

UA Pond Hockey

2026 Season
Informational Meeting

February 11th, 2026



WELCOME



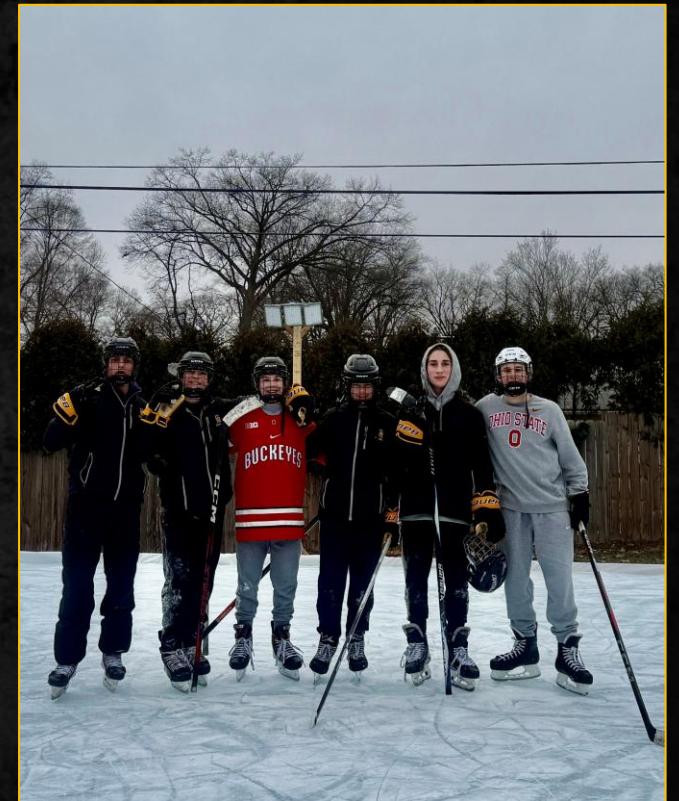
JONATHAN THACKERAY
FUTURE ICE BEARS COORDINATOR

What is Pond Hockey?



From The Chiller:

“Pond Hockey is ***high speed, high scoring***, end-to-end hockey action ***without the pressure*** of the regular season scores, standings and format! It’s a chance for players to handle the puck, ***get creative***, and play like they’re out back on a pond. And the best part is while the kids are ***having fun***, they’re focusing on skating, stickhandling, passing, shooting and backchecking/ forechecking.”



What isn't Pond Hockey?



- Focused solely on winning (although its great when it happens!)
- A contact league
- The right league to hone your child's skills to get them ready for travel tryouts
- Predictable week-to-week
- A prerequisite to be able to play high school hockey for UA
- Stressful

What is Pond Hockey for UA?



- A chance to have a good time and foster a love for playing hockey that continues into high school
- An opportunity to introduce kids (K – 8th grade) to classmates they may not know from other schools in UA who also play hockey
- Maybe the chance to play a new position
- Exposure to high school players

Chiller's Approach to Pond



- Hockey 3 graduates
- Blue Jackets Hockey League Players
 - 6U/8U/10U/12U
- Travel and Select Players
 - 10U/12U/14U/16U/18U
- Central Ohio Girls Hockey Ponytail League
 - 8U/10U/12U/14U

Blue Jackets Hockey League Division



- Divisions/Age Levels
 - ~~6U - 4-on-4 half-ice, coaches on ice, no scorekeeper~~
 - 8U - 5-on-5 full-ice
 - 10U & 12U - 3-on-3 full-ice
- Rosters
 - Minimum 10 players; maximum 18 players per roster (including subs). For 8U, roster of 16-18 is recommended

Travel & Select Divisions

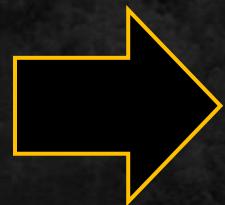


- Divisions/Age Levels
 - ~~10U - 3-on-3 full-ice. Lower and Upper Divisions offered.~~
 - 12U - 3-on-3 full-ice. Lower and Upper Divisions offered.
 - 14U - 3-on-3 full-ice. Players in this age group may have played JV high school, House or Travel Hockey. Lower division teams tend to have house or JV players. Upper division teams will have predominantly travel players.
 - 16U/18U - 3 on 3 full-ice. Upper and lower divisions offered. Players in this age group may have played Varsity High school or Travel Hockey
- Rosters
 - Minimum 10 players; maximum 18 players per roster (including subs). For 8U, roster of 16-18 is recommended

Roster Challenges



UA's Traditional Approach



The Chiller's Current Approach

- Grade-based teams (Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, ...) with few exceptions to move kids up/down based on skill

- Current CBJ Hockey League players
 - 6U/8U/10U/12U
 - Travel and Select Players
 - 10U/12U/14U/16U/18U
 - Each with upper and lower divisions

Last Year's Approach



K/1 st /2 nd	• Blue Jackets 8U
3 rd	• Travel & Select – 10U Lower
3 rd	• Blue Jackets 10U
4 th	• Blue Jackets 10U
5 th /6 th	• Blue Jackets 12U
5 th /6 th	• Travel & Select – 12U Upper
7 th	• Travel & Select – 14U Upper
8 th	• Travel & Select – 14U Upper

This Year's Approach



- Depends on number of players registered at each grade
- Potentially depends on skill level of players registered

Fees

- \$200 per player
- No charge for goalies
- Fees include:
 - ice time
 - one practice session prior to start of season
 - pond hockey jersey if needed



Requirements for Families



- Live in Upper Arlington*
- A valid USA Hockey number- available at
<https://membership.usahockey.com/>
- Register in CrossBar – available at www.uahockey.com

How Can You Help?



- Consider signing up to be a manager or coach
- **Manager** responsibilities
 - Maintaining crossbar with updated schedule
 - Tracking attendance
 - Communicating with high school player coaches

How Can You Help?



- **Coach** responsibilities
 - Minimal given role of our high school players – will NOT be on bench
 - All teams must have a USA Hockey certified coach
- Importance of adult presence at games

How Can You Help?



- Consider signing up to coordinate the program ☺
- Ideal candidate may have:
 - Willingness to serve as a UA Hockey Board member and desire to give back to the UA Hockey Program
 - Some connection to youth hockey in Central Ohio
 - Excellent communication and organizational skills

Next Steps



- Registration opens Friday – available at www.uahockey.com
- Register ASAP – will close in approximately 10 days
- Rosters need to be submitted to the Chiller no later than March 2nd
- Reach out with any questions

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Questions?

