

Thank you for your feedback!

Hello Pursuits!

Please read the entire email below as it contains VERY IMPORTANT information that will help you along your pursuit, and offer clarification to some question points you may have encountered planning your fall & winter pursuit.

We always strive to bring you the very best that we can, so we've planned an event that we believe will be very helpful to you and your family going into winter.

THANK YOU

Our Pursuit is about to pick up again this September with our Fall Session. Registration for Fall Session officially ended Thursday September 1st. We have a large group of young athletes that we are very excited to grow the game in them.

Please keep in mind that if you missed the Registration Deadline for Fall, *you are still able to participate in the 3 "Game Days"* across the 8-week session. Cost will be \$20 per Game, per athlete, and the coaches need to be notified via email of your attendance so that teams can be evenly split. If you are apart of the fall session, you do not have to email, as it is included for you.

Team assignments will be emailed and posted online three days before the big game. There will be a hired official for these matches, official "warm-up" time and assigned uniform & coaches to each team.

Thank you to all of you that signed up, we've had a nice break from summer session but are chomping at the bit to get back coaching! Get ready for some high energy, high intensity, and FUN-filled practices!! Who loves field hockey?! – WE DO! Bring on Fall Pursuit!

FEEDBACK CLARIFICATION

Many of you have been asking questions, posing concerns and/or wondering about our winter program via email, Facebook, phone calls, or in person. We appreciate you thinking of Pursuit! A few inquiries have sorted their way to the top in volume, so we thought it would be helpful to address them with all of our Pursuit Family so that we are all on the same page.

We've been around the game for 20+ years so we know the in's and out's of it and understand "Why?" ... BUT it's safe to say in our excitement to bring you the best and most up-to-date information (as we continue our education in the field), we could have explained the flyer in depth more. So, below you will find some of the reoccurring questions that have been asked and our answer to them. We hope this helps you understand us, the Winter Program, and you consider joining us this winter.

Questions are **bold**, our answers to them are in *italic*. Thank you again to those of you who cared to inquire. It helps us better our services and plan for the future! We are truly appreciative!

Did Pursuit Field Hockey leave the Sports Factory or get kicked out?

No way!! The Sports Factory is our home! However, across the US, the winter months are for "indoor" field hockey, which is played on a smooth and fast court surface. At this time, The Sports Factory is not equipped for that but will be in the future. Until that happens, we will be temporarily off our home base during the winter months. We will be back in TSF for spring, summer and fall. We also have plans to host a few events there during the winter (more to come on those.) Rest assured we are going nowhere; we love calling The Sports Factory our home and will continue our future with them and their family of services.

The early registration deadline ended for winter; can I still register my child? OR I'd really like to do winter but I don't know my schedule right now, will I be able to do it at a later date?

Yes, we are still taking and will be taking athletes up to the start of our Winter Program, however there is a \$25 late fee for missing the early registration deadline. There will be a 1-day promotion offered at a later date (please see "**Invitation**" below).

Why did we have to register so early for Winter?

Registration is so early for Winter, due to the Open Enrollment period through USA Field Hockey and due to the early registration deadlines for upcoming tournaments. Indoor field hockey is the biggest season for clubs across the nation and the biggest reason that athletes join, as it's a super-fun and super-effective way to improve skills with tournaments and travel opportunities in abundance. Most neighboring clubs have registration in August/early September for Winter, so our dates were nothing out of the normal.

What are the practice times and tournament dates? Will it work around other sports and what if I can't make them all?

Now that early registration has passed, we have an idea of numbers for practice times. The practices will go as follows and run December through March:

- Wednesday Nights
 - o 5:45-7:30 for U12 & U14
- Saturday Mornings
 - o 9:00-10:30 for U6, U8, and U10
 - o 10:45-12:30 for U16, U19 & Open
 - 10:45-11:30 *Specific Goalkeeper Training
 - 10:45-11:30 U16/U19 Field Player Skill Session
 - 11:30-12:30 Drop In Play for U16, U19 & Open

Tentative Tournament Dates are as follows (Keep in mind they are subject to change due to enrollment, additions & winter weather cancellations/reschedules)

- National Indoor Tournament (We must apply to attend U10-U14 or Qualify U16-U19 to participate)
 - o U10, U12 & U14 February 24th to February 26th at Spooky Nook Sports in Lancaster, Pa
 - o U16 February 17 – February 19th at Spooky Nook Sports in Lancaster, Pa
 - o U19 February 24th -February 26th in Richmond, Virginia
- United Sports Tournament
 - o February 2nd
- Viper Field Hockey Tournament
 - o U14, U16, U19 – January 14th
 - o U10, U12 – January 15th
- Honesdale Indoor Tournament
 - o March 2017
- Home Scrimmages
 - o TBA in Honesdale High School Gym
- Electric Surge Tournament
 - o TBA

I noticed the cost went up? Why?

It didn't. It's actually right on with our other programs. We encourage you to look past the initial number. The program is a longer duration (twice as long) so that is why it seems more expensive initially. Here's a look at the breakdown:

- Spring & Summer 2016: \$190 (tournaments were extra) = \$80 per month
- Fall 2016 = \$225: \$112.50 per month (includes 3 games)
- Winter 2016-2017: \$350 = \$87.50 per month (includes all tournaments & games) *If we doubled the length of Spring/Summer it would be \$380, our winter is still our best deal of our year-round programs.

The Pursuit coaches have been aiming to keep the costs as low as possible for our athletes to maximize the number of kids who have the opportunity to participate. That is one thing we have strived for in the beginning!

We encourage you to look and shop around at other field hockey clubs, you'll see that we are a deal and we know that NOBODY offers the personal care and commitment to our athletes like we do. We've researched the neighboring area and other winter field hockey programs. They offer less than we do and charge athletes additionally for uniforms. For example, the 3 neighboring clubs to Pursuit charge \$525, \$625 and \$725 for winter sessions per athlete and all of those clubs include extra fees for tournaments and uniforms. Our fee is \$350 per athlete.

In order to get Pursuit off the ground and running, the Pursuit coaches have been volunteering their time over the last year. Any profit margin, however small, has been put back into the program for our athletes, to purchase much needed equipment/incentives for our Pursuits to use and grow with. Our fees solely include surface rental fees, club insurance, official fees and tournament fees – that's it. It's how we are able to offer you such affordable training compared to our competitors.

I just want to do practices and train, I don't want to do tournaments. Is that an option?

Yes! We, and you, can do that! You can choose to not do tournaments and just train, and that's ok! Even if you do not do tournaments, the winter price is still the same for you to play & practice – just like our other programs. It's the nearly the same cost as our other offerings, just a longer season duration.

There are a few reasons the tournament fees are included in the price for winter. We have many, many players ready to compete. They have worked hard and deserve the opportunity to go play. Seeing and competing in a game fuels, inspires and drives us to continue working harder when you see what else is out there! There were many opportunities we offered in the spring and summer that fell through due to not enough interest, disappointing quite a few players. Here, it is included. If you choose to attend, that is your choice, at no additional cost.

Another reason is that some are apprehensive about making the jump to competition. "Am I ready? What if I'm not good enough?" Our take is not to put pressure on the athletes, rather give them experiences to improve skills, motivate practices and work hard with teammates. Whenever you are ready, it's all-good. Including the tournaments, gives you the option to jump in when you are ready and allow us to field teams for those who are ready now.

We'd also like to say that players will not be penalized for missing practices or not attending games/tournaments. It's your pursuit to make what you'd like of it- we are providing the opportunities. We're here to support whatever you define your pursuit as.

Can I pay in installments?

Absolutely! Please contact the coaches to work out a plan that fits your family's needs. We want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to play.

Why do I need new equipment for indoor season?

The indoor game is much, much faster and requires a thinner, lighter stick to manipulate the ball on the court surface. Using a thicker "outdoor" stick makes things somewhat more difficult for play, as their make-up adds more "boom" to the ball/hit, which is not needed. Indoor is a "control" game, and therefore needs a stick that accommodates for that and how the game is played.

Indoor sticks are typically much cheaper than outdoor sticks. We've also gone out on a limb for our Pursuits and teamed up with Harrow Sports to offer you a discount on indoor purchases. No other clubs do that either. Again, we are trying to make the game more affordable and accessible to you.

An indoor glove is recommended, not mandatory. The style of play is very low as opposed to outdoor rules. Many injuries occur to fingers as a result. A top left hand glove is recommended, and some players wear padded gloves on both hands for indoor. Indoor gloves can be expensive so this is your choice and why we worked to get the discount for you from Harrow Sports. They can be used year after year once purchased.