2026-27 Shakopee Hockey General Information

The intent of this document is to help communicate information about the Shakopee Youth Hockey Association (SYHA) 2026-27 season including cost, levels of play, coaching and general information. A considerable amount of planning occurs for each season, however, decisions/requirements from District 6, Minnesota Hockey and other authoritative parties are out of our control. The information provided below is to the best of our knowledge and are general guidelines with estimated costs and dates. **THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**.

Levels of Play

Level of Play	Format	Gender	Birth Date Range	Grade Level	Season Dates
Rookie Mites (Primarily 1st Year Players)	In-house	Boys & Girls (COED Mixed Teams)	Born on or after June 1, 2019	Pre-K, K	October - March
Mite M1	In-house	Boys & Girls (COED Mixed Teams)	6-1-2017 – 5-31-2019	K, 1st	October - March
Mite M2	In-house/Travel	Boys & Girls (Separate or Co-Ed Team dependent on numbers.)	6-1-2017 – 5-31-2019	2nd, 3rd	October - March
Mite M3/M4/8U	In-house/Travel	Boys & Girls (Separate or Co-Ed Team dependent on numbers.)	6-1-2017 to 5-31-2019	2nd, 3rd	October - March
Squirt	Travel	Boys & Girls	6-1-2015 to 5-31-2017	4th, 5th	September - March
10U	Travel	Girls	6-1-2015 to 5-31-2017	4th, 5th	September - March
PeeWee	Travel	Boys	6-1-2013 to 5-31-2015	6th, 7th	September - February/March
12U	Travel	Girls	6-1-2013 to 5-31-2015	6th, 7th	September - February/March
Bantam	Travel	Boys	6-1-2011 to 5-31-2013	8th, 9th	September - February/March
15U	Travel	Girls	6-1-2011 to 5-31-2013	8th, 9th	September - February/March
Jr. Gold/U16	Travel	Boys	6-1-2007 to 5-31-2009	10th, 11th, 12th	November February/March

Source: MN Hockey Age Charts & Participation Levels

Shakopee Youth Hockey Registration

- Registration for all SYHA teams will take place online at www.shakopeehockey.com starting on June 18th, 2026.

- Registration payment must be made via credit or debit card through the online SYHA registration process.
- Any player that has a payment due from a previous season will not be allowed to participate in pre-skates, try-outs or any other current season activity until the balance is paid in full.
- Registration questions should be directed to **SYHA Registrar; Kristine McGuire at registrar@shakopeehockey.com**.
- A **mandatory** parent meeting will be held **September 15th @ 6pm** for travel level players and **October 26th @ 5pm** for Mite players. These are held at Shakopee High School. Reminders of the date, time, and location of the meeting will be communicated to all registrants.

Minnesota Hockey Participation Rule

For the 2026-27 season, the Minnesota Hockey participation rule states that players must register and participate with the association whose boundaries incorporate the player's residence. Players must reside or open enroll in Shakopee School District #720 or attend Shakopee Area Catholic School (SACS) to be able to register with SYHA. If a player desires to participate on a team from any other association, the player must obtain a signed discretionary waiver from both the releasing and receiving association President prior to submission to the district for approval.

The full participation rule can be found online at https://www.minnesotahockey.org/handbook and https://www.d6hockey.net/page/show/116158-district-6-rule-books

If you have questions or need a waiver signed, please contact Dan Myers, SYHA President, at president@shakopeehockey.com

Coaches

- **Non-Parent Coaches**: The goal is to have non-parent coaches for all travel teams, having a non parent coach will result in having a higher ice bill in the spring. This is dependent on the number of applicants and is unfortunately not always achieved. We will not have non-parent Mite coaches.
- **Coaching Referral Program**: Any association member that refers a non-parent coach to the Hockey Development Committee for consideration will receive $100 if that coach gets hired for the 2026-27 season. Coaching application link: https://www.shakopeehockey.com/news/now-taking-coaching applications/20685
- **Parent Coaches**: Parent coaches need to complete the coaching application and will be selected after team placements are finalized.
- **Certification Requirements**: All SYHA coaches must be certified through USA Hockey. All coaches must enter USA Hockey's Coaching Education Program at Level 1, and must continue their education each year until, at a minimum, they achieve Level 3 or 4.
    - Exception - Coaches who will only coach at the Mite level may remain at Level 1 until they coach at the travel level. They will then need to progress annually to Level 3
- ***MN Hockey Rule*** : All coaches must complete their online age-specific module and any necessary screenings prior to participating with their team
- Rostered upper level travel coaches (Sq/10U → Junior Gold) will be reimbursed for certification classes upon providing receipt. Please email those receipts to coaches@shakopeehockey.com or Curt.zins@shakopeehockey.com
- All assigned coaches must register online at www.usahockey.com prior to the first practice. ● NO EXCEPTIONS

Travel Teams Tryouts

Level of Play	Approx. Dates	Format
Squirt	Approx. Oct. 5 – Oct. 16	Skills & Scrimmage/Game Play (3-5 hrs)
10U	Approx. Oct. 5 – Oct. 16	Skills & Scrimmage/Game Play (3-5 hrs)
PeeWee	Approx. Sept 22 – Oct. 6	Scrimmage/Game Play (3-5 hrs)

13/12U	Approx. Sept 22 – Oct. 6	Scrimmage/Game Play (3-5 hrs)
Bantam	Approx. Sept 22 – Oct. 6	Scrimmage/Game Play (3-5 hrs)
Junior Gold	TBD (After HS Tryout)	Scrimmage/Game Play (3-5 hrs)

Tryout details: **Tryouts will be closed**, arena windows will be blacked out, and no parents will be allowed in the arena. Tryout dates, format and team levels may change based on final registration numbers. More information can be found on the tryout page of the SYHA website.

Goalies Tryouts: Association policy states that Goalies who "skate out" must be able to score good enough at the A or B team.

Pre-Skates

- Pre-skates take place in September prior to try-outs. These sessions are ***OPTIONAL*** but highly encouraged. Ice time used for pre-skates will be reflected on the ice bills for all players regardless of attendance. We ask that players attend their assigned group, if a fall sport has a time conflict you may skate at the other option ***with prior approval***. It's important to try to maintain even #'s for good reps.

Travel Team Schedule (Estimates Only)

Level of Play	D6 Games (Est)	Tournaments	Practice Hours (Est.)
Squirt/10U**	12-16	4	60-80
PeeWee/13/12U	16-18	4	70-90
Bantam	16-18	4	70-90
15U	16-18	4	70-90

** Squirts/10U have 35 game max **(**league, invitational tournaments and exhibition), excluding district playoffs.

Schedule Notes: D6 guidelines permit each team to attend 4 tournaments per season.

Volunteering

- Each family is required to work **18 hours** of volunteer time.
  - Exceptions
    - Families with their only player(s) at the M1/8U1 Level and 1st year in the association are only required to complete 9 volunteer hours.
    - Families with their only player(s) at the Jr. Gold Levels are only required to complete 9 volunteer hours.
  - Scholarship families will need to complete 36 hours of DIBS.
  - A $1000 refundable check to be held is required from each family at the start of the season and is destroyed if the full obligation of volunteer (DIBS) hours is met. This will be a check post dated for May 1st, 2027. Checks must be written out to Shakopee Hockey (SYHA) and your player(s) name in the memo line.
- Families may buy out of volunteering (DIBS) for $1000 ONLY during registration. Please note: The association would prefer you volunteer your time as opposed to buying out of DIBS.
- Additional details can be found online on www.shakopeehockey.com under volunteer info and will be presented at the Traveling parent meeting in September & Mite parent meeting in October.

Equipment

- **Equipment** – player provides all equipment.
- **Jerseys/socks** – SYHA remains a "player-paid jerseys/socks" organization. You will be prompted to select your jersey and sock sizes at a later date. Travel jerseys and socks will be sublimated. All players are required to order a new jersey this year. Jersey cost is included in the Registration/Ice Fee as part of registration. Mite M3/8U3 & Mite M4/8U4 players will be purchasing a sublimated jersey/knit sock package too. Younger level mite players will receive an in-house jersey and one pair of hockey socks.
  - **Junior Gold:** The 2026-27 season is the third and final year of the Junior Gold's three-year jersey. The cost of the socks will be included in Registration, however, the jersey cost will not be charged unless the player (1) wants to keep their jersey their senior/last year, or (2) the jersey is not returned for various reasons (destroyed, lost, or stolen). Jerseys should be returned to the SYHA Ice Arena no later than March 31st. The charge for the unreturned jerseys will be added to the Ice Bill at the end of the year.
- **Breezer Covers:** The Apparel Committee has selected 3 options for breezer covers (white, red, and black with the Saber head logo and hockey #). They are NOT included in the Registration fees. Once teams are selected, and should the team wish to have breezer covers for the season, the team will be able to purchase them (out of pocket/slush fund). The team(s) wishing to pursue these will need to submit an email request to the SYHA Board to assist in the ordering process. The cost is $43 per cover.
- **Team Jackets:** The SYHA will be continuing the team jacket program. New jackets will be purchased for players moving to a new level (e.g. Squirts to Peewees) or first year Traveling players (Sq/10U & above). Fitting information and deadline information will be sent in the first part of September for your player to be fitted for the proper size. Fittings taken place after this deadline will not be included in the pre-season order and delivery may be delayed. For parents wishing to buy a new jacket for a player otherwise not eligible for one, they can receive the discounted price.
- All players must have their own water bottle at the travel levels to prevent spread of illness.

Traveling players dress code requirements:

- **Black helmet -** Helmets may have accents in Saber colors (Red, White or Gray) ●
Goalie helmets may be any color.
- **Black Breezers** - No Stripes or accents (Solid Black) If you need to purchase a black breezer pant shell please check hockey retail and online stores.
- **Black Gloves:** Gloves may have Saber color accents (Red, White or Gray). NO all Red Gloves.

Players will <u>not</u> be allowed on the ice during tryouts, games, tournaments or scrimmages outside of the above guideline. We are one Association!

Garment bags are highly recommended for all travel players and can be purchased at Valley Sports or other suppliers throughout the metro. The garment bag supports the proper care of the jerseys during the unpredictable winter months.

Program Philosophy

The goal of the SYHA hockey program is for every athlete and every team to **be the best they can be** at their level. While win–loss records matter, they are only one measure of growth and understanding of the game. Our athletes will be held to **high expectations** both on and off the ice.

We expect every athlete in our program to uphold five core standards. These expectations are not tied to winning or losing—they reflect the character and commitment we want our players to embody:

1. **Act with class** on and off the ice
2. **Strive to be your best** as a hockey player, student, and person
3. **Give 100% effort** at all times
4. **Be unselfish** as a teammate and individual
5. **Remain chemical-free**

"Success" in our program means **attaining your personal and collective best**. It is a journey, not a single outcome. A team may have a losing record and still be successful if its athletes reach their potential. Conversely, a team may win often without truly succeeding if it falls short of "being the best you can be." We believe that when athletes commit to doing all the little things right, the scoreboard will take care of itself.

Hockey is a team sport, and our program is built on a team-oriented mindset. Achieving group goals requires the dedication and effort of many individuals. Nothing meaningful in hockey is accomplished alone.

Attendance Policy for Travel Teams (non-Mites)

To strive for maximum team success and development at the individual and team level, it's important that all players attend every practice, scrimmage and game. The attendance policy for the 2026-27 season is as follows:

- Enforcement of the attendance policy will begin the following levels:
  - 13U/12U, PW & Bantam: October (Upon completion of Tryouts in early Oct.)
  - 10U & Squirts: (November 1)
  - Junior Gold (Upon completion of HS tryouts)
- Players are required to attend ALL games, scrimmages, practices, and dry land activities, unless excused by your team's head coach.
- Excused absences include religion, school activities, current fall sport game or practice, illness, and family emergencies.
- Holidays and family vacations will not be considered excused absences.
- Consequences of missing a practice, scrimmage or game:
  - Each player is allowed 3 unexcused absences to be used at their family's discretion. These 'passes' were added to the attendance policy to help families plan for vacations and holidays during the hockey season.
  - Players missing a game/practice/scrimmage session due to an unexcused absence (beyond the pre-mentioned three) will be required to sit 1 game period per practice/scrimmage session missed.
  - Unexcused absences result in the player sitting during the next scheduled game. If multiple kids are affected, it is then the coach's discretion as to when, not if, they sit. If a player has to sit two or more games in a row he/she is not required to sit back to back games.
  - It will not be considered an unexcused absence if a player misses a team practice or game that was scheduled within 7 days of notification.

Playing Time Policy for Travel Teams (Non-Mites)

AA & A -Teams Bantam/Peewee/13U/12U/Junior Gold - At these levels, the coaches will strive to provide each player with a similar amount of playing time during the season. All players will be exposed to Power Play and/or Penalty Kill situations in games throughout the year. Shortening of the bench can occur in the final minutes of a game. ****Exceptions to the guidelines are listed below**

B&C Teams Bantams/Peewee/13U/12U - All players will play evenly throughout every game aside from special teams and the last three minutes of each game where the coach will have the discretion to deviate from equal play guidelines. All players will have the opportunity to play in both Power Play and Penalty Kill situations during games throughout the year. Coaches are encouraged to rotate positions throughout the season in order to find the best positional fit for each player and to continue their development. ****Exceptions to the guidelines are listed below**

10U and Squirts (All Teams) - All players will play evenly throughout every game aside from special teams and the last three minutes of each game where the coach will have the discretion to deviate from equal play guidelines. All players will have the opportunity to play in both Power Play and Penalty kill situations during games throughout the year. Players will also rotate positions throughout the season. ****Exceptions to the guidelines are listed below**

****Exception(s) to the above guidelines** - A coach will have the flexibility to reduce a player's ice time if the player is not meeting the work ethic required or for disciplinary reasons. The coach will communicate to the player and parent(s) if a player is subject to a deviation from the guidelines. Actions causing a deviation include, but are not limited to:

- adhering to the SYHA attendance policy
- work ethic
- on / off ice behavior

2026-27 Estimated Season Cost per Level

Level of Play	Registration and Ice Fees*	Fundraising	USA & MN Hockey Fees**	Estimated Total 2026-27 Fees

Rookie Mites: First Year to Hockey	FREE	$0	$15-80	$15-80
M1/8U1 or M2/8U2	$300	$130	$15-80	$310
Mite M3/8U3's	$750	$130	$60-80	$775
Mite M4/8U4's	$750	$130	$60-80	$775
Squirt	$1,900	$130	$60-80	$2,200
10U	$2,200	$130	$60-80	$2,200
Pee Wee	$2,100	$130	$60-80	$2,250
12/13U	$2,000	$130	$60-80	$2,250
Bantam	$2,200	$130	$60-80	$2,370
15U	TBD	$130	$60-80	TBD
Junior Gold	$1,475	$0	$57-80	$1,475

* Fees listed are for Travel and Mite registrations.
* Late Registrations for Travel received after July 8th, 2026 will be subject to a late Registration fee. ** Plus USA & MN Hockey fees ranging from $15-80 depending on birthdate/age level. Source: USA Hockey and MN Hockey

Season Cost Notes:

- Registration and Ice Fees:
  - Travel teams (Squirt/10U and above): the fees cover the ongoing costs of running the association (for example, tryout ice and evaluators, goalie & skater skills program, annual audit and tax return fees, website, Intro to Hockey program, billpay, District 6 fees, Coach Certification Fees, bank fees, Skate program, etc.).
  - Travel teams (Squirt/U10 and above):
    - Recurring automatic payments will be made through the bill pay system on the Shakopee Hockey website to total the estimated balance due for the season. A final catch-up invoice will be issued at the end of the season for the difference of the estimated cost to the actual total and will also be paid through the bill pay system. ***During registration you will be required to login to the bill pay system and authorize payment***. Families can choose to pay their entire estimated ice bill in one single payment or a series of 6 payments from Registration date through January 2027.
    - Total ice bill cost will include, but is not limited to: fees for tournaments, coaching costs, ice bills, D6 charges, goalie credit, jersey and sock costs and non-parent coaches (if applicable).
    - Estimate is based on the average cost per player during the 2026-27 season and guidelines outlined above.
    - These costs are **ESTIMATED** and will vary based on the number of practice hours, shared ice, number of tournaments, paid coaches, and players per team. **COACHES FEES HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON YOUR COSTS. COACHING FEES CAN BE UP $7500 PER TEAM AND WILL BE DIVIDED AMONG THE FAMILIES ON THAT TEAM.**
    - **Ice Bill:** At the end of the season, ice fees will be reconciled and may result in an ice bill for some teams. **EACH TEAM WITH A NON-PARENT COACH/COACHES WILL MOST**

LIKELY INCUR AN ADDITIONAL ICE BILL AT THE END OF THE SEASON.
The FINAL TEAM ICE BILL can vary widely from team to team. Generally, Ice bills might cost between $0 to $600 per player, but may be higher in some circumstances.

▪ Other Costs: Other non-registration related costs may also be incurred during the season. Examples of such costs may include (but are not limited to) equipment, away tournament hotel rooms, optional team apparel, team slush funds, coach gifts, etc.

- Fundraising Fees: It is mandatory for all members of the SYHA to participate in the selected Fundraising Program**.** The fee is $130 per player and will be collected at the time of registration. Families with more than two registrations have a capped fee of $260.00, this will be the maximum collected. The fundraising product is available for players to sell and earn back 100 percent of the fee. More information regarding the fundraising program will be communicated to all families as we approach the season***.***
- **USA & MN Hockey Fees**: These fees are required to play by USA and MN Hockey.
- **Registering LATE:**: Late registrations received after July 8, 2026 will be subject to a late Registration fee of $100. This will cover the cost of late ordering jerseys/socks, rush fees, etc.
- **REFUND POLICY** – All refund requests must be submitted in writing to the Registrar and approved by the board.
    - All refund requests must be submitted in writing to the Registrar.
    - Requests received prior to the first grading/tryout session will receive a full refund, less $100 cancellation fee and a pro-rated ice bill based on pre-skates.
    - After teams have been rostered, no registration refunds will be given. A few exceptions have been made by the Board of Directors. Examples in the past have included:
        - ▪ Players that make a High School Varsity/JV team after SYHA teams have been rostered, ***only if the intent to try out was noted during registration*****.** This amount will be less the Jerseys/Apparel costs as those items are custom and are not able to be re-used for other players.
        - ▪ Special circumstances involving season ending injury factoring in date of injury and costs incurred by the Association on behalf of the player.

S.K.A.T.E. Program

The Shakopee Hockey Association is again proud to partner with Minnesota Hockey Journal and offer our players the opportunity to participate in the S.K.A.T.E. (Skaters Keep Achieving through Education) program. This program is meant to recognize and reward the efforts of student athletes who play hockey.

All hockey players on 10U, 12/13U, Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam, Jr Gold, and High School are eligible to sign-up for the S.K.A.T.E. program during the registration process. By signing up for the S.K.A.T.E. program the student athlete is committing to work towards a G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher during the 1st semester or 2nd quarter of the 2026-27 academic year.

If the student athlete obtains a 3.0 G.P.A. or higher for the 1st semester or 2nd quarter they are qualified and become eligible to participate in the association's recognition night. Players who receive special education assistance may qualify with a letter from their case manager stating they showed above average performance. Additionally, qualifying student athletes are entered in a statewide sweepstakes presented by Minnesota Hockey Journal.

Recreation League Available through Minnesota Hockey

For the 2026-27 season, Minnesota Hockey will again be offering a recreation league for Squirt/10U through Bantam/12U/13U/Junior Gold aged players as an alternative to the traditional travel model offered through the associations. This program does not require a signed waiver. More information can be found at https://www.minnesotahockey.org/recleague or by contacting Tom Mickus Rec League Director Phone: 651-248-3075. Do not register online through Shakopee Hockey for this league.