what we hope to be an enjoyable and enriching experience for all. We received an enormous amount of valuable feedback from members during our annual survey and have worked hard to implement three (3) major improvement initiatives: **Program, Pricing, and Registration**. Below you will find information and links to all of these. Please take the time to review these changes.

The Levels of MCSA Youth Hockey

<i>Level</i>	<i>Level I</i>	<i>Level II</i>	<i>Level III</i>	<i>Level IV</i>
Ages:	Birth Years: 2001 and younger	Birth Years: 1997-2000	Birth Years: 1996 and older	All ages: U12 and U19
Sub-Levels:	Atoms/Mites All beginners	Squirts and Peewees	Bantams and Midgets	Girls
Level Director:	Rick Bagnall	David Tassoni	Karl Enroth	Maureen Morse
Price Range:	\$50-\$400	\$500-\$700	\$200-\$700	\$500

Program

Hockey is a wonderful sport but requires a substantial time and financial commitment. For that reason, we have always been very proud of the quality of program we have created within MCSA to ensure our members and players value the experience. It can be easy to take for granted what we have been endowed at MCSA since our inception. Calling one of the most beautiful rink facilities in the state our home is just the beginning. We have the most convenient practice and game time slots available, outstanding skill-based coaching, two levels of competition per level (except Bantam), and an exciting game experience all for a very affordable price. Below are the highlights and changes for the upcoming season:

- A highly coordinated, well-organized, and economical Beginner Level (Level I) program for kids age 8 and under with varying degrees of competition designed to encourage participation and enjoyment
- Continued prime-time practice schedule: early evenings, consistent time slots, and 26 weeks (52 hours of practice ice per player)
- A strengthened coach program led by John Magri that includes the use of practice plan software, development meetings, and highly coordinated coaching assignments

- Head coaches for each level who are responsible for the skill development of all players, not just those on their own team.
- Player evaluations at all levels for all players at beginning and end of season
- Tryouts for Competitive B teams followed by team assignments at the end of the first week
- Newly appointed Level Directors who are responsible for ensuring a high quality enriching program

Pricing

Given our geographic size and population, MCSA has always been committed to providing this outstanding program at a price affordable to all. For that reason, we have consistently capped our base price at \$500 per player which is one of the lowest rates in the state for youth hockey.

The base cost of our program is roughly \$95,000 per year. That cost includes our ice rental (about \$80,000 for 368 hours of ice at \$215 per hour), insurance, referee and timekeeper fees, coaching software, and tournament fees (one per team). At \$500 average across our upper level players and \$200 average across our beginner levels, that generates about \$70,000 per season from player fees. The remainder of our revenue is generated through an annual \$25,000 fundraising campaign that includes parents, outside donors, and local sponsors. If we did not have this fundraising component, we would not be able to keep our prices affordable nor continue with the high quality program we deliver – and you have come to expect.

During the off-season, we have received considerable feedback about our fundraising. Many have found this to be somewhat constant (“nickel and dimed”), narrowed to the few rather than the broad, too focused on MCSA parents, and confusing (the ad sales and gift baskets in particular). So for this season, we are alleviating that “burden” by implementing a “fundraising commitment” of \$100 per player that will include a raffle and/or a potential Scrips Program. Please see the attached link for more details. In addition, we have made some positive changes in our pricing:

- The base price will remain the same for Levels II, III, and IV. (Squirts and up including Girls) at \$500 per player.
- The Atoms program will be reduced to \$50 per 8-week session and allow eligible players to enter the Mites program mid-season (at an additional fee).
- The Mites program will now have a reduced base price of \$200 for a cross-ice game schedule which includes no early season travel, a 6-game full ice travel schedule, and an end of season tournament.
- 2nd Year Mites will be offered a ¾ season full ice travel program for an additional \$200 per player (total program price of \$400) plus an end of season tournament.

- Each player will now be required to register as a USA Hockey member (for insurance coverage) which is \$30 fee per player first before registering for MCSA.
- As in years past, MCSA scholarships are available to those who most need it. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Registration

Great News! Registration is now on-line! All of it.

Our process will require you to complete your USA Hockey and MEAHA registration first and then take your USA Hockey Number and place it into the MCSA website. The \$12 fee for MEAHA is deducted from your overall MCSA base fee. USA Hockey requires you to register with a credit card; if you are unable to do that, we will have a process open on Community Day (Sunday October 4th) at MRC for you to complete all of your registration then.

As for MCSA Registration, once you have your USA Hockey number, you are set to complete the MCSA registration. Just follow the on-screen instructions. This year, we are offering the ability to [pay by credit card](#)! This is fantastic and should provide a much easier method for collecting your payment. Please be aware that this credit card processing does cost us money (about 2-3% of your fee) but we feel it is worth it for the convenience. If you'd like to pay by check, that does not cost us anything so that is still very welcome. However, following up with people for their payment does cost us time and energy (and sometimes money) so please make your check payments on time.

Overall, we are very excited about the energy and commitment we have for the upcoming season. We had a tremendously successful season last year with a higher number of players, stronger play, and an increased sense of community that we strive for in MCSA. We hope you will continue to be part of our exciting program – and will bring others along as well!

Sincerely,

David Tassoni
President, MCSA Youth Hockey