



Aberdeen Hockey Association

Parent-Player Meetings

2025-2026 Season

8U & 6U Divisions

Meeting Agenda

- USAH/SDAHA/AHA Overview
- Introductions
- Expectations/Goals
- Equipment
- Communication/Contact Info
- Schedule
- Sponsorship



USAH/SDAHA/AHA

- USA Hockey Preeminence:
 - Sportsmanship, Respect for the Individual, Integrity, Pursuit of Excellence, Enjoyment, Loyalty, Teamwork
- SDAHA:
 - Leagues, Schedule, Playing Rules, Conduct
- AHA:
 - Administer program, enforce policies and procedures for AHA, SDAHA, and USAH



Coaching Staff/HDC Introduction

- 8U Coaches: Matt Campbell, Mike Kolb, Kyle Malsom, Eric Hoggarth, Jon Murdy, AJ Laranaga, Kayden Wika, and more
- 6U Coaches: Jeremy Wasem, Sam Cahoy, Haley Ellingson, Kyle Malsom, Nate Williams, and more
- Mike Schmidt: Director of Hockey Operations
- Coordinators: Kelli Malsom, Amber Schwab, Merissa Erdmann
- Duke Witte: AHA President
- Katie Linke: AHA Treasurer

"Let me start with issuing you a challenge: Be better than you are." **Herb Brooks**



Team Introductions

Parents introduce
themselves



EXPECTATIONS/GOALS

- HAVE FUN
- LEARN THE GAME
- DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS
- FOCUS ON FUNDAMENTALS
- LEARN THE VALUE OF TEAMWORK
- DEVELOP A PASSION FOR THE GAME
- PREPARE YOU FOR THE NEXT LEVEL

"The rink should be the most fun place that we go every day. We play the game because we love it. We coach the game because we love it. We create a fun, passionate environment." **Seth Appert, Rochester Americans**



EQUIPMENT

- Rental Gear is Available from AHA
 - Sponsorship covers rental fee
- Not included in rental
 - Stick
 - Skates (Dakota Outdoors Rental)
 - Mouthguard
 - Water Bottle
 - Neck Laceration Protection
- You DO NOT need a \$300 hockey stick



COMMUNICATION/CONTACT INFO

- Team communications will be sent out via Crossbar Chat
- Please RSVP to games/practices through SportsEngine
 - We can't plan properly if we don't know who will be in attendance
- If you have questions, please ask!

Hockey is a FAMILY



"You'll never catch me bragging about goals, but I'll talk all you want about my assists." Wayne Gretzky

6U Program

- Specific to new players and/or 6U players
- Objective:
 - To introduce player to proper skating technique and progress into learning to play hockey.
 - Split into 2 modules.
- Learn to Skate:
 - A 9-Session Curriculum from USA Hockey to teach the fundamentals of skating for ice hockey.
 - Goal: To progress and be ready for Learn to Play Level
- Learn to Play:
 - A 10-Session Curriculum from USA Hockey geared to teach the fundamentals of ice hockey.
 - Goal: To progress and prepare players for the 8U division



"It's not necessarily the amount of time you spend at practice that counts; it's what you put into the practice." **Eric Lindros**

6U Schedule

Learn to Skate Sessions	Time	Rink
Sunday, November 9, 2025	2:00pm-3:00pm	Expo
Monday, November 10, 2025	6:15pm-7:00pm	Odde
Sunday, November 16, 2025	2:00pm-3:00pm	Expo
Monday, November 17, 2025	6:15pm-7:00pm	Odde
Sunday, November 23, 2025	2:00pm-3:00pm	Expo
Monday, November 24, 2025	6:15pm-7:00pm	Odde
Sunday, November 30, 2025	2:00pm-3:00pm	Expo
Monday, December 1, 2025	6:15pm-7:00pm	Odde
Sunday, December 7, 2025	2:00pm-3:00pm	Expo
Learn to Play Sessions	Time	Rink
Sunday, December 14, 2025	2:00pm-3:00pm	Expo
Monday, December 15, 2025	6:15pm-7:00pm	Odde
Sunday, January 4, 2026	2:00pm-3:00pm	Expo
Monday, January 5, 2026	6:15pm-7:00pm	Odde
Sunday, January 11, 2026	2:00pm-3:00pm	Expo
Monday, January 12, 2026	6:15pm-7:00pm	Odde
Sunday, January 18, 2026	2:00pm-3:00pm	Expo
Monday, January 19, 2026	6:15pm-7:00pm	Odde
Sunday, January 25, 2026	2:00pm-3:00pm	Expo
Monday, January 26, 2026	6:15pm-7:00pm	Odde



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8U Program Levels

- Target program for Returning Players and/or 8U level players:
- Intermediate:
 - Consists of the players who have surpassed the Beginner level but are not ready for the Advanced Level
 - Goal: To progress to the Intermediate Level
- Advanced:
 - Consists of the players that have surpassed the Intermediate Level
 - Goal: To prepare players for the Squirt Level
- Progression:
 - You may progress levels throughout the season



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8U Program Schedule

- Practice:
 - 11/4 is first practice
 - 2/17 is last practice
 - 12/20-1/2 OFF Holiday Break
 - Sunday 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Expo/Odde if Available)
 - Tuesday 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm (Expo)
 - Thursday 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm (Expo)
- In-House Games:
 - Saturday 9:00 am – 10:00 am (Expo/Odde if Available)
- Jamborees:

• Huron Jamboree	December 27
• Mitchell Jamboree	January 3
• Watertown Jamboree	January 24-25
• Aberdeen Jamboree	February 7-8



SCHEDULE

- Wings Game Scrimmages
- Cougar Buddies/Cubs
- Varsity Player Assistance



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POLICIES/PAPERWORK

- Volunteer Policy
- Fundraising Policy (Sponsored)
- Locker Room Policy
- Zero Tolerance Policy



ZERO TOLERANCE (USAH/SDAHA/AHA)

The game officials will stop a game when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

1. Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner towards anyone at any time.
2. Taunting of players, coaches, officials, or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threats of physical violence or actual physical violence
3. Throwing of any object in the spectator's viewing area, player's bench, penalty box, ice surfaces, or any other area inside the rink directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard. Spitting at players, officials (off ice, minor officials, or on-ice officials), or fans/spectators is also prohibited.
4. Touching, pounding, or hanging on the glass boards of the rink

Spectators not abiding by these rules may be removed from the facility with or without warning.

We want to ensure a great fan experience for all spectators and urge you to cheer loud and proud for your team in an appropriate manner. Please help us in making our ice rink the best place in South Dakota to watch hockey by displaying respectful behaviors!

“Administrators are responsible for enforcing the rules and policies established and approved by USA Hockey, their Affiliate, and their Association or Club. This includes taking disciplinary action, as deemed appropriate, towards any parent/spectator removed from a game as a result of a violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy.” **USA Hockey**



SPONSORSHIP: 6U & 8U Division

Your AHA Fees will be reimbursed if you:

1. Attend Practices
2. Fulfill your Volunteer Requirements
3. Remain in good standing with AHA



"We want to partner with AHA to help grow the sport of Ice Hockey in the Aberdeen community." **Joe Bozied, Stan Houston Equipment**



CONCLUSION

"Success is won by those who believe in winning and then prepare for that moment. Many want to win, but how many prepare? That is the big difference. A sound value system held water then, holds water today, and will hold water in the future." **Herb Brooks**

