

## **RAMAPO SAINTS & PALISADES PREDATORS 2025-26 MERGER**

Monsey/West Nyack, NY, January 1, 2025

We are thrilled to announce an exciting new chapter in the history of youth hockey as the Ramapo Saints and Palisades Predators combine to form one unified, stronger force in our community. The merger, effective for the 2025-2026 season, will mark a significant milestone as the Ramapo Saints will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of building a legacy of skill, sportsmanship, and passion for the game. In this milestone anniversary year, we celebrate not only our past achievements, but also look forward to a bright future.

The joining of the two forces will allow us to create a more robust and dynamic organization, offering our athletes even greater opportunities for development, competition, and community, while maintaining the close-knit, family-oriented environment that the Saints and Predators have fostered over the years making both such special organizations. The objective of the merger is to offer families of both organizations the opportunity to improve the consistency of level of play within each age group and skill level. The merger will allow for continuity by combining board members and coaching staffs, and will be utilizing both ice rinks. The increased hockey staff and player pool will provide families with a focus on skill development and hockey IQ, while ensuring players are placed in the best possible situation to allow for maximum development and individual and team success.

This consolidation will give youth hockey players a path from the Beginner level Futures Program to the highly competitive New York Saints Tier 1 program. 475+ families will be provided opportunities at Tier I and Tier II levels with an opportunity to advance as they grow and develop as hockey players.

The Ramapo Saints will continue to play a competitive and balanced schedule through their participation in the Tier I Atlantic Youth Hockey League and the Tier II New Jersey Youth Hockey League. Teams will continue playing out of both Sport-O-Rama and the Palisades Center Ice Rink.

"It is important to maintain the history, integrity, and values from both organizations. The foundation of both organizations has always been strong, and we look forward to building on those platforms and strengthening hockey in North Jersey/Rockland County," said Joe Brooks, President of the Ramapo Saints.

"It's a merger that's been discussed over the past 10 years, the timing is right to leverage the resources of the two largest organizations in Rockland County. I am thrilled to combine forces with the Ramapo Saints," expressed Ken Caiazzo, President of the Palisades Predators.

There have been numerous discussions and meetings about the positive impact that we feel this merger will provide and we are committed to ensuring a smooth transition and maintaining the traditions that have made both organizations successful over the years. These discussions will continue and we look forward to working together to provide the best possible experience for our players and families. We anticipate there will be many questions and will be scheduling meetings with each team throughout the month of January. In the meantime, please feel free to email Joe Brooks, <a href="mailto:brooks2@optonline.com">brooks2@optonline.com</a>; Ken Caiazzo, <a href="mailto:kencaiazzo224@gmail.com">kencaiazzo224@gmail.com</a>; and Matt Juneau, <a href="mailto:saintshockeydirector@gmail.com">saintshockeydirector@gmail.com</a>.

Thank you for your continued support. We are excited to embark on this new journey together with you.