

Team Colorado 16U Tier I Program

Mission

The mission of the Team Colorado 16U Tier I program is to provide an opportunity for the top 16U players in Colorado and other parts of the Western United States to train and develop their talents together in a full season program with the intention of preparing them for 19U Tier I hockey and eventually NCAA DI, NCAA DIII, or ACHA competition.

Competition Schedule*

The 16U Tier I team will compete in ten (10) Tier I events throughout the 2025-2026 season in addition to the Rocky Mountain District Tournament and hopefully USA Hockey Nationals. Each of the following events has been selected because of its exposure to high caliber competition and NCAA/ACHA college coaches.

NAHA Labor Day Tournament	8/29 – 8/31, 2025	Boston, MA
PIP – Harrisburg Hustle	9/26 – 9/28, 2025	Harrisburg, PA
TBD October Weekend	10/3 – 10/5, 2025	Location TBD
Minnesota NIT Tournament	10/17 – 10/19, 2025	Minneapolis, MN
Midwest Showcase	11/7 – 11/9, 2025	St. Louis, MO
Dallas Weekend Series	11/22 – 11/23, 2025	Dallas, TX
Windy City Girls Elite	12/5 – 12/7, 2025	Chicago, IL
OR Arizona Series	12/5 – 12/7, 2025	Phoenix, AZ
OR possible home series	12/5 – 12/7, 2025	Denver, CO
ECW Holiday Invitational	12/27 – 12/30, 2025	Boston, MA
PIP Mountain Mayhem	1/16 – 1/18, 2026	Denver, CO
Motor City Girls Fest	2/6 – 2/8, 2026	Detroit, MI
JWHL Challenge Cup	2/13 – 2/16, 2026	Washington, DC
Rocky Mountain Districts	3/5 – 3/8, 2026	Denver, CO
USA Hockey Nationals	3/24 – 3/29, 2026	Amherst, NY

**With the exception of one or two weekends, this schedule is largely confirmed. As those weekends are confirmed, we will make sure to update families in a timely manner. Local games will also be added to the schedule as it allows.*

16U Season Training Schedule

Players making a commitment to play hockey at this level are making hockey a top priority in their life and will be treated as such by players, families, coaches, and the association alike.

The following weekday schedule is designed to provide 16U players with the opportunity to train in an elite athlete setting while still allowing these young ladies to succeed academically.

TUESDAYS OFF ICE	5:45PM – 6:45PM	The Drill House @ FSC
TUESDAYS ON ICE	7:10PM – 8:10PM	Family Sports Center
WEDNESDAYS OFF ICE	7:00PM – 8:00PM	The Drill House @ FSC
WEDNESDAYS ON ICE	8:20PM – 9:20PM	Family Sports Center
FRIDAYS SKILLS SESSION*	3:30PM – 5:00PM	South Suburban
SATURDAYS ON ICE	TBD	Family Sports Center
SUNDAYS ON ICE	TBD	Family Sports Center

**Fridays on ice is optional skills session training open to all players in the Tier I program and will be led by skills coach, Chris Lockrem, along with other Tier I coaches in the program*

Video Breakdown System/Video Sessions

The video system we use is The Prospect Exchange, which breaks down games that are submitted by the discretion of the head coach. Each player also receives a breakdown of their own shifts from games that are submitted, which can be used for review, putting together highlight videos, or sending raw video to college coaches.

Video sessions will be added to the schedule at the Head Coaches discretion.

Fortitude Mental Performance

These sessions were a great add-on starting in January. For the 2025-2026 season these will start in September and will be scheduled throughout the season each month (sometimes twice).

Selection Process

We are looking for 20 student-athletes (18 skaters and 2 goalies) who have a commitment to train and compete at the Tier I level with the desire to advance their game to the 19U Tier I level and earn spots with NCAA or ACHA programs. Players must also be committed to excelling in academics and hold themselves to a higher standard of good character and integrity.

No spots are guaranteed for this team – even returning players. We expect these tryouts to be extremely competitive and every player must showcase their talent to the best of their ability during tryouts to earn a spot with any of our Tier I teams.

Player Age Eligibility

Players must be a 2009 or 2010 birth year to be eligible for the 16U Tier I program. Underage players or "Play Ups" will not be considered for this age group.

Residence/Commuting Policy

Making a commitment to a high performance 16U Tier I program often means players must move away from home to take advantage of the training opportunities that enable them to develop their skill set and reach the NCAA and earn a roster spot on a DI or DIII program.

If a player lives outside the Denver Metro area, they will be asked to either move full time to Denver, CO or commute for practices to take full advantage of the training program and contribute to the team development and dynamic. i.e. this team will not have "tournament only" players.

16U Season Fees (estimated to be \$6950)

Includes all practice ice, off-ice training with The Drillhouse, coaches stipends, Director/Admin fees, goalie coaching (Mountain High Hockey), video breakdown system, mental performance training sessions, local officiating costs, and other admin fees such as myhockeyrankings.com dues, coaches background checks, room rentals, USAH registrations/coaching clinics, association insurance, local officiating costs, etc.

Equipment Package (price is TBD based on new or returning players)

This season the equipment and apparel package or items will be paid by families directly to the vendor. Players who are new to the program will be required to purchase the whole package while returning players will only need to purchase items that need replacing.

Travel Fees (estimated to be \$1600/month)

Includes tournament fees, flights for players and coaches, hotel rooms for players and coaches, meals/snacks for players and coaches, and team ground transportation.

This team will travel as a team and will be the responsibility of team officials. Players will be asked to travel on team flights and stay in team hotel rooms. Parents are invited and encouraged to travel to weekends, but will be asked to stay in their own hotel room at the team hotel or a hotel of their own choosing.

Players, Coaches, and Team Manager flights will be booked on group reservations either through Southwest Airlines or United Airlines. If players need special accommodations for flights or trips, which does come up, we will need to know about these well in advance of booking flights to avoid double booking players.

Karen Rickard
Team Colorado
Director of Hockey Operations
kerickard18@gmail.com
214-435-4978