

FRAMINGHAM YOUTH HOCKEY TRYOUTS AND RETURN TO PLAY FAQ'S

Please know that we have been busy all summer working hard alongside the Mass Hockey, the Valley League, MYCGHL and the City of Framingham & Board of Health, to ensure a safe and happy return to hockey. We are currently finalizing our plans and submitting for approval with the City of Framingham and Board of Health for FYHP's return to the rink. Once approved, we will share the finalized COVID guidelines with you that will serve as our guides towards creating a consistent and socially distanced experience for our upcoming season.

For planning purposes, we are writing to let you know that we will be holding tryouts for the Mite through Bantam levels during the third week of September (as Loring Arena has already started making ice and is anticipating opening soon!). Tryout times will be sent out shortly. Note, players must be registered with USA Hockey and FYHP prior to the tryout in order to be eligible, so please be sure you have completed both as soon as possible.

I haven't registered my child with FYHP or with USA hockey. Can they still skate?

No. Based on current return to play guidelines ***All PLAYERS and COACHES must be registered with FYHP and must have a valid 2020-21 USA hockey number in our system.*** We cannot make any exceptions to this rule. Please make sure that you complete this task prior to arriving at the rink for tryouts. It is important to note that there is a slight delay between USA hockey and our system. As such, if you register with USA hockey and immediately try to upload this number into your profile within our portal you may receive an error message. Please allow a few minutes between the two steps. If you continue to encounter this error please contact Registrar, Heather Lounsbury at: heatherfyhp@gmail.com

What if I pre-registered for tryouts in Feb/March, but my child will no longer be participating in FYHP? Do I get a refund?

If you know your child will not be trying out or participating in the upcoming season with FYHP, then please inform both the registrar: heatherfyhp@gmail.com & Treasurer: Jeffrey Quinn jquinn99umass@gmail.com IN ADVANCE of tryouts to discuss the process for cancelling your registration.

Please note, if you decide AFTER tryouts that your child will not participate in the season, the \$300 registration fee is non-refundable.

I have a conflict with my schedule. Can my child skate with the other session for tryouts?

No. In order to ensure that our on-ice numbers adhere to return to play guidelines, we have split the ice sessions based on current registration numbers. The player groupings were created to ensure that we are able to add players without exceeding the maximums allowed on the ice at one time.

My child is going to miss one of the nights of tryouts. Will this affect their placement?

As has always been the case, placement on a team is based on a combination of on-ice assessment and the coaching evaluations from the prior year. We ask that you make every attempt to attend the scheduled tryouts, however, there are always unforeseen conflicts or issues with health/injury that prevent players from attending. If your child is only able to make one night of the tryout process we will take their assessment in concert with the coaching evaluation and place them according to these metrics.

It is important to notify the Registrar, Heather Lounsbury, should you know in advance your skater will not be able to attend one or any of the tryouts but is still planning on participating in the season: heatherfyhp@gmail.com

When will Tryouts & practice schedules get posted?

FYHP is aiming to be back on the ice at Loring Arena beginning on Saturday Sept 12th with each age-level for travel teams getting one practice skating session before tryouts begin the same week. The pre-tryout practice will be a good time for skaters to shake the rust off and get used to skating with a mask on and it's imperative that skaters stick to their assigned pre-skate time. Tryout sessions and then regular practice schedules, once teams are established, will be posted to the FYHP website.

As approved by the FYHP Executive Board and in accordance with Mass State guidelines, we will have an abbreviated tryout process this year. Tryouts will be grouped in cohorts. All players will be placed on a team and we will continue to work hard behind the scenes to provide a top tier experience. Knowing that this year will be unlike any other before, we ask that you help support the players and coaches who give so much to this game by focusing on the FUNdamentals of the game.

As for practices, we will be releasing the practice plans after tryouts and practices will begin promptly on Saturday 9/19. Please note, the guidelines we will be following around establishing cohorts will require us to have restrictions in place, so practices will be split between 2 teams max. As a result, there will be fewer total practices for all teams in the program over the course of the season. If the restrictions last for the entire season, total practices may be reduced by approximately 10 (e.g. Bantams from 66 -> ~56 practices). Special note, this does not reduce our overall ice costs, so season participation pricing will remain the same.

We make every attempt to establish a consistent schedule for practice times during the season, however there are unforeseen events that may require us to make adjustments. Please make sure that you regularly refresh your calendar feed and/or check the website for the most up to date information.

When will tryout results be posted?

Tryout results will be posted on the FYHP website under the Documents tab by Saturday Sept 19th. Note, practices will be starting promptly on Sat 9/19 - so please be sure to check the Master Schedule: <https://www.leagueathletics.com/MasterGameSchedule.asp?n=36944&org=framinghamyouthhockey.org>

Will my skater/player have to wear a mask on the ice?

Yes. Loring Arena is a municipal building and under current guidelines and in accordance with City ordinance, all people within the building must have a mask on at all times. All skaters will be provided with a FYHP logo mask to wear and will be outfitted with one after tryouts occur. ***NOTE – your child will need to bring their own mask to wear to tryouts.**

My child needs travel team Jerseys. Where do I order them?

Email will be sent in the next week with more information around Jersey orders for those new to travel hockey. If you don't receive after tryouts or have questions, please contact Equipment Manager – Mark Lysaght at: mark@thelysaghts.com

For those who have been with the program & need a new shirt - FYHP is continuing their partnership with Brine Sporting Goods for jersey ordering for the 2020-21 season. Jerseys are \$50 each and can be

ordered online at the FYHP store. If your player needs a new or bigger jersey for the upcoming season you may order now at the link:

<https://framinghamhockeeygamefa20-1-1.itemorder.com/>

All jerseys should be ordered by [September 8](#)

Jersey logistics:

- All players need to have a white and a blue jersey. If your player has jerseys that still fit and are in good shape you do not have to order a new jersey at this time. Jerseys can be ordered at any time if your player damages or outgrows their jersey mid-season. (\$50 regular order; orders that need to be rush delivered may incur an additional fee, which will also be the responsibility of the family).
- Roster numbers are assigned by the program. Players cannot request a specific number. The player will have the same number for the length of time they play with FYH. Numbers are assigned by player birth year. Even year birth dates get even numbers and odd years get odd numbers, so there are no conflicts across a 2-year band. (The program will handle any potential conflicts for 3-year mites and girls playing both with a Lady Flyer team and a co-ed team on a case by case basis).

What about Learn to Play?

We are working on a plan to be able to offer the Learn to Play program and appreciate your patience as this may take a bit longer to come together than the travel program.

Due to the State guidelines set forth for indoor 'high risk' sports, we are limited to a maximum of 25 individuals on a playing surface (inclusive of both players and coaches). As a result, we are working to overhaul the program to meet the guidelines while also maximizing the number of offerings we have. We want to ensure we are able to offer our youngest players an active and fun experience, while also ensuring we have the right coach to player ratio for those just starting out.

At this time, we are anticipating a delayed start for LTP and are aiming for early October. As we finalize the plan and get the proper approvals, we will communicate further.

*Note, if you are interested in hearing the latest communication – it's best to REGISTER for the Learn to Play program (and NOT pay any fee at this time, as the fee structure will change), to ensure that you are on our email communication list. Here's the registration link:

<https://www.leagueathletics.com/Registration/Restrictions.asp?RegID=200879&n=36942&org=framinghamyouthhockey.org>