

Subject: New High School Age Girls Hockey Team for Fall 2019

After many years of discussion, we are thrilled to announce the forming of a new team in Framingham for high school girls. The team will play from September through November, concluding just before high school tryouts. Working with volunteers from the Framingham youth program and coaches Diana and Lewis from FHS, we have developed a plan for Fall 2019, with registration and tryouts right around the corner.

Here are some of our goals:

1. Prepare players for high school hockey.

We are development in nature, and our players will be allowed to fail in order to learn. That said, we expect that players will do their best to learn from their mistakes and correct them. We will put together lines based on skill set and depending on the situation, we may roll specific power play or penalty kill lines. All players will have opportunities to show what they can do, and work to improve their game. We may sacrifice a win in the fall, in order for a player to develop and have success during the high school season. Every player will get plenty of icetime.

2. Set high expectations.

Players will be expected to support each other, and put their best efforts forward at all practices and games. Coaches will be expected to teach and correct to help players who want to take their game to a higher level of development. It is expected that players are joining this team to get better, and will respond to 1 on 1 coaching. Practices and games will not be optional. Anyone associated with the team will be expected to commit to a code of conduct.

3. Instruct, correct, reinforce.

Coaches will be tasked with teaching "high school hockey" and preparing players for that style of play. Creativity, old habits, skills, decisions with and without the puck, positional play -- anything that would help or hinder a player during a high school varsity game will be addressed. For younger players, they should understand that things that may work at one level may not at the next level. And they should be prepared to correct them, with help and positive reinforcement from coaches.

Q&A:

Is this an early tryout for the Framingham high school program?

Absolutely not. Our players will learn the systems that FHS Girls Varsity runs, and we will run our practices so that players are ready when December hits, no matter where they play. Come high school tryouts, however, every girl must earn their spot. This is not a pre-season scouting team.

What's the cost?

We are not a private club program, so we can keep our costs down. Expected tuition will be less than \$1,000, with a season that begins in early September, and concludes just before high school tryouts. We will offer two set practices per week plus one game per weekend, not including any additional scrimmages. We will make recommendations for additional skills sessions at parents' requests. If parents are interested, we can look into a tournament as well.

Will my daughter have fun?

Why play if it's not fun? Our team will have a great group of kids and parents. We'll have off-ice get-togethers. We'll have music in our locker rooms. We'll play with energy and passion, in practice and in games. When high school season rolls around, our players will have made some new friends, know how to play together, and be prepared right out of the gate.

Is the team open to non FHS girls?

Absolutely. Out of town / private school players are more than welcome on our team. Our belief is that good kids and good players make for a better overall experience.

What if my daughter doesn't make the team?

Framingham is offering a developmental program that's geared toward players who need to work on fundamental skills before transitioning to a varsity level of hockey. We piloted the program this past fall and it's been a big hit, with a great group of girls and excellent coaches. It's a positive environment and our players have made huge strides.

Who's coaching?

Ultimately the FYHP Board of Directors makes that call, but Mike Clark has offered to serve as head coach of the team. Mike will be joined by Blaise Tersoni and additional, very experienced coaches ready to help out with things like skills, dryland training, safe (and legal) contact, etc. If you don't know Mike or his coaching style, Mike is happy to discuss offline and answer any questions you may have.

What's next?

Registration for tryouts is required. The link is here:

<http://framinghamyouthhockey.org/Registration/Default.asp?n=36942&org=W.FRAMINGHAMYOUTHHOCKEY.ORG>

We'll also hold an informational meeting in the upstairs warm room at Loring Arena, 165 Fountain Street in Framingham, Friday night, March 1, at 7:00 pm.