



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



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1. Mission & Organizational Overview

Purpose

The purpose of Wayzata Youth Hockey Association (WYHA) is to promote, sponsor, provide facilities for, and organize a program dedicated to recreation, sportsmanship, and excellence in ice hockey for youth in School District #284 in order to make them better citizens.

Mission

To develop young athletes and better citizens through recreation, sportsmanship, and excellence in ice hockey.

About WYHA

The Wayzata Youth Hockey Association is one of Minnesota's largest and most vibrant youth hockey programs, serving more than 1,200 players each season from across the Wayzata School District (#284). From first-time skaters to experienced athletes, WYHA provides opportunities for players ages 4–19 to develop their skills, build confidence, and experience the lifelong benefits of team sports.

Our mission is to foster recreation, sportsmanship, skill development, and excellence in hockey while helping young athletes grow into responsible, respectful, and engaged members of the community. We believe every player deserves the opportunity to compete and develop at the level best suited to their individual growth.

WYHA offers programming from Mini Mites through Junior Gold/Girls Junior Gold, creating a comprehensive player development pathway that supports athletes at every stage of their hockey journey. The association's success is powered by a dedicated network of more than 400 coaches, 60+ Team Managers and Treasurers, dedicated staff, and dozens of volunteer coordinators who work together to create a positive and rewarding experience for every family.

As a member of Minnesota Hockey's District 3, WYHA competes alongside associations from throughout the northwest metro area and is proud to be part of a strong tradition of youth hockey in Minnesota.

Whether a child is stepping onto the ice for the very first time or pursuing higher levels of competition, you'll find a welcoming community, outstanding development opportunities, and a shared commitment to helping young athletes thrive—both on and off the ice.

Year in Review

The 2025–2026 season was another milestone year for Wayzata Youth Hockey, with player registration growing to a record 1,248 athletes and expanded opportunities across multiple age levels. On the ice, our 86 teams continued a tradition of excellence with multiple District

champions, four girls' teams advancing to Regions for the first time in association history, and three teams earning State Tournament berths. Beyond competition, WYHA made a significant investment in the future of hockey by contributing toward the Plymouth Ice Center fourth rink project while also successfully hosting the 2026 USA Hockey High School National Championship, showcasing our volunteers, facilities, and local community on a national stage. Together, these accomplishments reflect WYHA's continued commitment to providing exceptional experiences for today's players while investing in the future of hockey in our community.

2. Participation & Growth

WYHA continued to experience strong participation during the 2025-2026 season, with overall registration increasing to 1,248 players. The association saw notable growth in Squirt, Junior Gold, 12U, and Bantam participation while also expanding the number of Travel and Mite teams to meet player demand.

Participation Summary

Metric	Current Season	Prior Season
Total Players	1,248	1,231
Travel Teams	48	41
Mite Teams	38	36

Participation by Level

Players by Level	Current Season	Prior Season
Mite / 8U	564	568
Squirt	175	149
10U	52	52
Peewee	142	143
12U	69	65
Bantam	126	123
15U	44	57

Junior Gold	76	58
Junior Gold High School Tryouts	N/A	16
Girls Junior Gold	0	0

3. Coaches

The success of WYHA's player development program depends heavily on the dedication and commitment of our coaching volunteers. During the 2025–2026 season, 92 Head Coaches served across Travel, Mite, and Junior Gold programs, supported by 310 Assistant Coaches. Together, these 402 coaching roles provided instruction, mentorship, and leadership to players at every level of the association.

From introducing young players to the game at the Mite level to preparing athletes for competitive Travel and Junior Gold hockey, our coaches dedicate countless hours to practices, games, tournaments, and player development. Their commitment helps create a positive environment where players can grow as athletes, teammates, and individuals.

WYHA extends its sincere gratitude to every coach who invested their time, expertise, and passion into developing the next generation of Wayzata hockey players.

Coaches Impact

Category	Count
Head Coaches - Travel	43
Head Coaches - Mites	45
Head Coaches - Junior Gold	4
Assistant Coaches - Travel	88
Assistant Coaches - Mites	211
Assistant Coaches - Junior Gold	11

Paid-Non Parent Coaches

WYHA takes pride in finding talented coaches to lead some of our upper-level teams at various age classifications. The association values our ability to provide opportunities for aspiring

coaches to begin their coaching careers. Below is a list of paid, non-parent head coaches that led teams in the 2025-2026 season. We thank them for their efforts and commitment to WYHA.

Bantam AA - Brian Lyke
 Peewee AA - Jack Fahrendorf
 Squirt A Blue - Ben Blood
 15UA - Jordan Butler
 15UB Gold - Sarah Jackson
 12UA - Anna Schmidt
 Junior Gold A - Kevin Skule
 Junior Gold B - John Peterson & Jason Rye
 Junior Gold 16 - Yelena Kibasova

Coach of the Year

61 coaches were nominated by the families of players for the Coach of the Year Award. Throughout the submissions, several themes consistently emerged, specifically the coach's positivity, dedication, and the lasting influence they made on young athletes. Families shared how coaches created an environment where players felt valued, supported, and excited to come to the rink. Many described practices that were not only well-organized and skill-focused, but also engaging and fun, helping players grow in confidence while developing a genuine love for the game.

Category	Winner
Younger Mites	Erik Wendell
6U/8U	Brandon Abel
Advanced Mites	Case Paxton
Squirt	Matt Adelman
10U	Matt Steinmetz
Peewee	Mike Roberts
12U	Anna Schmidt
Bantam	Joe Pope
15U	Sarah Jackson
Jr Gold	Yelena Kibasova



WAYZATA YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
COACH OF THE YEAR
2025-2026 WINNERS
NOMINATED BY THE FAMILIES OF PLAYERS
 PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

YOUNGER MITES Erik Wendell ADVANCED MITES Case Paxton 6U/8U Brandon Abel SQUIRT Matt Adelman 10U Matt Steinmetz	PEEWEE Mike Roberts 12U Anna Schmidt BANTAM Joe Pope 15U Sarah Jackson JRG Yelena Kibasova
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4. Volunteers

Volunteer Recognition

WYHA's success is made possible by the hundreds of families who generously contribute their time, talent, and energy throughout the season. Volunteer involvement is essential to delivering a high-quality hockey experience while helping keep the program operational.

During the 2025–2026 season, 84 Team Managers and 45 Team Treasurers supported our teams and coaches, while members completed more than 2,100 Association Volunteer Hours. These volunteer efforts helped support tournaments, events, and equipment support activities necessary to run the program.

In addition to Association Volunteer Hours, countless hours were dedicated to team-level volunteer responsibilities that are not tracked toward volunteer requirements. Families staffed penalty boxes and score clocks, monitored locker rooms, coordinated travel tournament logistics, organized team meals and potlucks, managed communications, and supported numerous other team activities. These behind-the-scenes contributions are critical to the success of every team and help create a safe, organized, and enjoyable experience for our athletes.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire WYHA community, thank you to every volunteer who contributed throughout the season. Your commitment strengthens our association and makes Wayzata Youth Hockey a special place for players and families alike.

Category	Count
Team Managers	84
Team Treasurers	45
Volunteer Hours Available	2795
Volunteer Hours Unfulfilled	612
Penalties Served for Incomplete Association Volunteer Hours	39

5. Board

Board of Directors

WYHA is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors that provides strategic leadership, financial oversight, and long-term planning for the association. Board members serve staggered three-year terms, ensuring continuity of leadership while welcoming new perspectives and ideas.

The association extends its sincere gratitude to outgoing Board Members Gina Carbo, Jaclyn Hill, and Christian Peterson for their years of dedicated service and contributions to Wayzata Youth Hockey. We also congratulate incoming Board Members Ben Blood, Ryan Foltz (reelected), Sadie LaFrance, and Doug Meyer, and look forward to their leadership in the years ahead.

WYHA's day-to-day operations are supported by a dedicated team of paid staff who provide professional leadership, operational continuity, and administrative expertise across the association. During the 2025–2026 season, this team included Sarah Cook (Registrar), Miles Death (Hockey Director), Tom Hewitt (Gambling Manager), Josh Jensen (Tournaments Director), Tim Jewell (Treasurer), and Tia Senenfelder (Membership & Operations Manager). Together, they oversee critical functions including player registration, hockey operations, financial management, tournaments, member services, and organizational administration.

In addition, the Board appoints several key volunteer leaders who provide specialized expertise and strategic support in important areas of the association. Greg Gibson led efforts related to the 4th Rink initiative, National Tournament hosting, and Junior Gold programming, while Anne Phaneuf served as Secretary. Their volunteer leadership contributes significantly to the success and long-term sustainability of Wayzata Youth Hockey.

WYHA is grateful to all Board Members and volunteer leaders whose commitment and stewardship continue to strengthen the association and support its mission of providing a positive and rewarding hockey experience for every player.

Elected Board of Directors

2023-2026	2024-2027	2025-2028
Gina Carbo	Becky Draper	Alan Gaffaney
Ryan Foltz	Lindsey Emery	Mike Grossman
Jaclyn Hill	Michelle Ugurlu	Chris Harrington
Christian Peterson	Christie Weeg	Ben Norton
		Ben Olson

Other Members

Name	Role
Sarah Cook	Registrar
Miles Death	Hockey Director
Greg Gibson	4th Rink/State Tournaments/Junior Gold
Tom Hewitt	Gambling Manager
Josh Jensen	Tournaments Director
Tim Jewell	Treasurer
Anne Phanuef	Secretary
Tia Senenfelder	Membership & Operations Manager

Board Elections

Incoming Board Members

- Ben Blood
- Ryan Foltz (reelected)
- Sadie LaFrance
- Doug Meyer

Outgoing Board Members

- Gina Carbo
- Jaclyn Hill
- Christian Peterson

Coordinator Support

WYHA's operations are supported by a dedicated team of volunteer leaders who work year-round to ensure a positive experience for players and families. During the 2025–2026 season, 51 Board Member and Coordinator positions provided leadership, oversight, and operational support across the association.

Coordinator roles play a critical part in delivering programs and supporting volunteers throughout the season. Areas supported by coordinators include Team Manager coordination, Level Coordinators, SafeSport administration, Mite Madness and Mite Scrimmage events, pinnie laundering, Team Treasurer support, registration coordination, coach compliance tracking, tournament hotel coordination, and numerous other functions that help keep the association running smoothly.

As the association continues to grow and evolve, WYHA regularly reviews its volunteer leadership structure to ensure coordinator responsibilities are aligned with organizational needs and represent an efficient use of volunteer resources. This ongoing evaluation helps streamline operations, reduce duplication of effort, and ensure that volunteer time is focused on activities that provide the greatest value to players and families.

The Board of Directors extends its sincere appreciation to all Board Members, Coordinators, and volunteer leaders whose commitment, expertise, and countless hours of service contribute to the success of Wayzata Youth Hockey.

6. Season Highlights & Accomplishments

For the first time in known WYHA history, teams from all four Region-eligible-girls-divisions advanced to Regions. To commemorate this incredible accomplishment, all WYHA players were given the opportunity to receive a commemorative t-shirt.

District 3 League Champions & Runner-Ups

- 10U B2 Navy - Champion
- 12U A - Champion
- 12U B1 Gold - Runner-Up
- 15U B Gold - Champion
- Squirt A Gold - Runner-Up
- Squirt B1 White - Runner-Up
- Squirt B2 Royal - Champion
- Squirt B2 Yellow - Runner-Up
- Pee wee C Ice - Runner-Up
- Bantam AA (Hosted by D6) - Runner-Up
- Bantam B2 Navy - Runner-Up
- Bantam C Grey - Champion
- Bantam C Ice - Runner-Up



Super Championships

- Pee wee C Ice - 2nd place
- Bantam C Ice - 1st place
- Bantam B2 Yellow - 1st place

Region Tournament Qualifiers

- 12UA
- 12UB1 Gold
- 15UA
- 15UB Gold



State Tournament Qualifiers

- 12U A - 4th Place
- 12U B1 Gold - 2nd Place
- JR Gold A - 3rd Place Game (DNP due to weather)

7. Alumni News

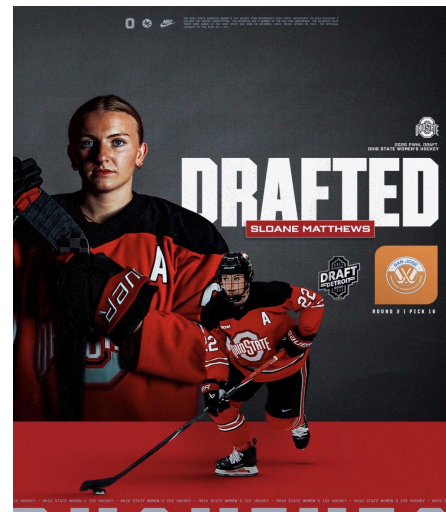
WYHA is proud to announce that two alumni have been drafted this season to their respective professional leagues (PWL & NHL). Sloane Matthews was selected no. 16 overall by PWHL San Jose, and Hawke Huff was selected no. 148 overall by the Seattle Kraken.

Wayzata alumni also had several new college commitments this season:

- Rhys Wallin - Army
- Cade De St. Hubert - Army
- Madson "Jibber" Kuhl - St. John's
- Will Subject - Maryville University
- Eli Molde - Air Force
- Julia Ostepic - St. Ben's
- Noelle Noble - Bemidji State

Finally, below is a link to all Wayzata alumni playing post high school in NCAA, Junior, and Pro Hockey. The link will take you to a spreadsheet with complete stats from this season!

[+ How They're Doing - Trojans in Junior/College/Pro H...](#)



8. Hosted Tournaments

Tournament Summary

WYHA hosted six tournaments during the 2025–2026 season, welcoming 95 teams from across Minnesota and beyond. Teams representing approximately 10 Minnesota Hockey districts, along with clubs from neighboring states, traveled to Plymouth, reinforcing WYHA's reputation as a premier tournament destination. Each tournament had a waitlist of additional teams interested in participating.

Tournament	Level
Sniper Classic	Peewee B1, Peewee B2, Bantam B1, Bantam B2
Fire on Ice	Squirt A, Squirt B1
Freeze	Squirt B2, Squirt C
Jr Gold Invitational	Junior Gold A
Jr Gold Classic	Junior Gold 16
Winter Warrior Classic	12U A, 15U B

District & State Tournament Hosting

WYHA hosted the Bantam A, Bantam C, Squirt A, Squirt Upper Tier and 10U A District Championship Tournaments at the Plymouth Ice Center.

USA Hockey High School National Tournament Hosting

Hosting the 2026 USA Hockey High School National Championships was a tremendous opportunity for Wayzata Youth Hockey Association and the City of Plymouth. Over five days, 60 teams, more than 1,200 players, and thousands of family members and spectators traveled to the Plymouth Ice Center, creating a substantial economic boost for local hotels, restaurants, shops, and businesses. In addition to the economic benefits, the event showcased our exceptional volunteers, first-class facilities, and the strong hockey community that makes Plymouth a destination for premier events.



9. Financial Overview

The association's financial resources remained focused on supporting the player experience, with registration serving as the primary revenue source and expenditures centered on team operations, ice, tournaments, and player development.

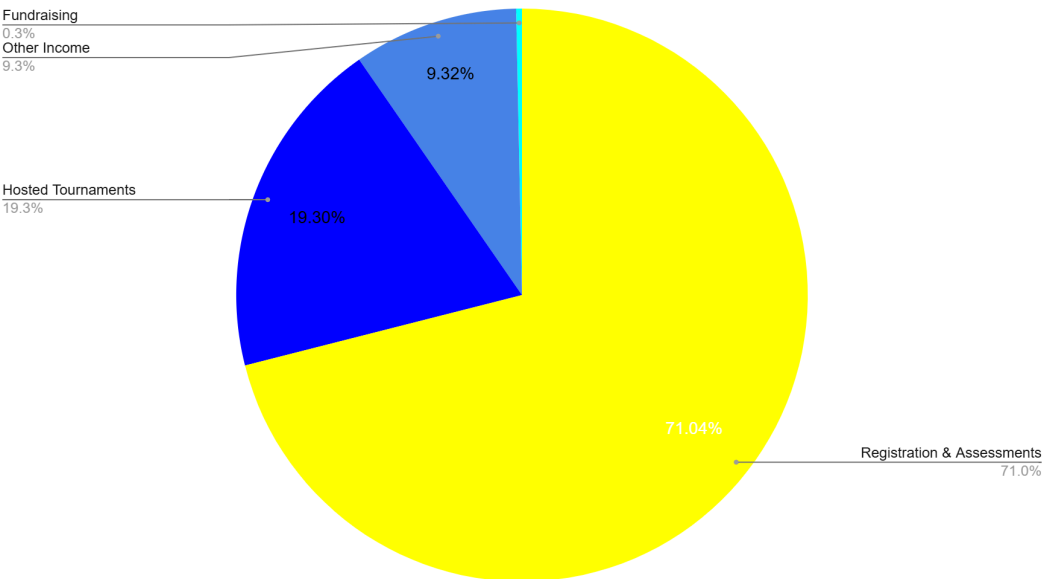
Revenue Summary

The association revenue is attributed to the following key sources:

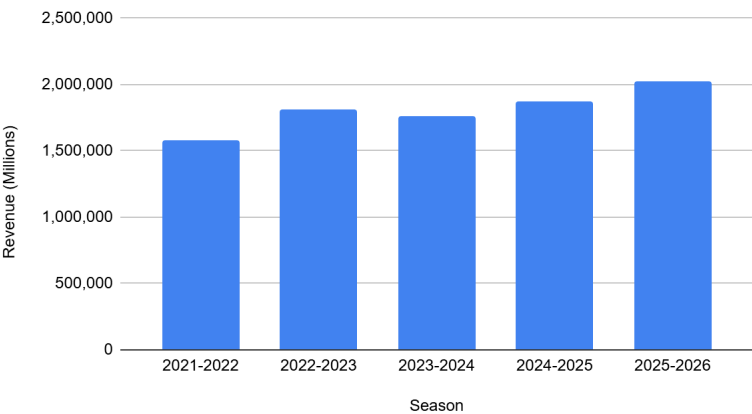
- Registration and Assessments (71%) *player assessed fees, registration*
- Hosted Tournaments (19%) *registration, hotel profit share*
- Other (10%) *ice sales, interest, volunteer buyout*
- Fundraising (<.5%) *sponsor income, donations*

Revenue has shown consistent long-term growth, surpassing \$2 million for the first time as the association continues to grow.

Revenue Sources



Revenue Trend Over the Last 5 Years



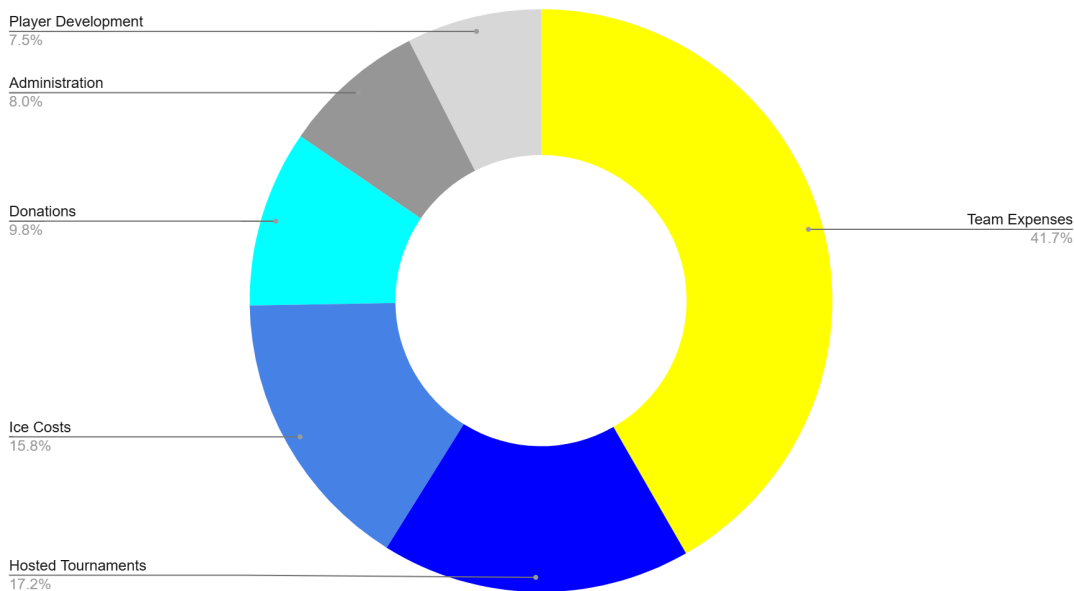
Expense Summary

The association's expenses consist of:

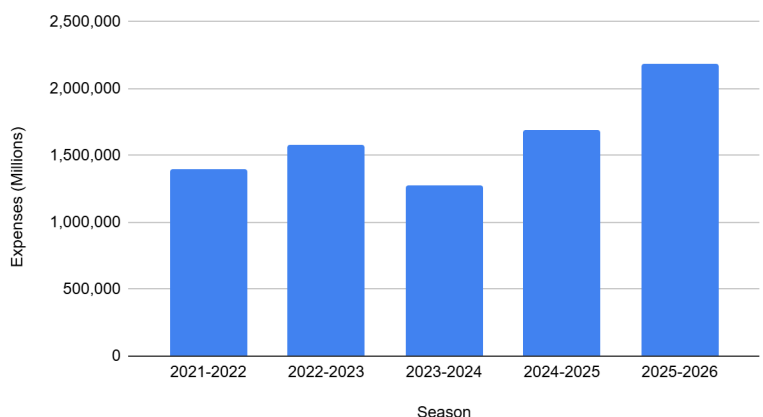
- Team Expenses (45%) *uniforms, equipment, paid coaching, tournaments*
- Hosted tournaments (18%) *apparel, trophies, referee fees, medical, printing*
- Ice costs (17%) *ice fees, scheduling platform and scheduling managed services*
- Donations (11%) *donations to the City of Plymouth*
- Administration (9%) *overhead and operations, taxes, paid staff*
- Player development (8%) *dryland, goalie development, skater skills night*

As the association has grown, expenses have increased alongside investments in ice, player development, tournaments, and team programming to meet the needs of a larger membership. In 2025-2026 WYHA invested \$214,000 on the Plymouth Ice Center 4th rink project. Additionally, this season required the usual expense in Travel jerseys made once every three years.

Expense Sources



Expense Trend Over the Last 5 Years



Ice Summary

4,367 hours of ice were purchased primarily between the Plymouth Ice Center, Central Sports Complex and the Brooklyn Park Ice Arena. The association paid for 83.72% of Travel ice through registration and charitable gambling income, Travel teams paid for 16.28% of ice.

Location	Hours Purchased
Plymouth Ice Center	2786.75
Central Sports Complex	781
Brooklyn Park Ice Arena	799.5
Dryland	254

10. Sponsors & Community Partners

Sponsorship & Community Partnerships

The continued support of our sponsors and community partners plays an important role in helping WYHA deliver exceptional hockey experiences while investing in the future of our program and facilities.

During the 2025–2026 season, WYHA maintained five Official Association Sponsors, each contributing \$2,200 in support of the association. In addition, charitable gambling operations at six partner locations—Applebee's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Lucky's 13 Pub, Medina Entertainment Center, Northern Taphouse, and Rock Elm Tavern—provided a significant source of funding that benefits WYHA programs and initiatives.

Tournament sponsorship opportunities also generated valuable support. Two of five available tournament sponsorships were secured during the season. Alluma Dermatology sponsored the Sniper Classic Tournament with a \$2,000 investment, while The Base sponsored the Mite Madness Tournament with a \$2,500 investment.

At the youngest levels of the association, community businesses helped outfit our players through the Mite Jersey Sponsorship Program. With sponsorships covering the approximately \$800 cost per team, 38 sponsors supported Mite teams during the season, helping ensure our youngest athletes could proudly represent Wayzata Hockey while reducing program expenses for families.

WYHA is grateful for the generosity of our sponsors and community partners. Their investment in youth hockey helps strengthen our association, enhance the player experience, and support the continued growth of the game in our community.

Going forward, WYHA will be partnering exclusively with Team Media for WYHA sponsorship management. All future sponsor opportunities will be planned in coordination with Team Media.

Charitable Gambling Sponsors

1. Applebees
2. Buffalo Wild Wins
3. Luck's 13 Pub
4. Medina Entertainment Center
5. Northern Taphouse
6. Rock Elm

Official Sponsors

1. Twin Cities Orthopedics - Orthopedic Sponsor
2. Kottemann Orthodontics - Mouthguard Sponsor
3. Attitude Goaltending - Mite Goalie Sponsor
4. Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers - Restaurant Sponsor
5. Morrie's - Travel Practice Jersey Sponsor

Tournament Sponsors

1. The Base - Mite Madness Sponsor
2. Alluma Dermatology - Sniper Classic Sponsor

Tournament Hotel Sponsors

1. Courtyard Minneapolis West
2. Hilton Garden Inn
3. Minneapolis Marriott Southwest
4. Minneapolis Marriott West
5. Residence Inn Minneapolis Plymouth

Sponsors

Accorde Orthodontists	Heritage Animal Hospital	Morrie's Minnetonka Ford	Red Cow
Baycreek Dental	Kennedy Health Center	Morrie's Minnetonka Mazda	Rock Elm Tavern
BP Plymouth	Lago Tacos	Morrie's Minnetonka Subaru	Roosters Men's Grooming Center
Cell Phone Repair	Loffler	Morrie's West End	South Lakes

Plymouth - Minnetonka		Lincoln	Pediatrics
ElMar's New York Pizza	Maverick Risk Partners	Northern Taphouse	State Farm Katie Halpin
Emily Leach Fazendin Realtors	Medina Entertainment Center	Northstar Eye Care	Summit Fire Protection
Heather Grant Fazendin Realtors	Minnesota Orthodontics	Old National Bank	Tradition Capital Bank
Gehrman Animal Hospital	Morrie's 394 Hyundai	Park Dental	Wayzata Hockey Clinics
The Honey Backed Ham Co.	Morrie's Golden Valley Cadillac	Park Nicollet Clinic Wayzata	Woofington Luxury Petite Dog Resort & Spa

11. Looking Ahead

Priorities for Next Season

As we prepare for the upcoming season, Wayzata Youth Hockey Association remains focused on continuous improvement and building upon the strong foundation of our organization. Guided by member feedback, strategic planning, and our commitment to player development, our priorities for the coming year include:

- **Enhancing Player Development** – Continuing to evaluate and strengthen our player development model to ensure we are providing meaningful opportunities for growth at every age and skill level.
- **Evaluating Our Dryland Program** – Exploring opportunities to enhance the dryland experience to better support player development and align with the needs of our membership.
- **Increasing Transparency and Communication** – Continuing to improve how we communicate with members by providing greater visibility into Association initiatives, planning, and decision-making.
- **Supporting the Future of Hockey in Our Community** – Advocating for the continued growth of hockey in our area, including efforts to address the long-term need for additional ice capacity.
- **Strengthening Community Connections** – Expanding opportunities to engage with our members, local partners, and the broader community while celebrating the accomplishments of our players, coaches, and volunteers.

- **Building the Wayzata Hockey Culture** – Continuing to foster a positive, inclusive culture rooted in sportsmanship, respect, teamwork, and a shared commitment to making Wayzata Hockey an outstanding experience for every family.

Together, these priorities reflect our commitment to thoughtfully evolving the Association while ensuring Wayzata Youth Hockey remains a place where players, families, coaches, and volunteers can thrive.



**DEVELOPING YOUNG
ATHLETES AND
BETTER CITIZENS
THROUGH
RECREATION,
SPORTSMANSHIP,
AND EXCELLENCE IN
ICE HOCKEY.**



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