



U10 BLACK

2024-2025 PROGRAM INFORMATION

The U10 Black team will continue the Elite Skill Development & Player Placement the Connecticut Chiefs are known for in the hockey community. The Connecticut Chiefs have advanced over 575 players to Prep School, Junior, & College Hockey.

- 2014 Birth Year
- Professional Coaching Staff with College/Pro Experience
Head Coach Brandon Johnson Assoc. HC Nick Diorio
- 50 Plus Games Schedule
Tier I Hockey Federation (8H,8A, 5 CT Showcase) & CHC Games
- 2-3 Tournaments
- On-Ice Practice 2x per Week plus 8 Additional Full Ice Practices
- On-Ice Skill Session 2x per month led by former NHLer Ike Corriveau
- Off-Ice Sticks Skills Training 1x per week with PHG Training Center
- Chalk Talk/ Video Session 1x per week
- CT Crease Goalie Training: 2 sessions per month
- Clearly Defined Development Path
- Off Ice Program June 15- August 15



CT CHIEFS PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PATH



Chiefs Scheduling Model

“Maximize Development”

20%-60%-20%

20% of the Games are extremely challenging to really push the team.

60% of the Games are designed to be very competitive one goal games.

20% of the Games are designed to be confidence building opportunities.



10U Black (2014) Head Coach Brandon Johnson

With an impressive 24-year coaching journey that spans from Junior A to Mites, Coach Brandon Johnson has etched his name as a prominent figure in the world of hockey. In 2008, he left an indelible mark when he founded the Connecticut Chiefs, and ever since their inaugural season, Coach Johnson has been the guiding force behind over 575 families striving to elevate their players into the NCAA, Junior, and Prep School Hockey realms.

Boasting an extensive coaching resume that includes countless games, Coach Johnson possesses a truly unique perspective, both on the bench and on the ice. His extensive network of contacts across the College, Junior, and Prep hockey landscape has proven invaluable in directing players toward their desired paths. Coach Johnson's keen observations about the diverse ways in which top players develop at various age levels have empowered him to craft customized practices and development plans.

Yet, Coach Brandon's most enduring legacy is his role as the visionary founder of the CT Chiefs for the 2008/2009 Season. Guided by former NHLer Yvon "Ike" Corriveau, who serves as the Chiefs Coaching Director, Coach Johnson has devoted the past 15 seasons to coaching U8 to U20 teams, all the while nurturing players on their journey to the NCAA, Junior, and Prep School Hockey ranks.

Throughout his illustrious coaching career, Coach Johnson has had the privilege of cultivating the talents of three NHL players, four NHL Draft Picks, 83 DI, 278 DIII, and over 425 Prep School players. His profound impact on the hockey landscape is a testament to his unwavering dedication to the sport and the players he guides toward their dreams.

Coach Johnson's coaching odyssey commenced in 2000 when he took the reins as Head Coach for the CT Clippers Pee wee Minor team in the Elite hockey arena. Two seasons after, he led the CT Clippers Bantam Major team, featuring future NHL star Nick Bonino and six future collegiate athletes, to the Atlantic Youth Hockey League playoffs.

From 2003 to 2007, Coach Johnson embraced dual roles as GM and Coach for the CT Clippers and Junior A Wolfpack in the AtJHL and Met League. During his tenure, these teams served as springboards for numerous players on their journey to the NCAA and USHL.

Between 2004 and 2008, Coach Brandon skillfully guided Team CT through the prestigious Chicago Showcase for four seasons, further cementing his reputation as an esteemed coach.

In the 2007-2008 season, Coach Johnson's expertise was acknowledged when he assumed the role of Southern New England Scout for the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, a testament to his astute eye for talent.

Coach Johnson's roots in hockey run deep, as he honed his skills on the ice in his home state of Connecticut. A standout moment came during his senior year when he played a vital role in propelling Newington High School to the state finals. Johnson's transition to Junior Hockey saw him don the CT Clippers jersey, but a challenging knee injury forced a nine-month hiatus. Upon his return, he continued his hockey journey at Central Connecticut State University, where he contributed to two American College Hockey Association finalist teams.



ASSOC. HEAD COACH NICK DIORIO

Many people do not find the passion that drives them until later in their lives. For Nick Diorio, he found his life's passion at five years of age when he put on his first pair of hockey skates and has never looked back.

Nick immediately took to hockey and was a standout player from the get-go.

He played his youth hockey in the AYHL all the way through the Bantam level. Nick was a member of Team Connecticut and was honored as an invitee to the New England Development Camp.

From ages 15-19, Nick played junior hockey both with and against many future NCAA and NHL hockey players. Over his junior career, Nick registered over 100 points while learning key roles and concepts to succeed at the college level.

While playing junior hockey, Nick garnered the attention of Greg Heffernan, who was then the Head Coach at Western New England University, and who is now the Chiefs Junior program General Manager and EHL Head Coach. Coach Heffernan recruited Nick to WNEU where he played 88 games over four years of NCAA hockey for the Golden Bears. Nick earned a reputation as a top defensive forward, solid playmaker, and a tenacious penalty killer.

While a current student of the game, Nick works equally hard off the ice on his education. Nick became a three-year member of the ECAC All-Academic team, maintaining a 3.4 GPA while competing in Varsity Hockey. He earned a degree in Finance in 2015 and is currently pursuing an MBA maintaining a 3.9 GPA.

Nick is now in his fifth-year coaching with the Connecticut Chiefs where he has worked with many athletes who are now playing at the Junior, Prep, and College level.

Nick's coaching experience includes:

Head Coach U16 Midgets: 2015-2017
Assistant Coach EHLP: 2018-2019
Head Coach U16 Midgets: 2019-2021
Associate Head Coach U14 Bantams: 2021-2022
Mite Hockey Development Coach: 2020-2022
Head Coach U14 Bantam Major 2022-2023
Head Coach 13U Bantam Minor 2023-2024

Team Accolades:
2022 Eaglebrook School Hockey Tournament Champions.
2021 Beast League Fall Classic Champions.

Nick is a resident of New Britain, CT . He works as a senior accounting analyst at Virtus Investment Partners and is excited to relay his experiences as a student athlete with players both on and off the ice.