



Ice Hogs

Hockey



NWAHockey



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www.nwahockey.com

Understanding the Program

2026 - 2027



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Who is NWAHA?



NWAHA = Northwest Arkansas Hockey Association

We are:

- A 501©(3) non-profit that promotes youth hockey in the Northwest Arkansas area (and within a 1 ½ hour circumference of the area)
- Open to kids ages 4yrs – High School
- A 100% volunteer organization
- Based at the Jones Center in Springdale, Arkansas, one of the only two rinks in all of Arkansas (our friends in Little Rock have the other rink)
- A Member of USAHockey, meaning all players and volunteers must have a USAHockey number each year.
- A part of SAHA (Southern Amateur Hockey Association) and must follow their rules
 - SAHA governs Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee
- **Passionate about keeping youth hockey enjoyable and provide a safe, fun environment for children to learn and develop hockey skills by providing both Recreational and Competitive Travel options.**

Hockey Equipment



Hockey Equipment Checklist for Kids



Skates

- Generally, skates run 1-2 sizes smaller than shoe sizes
- Sharpening is available at the Jones Center for a small fee
 - Sharpen skates every 10-20 hours of ice time, depending on skill level and ice conditions

Sticks

- With skates on, the stick should reach to the player's chin
- Without skates, it should reach to their nose

Height-Based Stick Length Chart (Approximate)

Player Height	Stick Length (Skates On)	Stick Length (Without Skates)
4'0" – 4'6" (122–137 cm)	42–46" (107–117 cm)	45–49" (114–124 cm)
4'6" – 5'0" (137–152 cm)	46–50" (117–127 cm)	49–53" (124–135 cm)
5'0" – 5'4" (152–163 cm)	50–54" (127–137 cm)	53–57" (135–145 cm)
5'4" – 5'8" (163–173 cm)	54–58" (137–147 cm)	57–61" (145–155 cm)
5'8" – 6'0" (173–183 cm)	58–62" (147–157 cm)	61–65" (155–165 cm)
6'0" – 6'4" (183–193 cm)	62–66" (157–168 cm)	65–69" (165–175 cm)
6'4"+ (193+ cm)	66"+ (168+ cm)	69"+ (175+ cm)

Money Saving Resources

- Sideline swap: [SidelineSwap: Shop Used & Clearance Hockey, Baseball, Golf & More](#)
- Ice Hogs Buy/Sell Facebook: [Facebook](#)
- The Trailer!
 - Used/donated equipment, new skates sizes 8,9,10,11,12,1

Key Terms



❑ 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U

- Refers to the team age groups, based on birth year

8U = Mites

12U = PeeWee

10U = Squirts

14U = Bantam

❑ Age Rep

- Each team/age group has a board member representative, that should be your 1st contact for any issues

❑ USAHockey

- The national governing body for ice hockey in the USA & provides insurance to our organization

❑ SafeSport

- Non-negotiable rules enforced by USAHockey
 - Volunteers and players 17+ are required to take SafeSport training
 - Includes rules such as no non-volunteers in the locker rooms, no cameras/videos in the locker rooms for anyone, etc
 - SafeSport training for all ages can be found online and it's highly suggested that players/parents complete this training.

❑ Stick and Puck

- These are “open play” ice times where any registered player is allowed to drop in and play pick-up games.

❑ “In Season” vs “Summer”

- **“In Season” = August – end of March.** This is the busy hockey season, expect 2+ ice touches per week based on JC ice availability
- **“Summer” = April – end of July.** This is when we drop down to 1 practice time per week and things are more relaxed and less structured

❑ Friendlies

- Non-league games that are organized by each team on their own. May host at home at the Jones Center or may travel to another location, such as Springfield, MO, etc. Usually either low cost or no cost

❑ Tournaments

- Non-league games that are organized by each team on their own.
- Registration fees are required (cost to be split by all team families and are usually ~\$1900 per tournament)
- Often “Stay to Play” which means the teams are required to stay at specific hotels in order to participate
- Number of tournaments varies by team – details to be provided by the coach/manager at the 1st team meeting (typically 1-4)

Important Dates / Requirements



❑ USA Hockey Number

- USA Hockey registration are annual; the membership year runs from **Sept 1st – Aug 31st**
 - Registration for the upcoming season typically opens **April 1st**
 - You need an updated USA Hockey number before registering for the upcoming NWAHA season
 - Players, Coaches, Officials, and Volunteers are required to have a number each year

❑ NWAHA Registration

- The deadline to register for the 2026-2027 hockey season is **August 1st, 2026**
 - Membership from August 1st – July 31st is included in this registration

❑ Tryouts

- Tryouts are typically at the end of July/early August, but may flex as needed based on ice time availability
- Tryouts are for travel teams only – 8U and Rec players are *not* required to try out

❑ Fundraising

- Ice time is our biggest expense and costs continue to rise. Due to this, starting with the 2026-2027 season, NWAHA is requiring a minimum of \$100 *net* sales from our annual wreath fundraiser.
 - Fundraising not your thing? You can also write a check for \$100 and skip the fundraising

❑ Volunteering

- The Jones Center requires the NWAHA organization to complete 50 hours of volunteer work for Jones Center events each year, you may be asked to help fulfill these hours

Recreation vs Competitive Travel



8U

- For ages 4-8 yrs old
- Minimum of 2 ice touches/week (including game days)
- Includes NWAHA skills clinics, stick & pucks, etc
- Typically, will have games on Saturdays played between NWAHA teams
- Utilize the ADM training model

Recreation Team

- For ages 9yrs – High School
- Minimum of 2 ice touches/week (including game days)
- Includes NWAHA skills clinics, stick & pucks, etc
- Typically, will have games on Saturdays played between all the NWAHA Rec players
- May plan friendlies with Springfield, MO or other Rec teams – these are optional and may have some cost associated with it for officials, ice time, etc

Travel Teams

- For ages 9yrs – High School
- Minimum of 2 ice touches/week
- Includes NWAHA skills clinics, stick & pucks, etc
- 10U – 14U participates in the MoHockey league and most games are played in St Louis, MO
 - Typically, 1 trip/month is made to STL Sept – Feb, but it can be more
- High School is part of the MAHSHL league and games are played at home and in Kansas City.

Communication



Schedules, Team Chats, Event details:

- Download the **Crossbar** app
- When you register, an account is automatically created using the email address you provided during registration. You may add other users, but you must use that email as the primary address.
- Make sure you have notifications turned on

Emails:

- Be sure to add notifications@nwahockey.com to your “safe sender” or “VIP” email list – **all important club information will come from this address**



2026 – 2027 Registration Rates



Age Group	2026-2027 Rate	
8U	\$	1,000.00
10U	\$	1,500.00
12U	\$	1,500.00
14U	\$	1,500.00
High School	\$	1,950.00
Rec League	\$	1,000.00

Registration Includes:

- Full Year of Ice Time: Aug 1st, 2026 – July 31st, 2027
- NWAHA Stick and Puck Sessions
- Most Skills Clinics/Skills Nights
- Practice Jerseys

Registration Does Not Include:

- Tournament Registrations
- Travel Jerseys
- Costs of travel (hotels, food, gas, etc)
- Bags/Warm Up Gear (often, we get a donation that may cover the cost of these for travel teams).

Scholarships are available!

- Free/Reduced lunch will qualify you for a scholarship of 20-50% off registration fees
- Details are available on our website:
 - www.nwahockey.com
- Scholarships are funded fully by interest earned on our savings accounts.

Travel Cost Calculator (example)



SEASON OVERVIEW

- 25-40 games
- 1-4 tournaments
- Most league play in St. Louis

Declaration: September/Oct

Season Games: Nov – Feb

Playoffs: End of Feb/Early March

TRAVEL EXPECTATIONS AND COSTS

- Up to about 13 travel weekends
- Hotel example: \$145/night x 2 nights = \$290/weekend
- \$290 x 13 weekends = about **\$3,770** in hotel cost for the season
- Tournament fees are additional and are split among rostered players

TYPICAL 10U HOCKEY WEEKEND

Travel hockey usually means 1-2 weekends per month in St. Louis for league games, depending on scheduling by the team manager and rink availability.

Typical schedule

- Leave Friday afternoon
- Games Saturday and Sunday
- Return home Sunday afternoon

Most families stay two nights in a hotel. A common option is the Courtyard Marriott in Kirkwood, which often offers group rates and breakfast.

BUDGET RANGE AND REC OPTION

Estimated Season Budget Range

- Hotels: about \$3,700 for the season based on the example above
- Tournament fees: commonly split among players; amount varies by event and roster size
- Gas and food: varies by family

Rec Hockey Option

Families who prefer not to participate in travel hockey can join the Northwest Arkansas recreational league. This option focuses on local games, development, and fun with much less travel.

Questions?



Feel free to reach out at any time with any questions you may have

President: President@nwahockey.org

Secretary: Secretary@nwahockey.org

Head of Coaches: HeadofCoaches@nwahockey.org

Registrar: Registrar@nwahockey.org

Your Team / Age Group Board Member:

U8Rep@nwahockey.org

U10Rep@nwahockey.org

U12Rep@nwahockey.org

U14Rep@nwahockey.org

HighSchoolRep@nwahockey.org

RecreationRep@nwahockey.org

Website:

www.nwahockey.com





THANK
YOU!



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