

2026-2027 Bantam Travel Parents Meeting

Coaches:

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Team Manager:

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Volunteer Positions Needed:

Penalty box (home and away games)

Scoresheet, Clock, and music (home games only)

Utilize the Assignments option on the Crossbar app to sign up for these tasks.

Mission:

Our purpose is to develop individual hockey player skills, team skills, leadership skills and life skills through fun and challenging hockey practices and hockey games

Definition of Success

1. Have fun – Measured by attendance and player desire to come to practice
2. Improving as a player and team – Measured by success in games
3. Become a strong team – Trusting and encouraging each other – playing to each other's strengths
4. Win and learn - .500 on our season and win 1 tournament

Team Communications

1. Team Managers are the link between Newark Ice Hockey Association (NIHA) and the team
2. Crossbar used to communicate Practice, Game, General info, Team information and coordination
3. 24-hour rule with Issues/Grievances

Step 1: Encourage the player to advocate for themselves

Step 2: Parent should attempt to resolve the concern with the coach

Step 3: The Hockey Director and/or a board member will meet with the Parent(s) and coach(es) to resolve the issue

Registration

1. All players need to update their USA Hockey number for the 14UGold Bantam travel team on the NIHA website (newarkhockey.com) This allows us to build the official roster for USA Hockey.

Fees

1. All fees will be collected via the Crossbar automatic payment system.
2. Additional fees for our team(tbd): Additional training ie. Alex Morrow or Rob Sangster (we will also take sponsors for these opportunities)

Uniforms

1. All players will need a black and white jersey with matching socks and pant shell.
2. Please remove all helmet stickers (stars) from previous seasons (Memorial stickers are acceptable)–
3. Stick tape
Any color or pattern on the top of the stick is acceptable
On blade, tape should be white (disguises the blade on the ice) or black (disguises the puck on the blade)
4. Team warm-ups will be Black - these are optional
5. Players should be wearing Generals attire or neutral attire for warm up (I.E. no offensive or vulgar)
Dress appropriately for the weather.
6. Home games. Players will wear a tucked-in collared shirt and khakis
7. Black helmet and black or dark gloves

Nicknames

1. Meant to be fun and help with locker room camaraderie
2. If a kid feels put down or bullied, please contact a coach

Practices

1. Regular practice schedule is uploaded on crossbar. Mondays and Wednesdays at 8:10. Fundamentals will occur on Thursdays. Times and frequency tbd.
2. Let coaches know if your player will miss a practice – Helps prepare practice based on numbers. Utilize the availability option on the crossbar app.
3. 10% of practices will be hockey fundamentals
4. 30% of our on-ice practices will be skills drills
5. 40% will be small area games to reinforce skills
6. 20% on-ice time will be on team drills.
7. Checking - Emphasize the importance of making plays and changing puck possession. Physicality is important.

Practice Player Expectations – Kids will be held accountable

1. Make as many practices as possible (We understand fall sports) and school grades are important
2. Be on the ice on time with all the required equipment
3. No game jerseys or Current game socks
4. Stop and listen when coaches are talking
5. Be respectful of other teammates
6. Creativity and effort related mistakes are encouraged
7. We will remove players from practice for disruptive or inappropriate behavior
8. We will suspend players from the locker room for disruptive or inappropriate behavior

Games

1. Arrive 1 hour prior to game time in appropriate and clean attire
2. Bring both the black and white uniforms and socks
3. We will typically play 2 games on each game day to minimize travel requirements

4. Everyone should bring their own water bottles
 5. Positions will be determined by coaches and will adjust to the players strengths.
 6. Special Teams - special teams units (Power Play, Penalty Kill) will be awarded at coaches discretion. Ideally would like everyone to participate.
- On Penalty kills we will reward hustle and grit
- We will do our best to keep shifts short and as equal as possible when we are even strength
- Playing time may become less equal depending on number of penalties. Four penalties in one game per a player is an automatic game suspension. We will sit the player at penalty number three.
7. Playing time - In tight games (within 2 goals), we reserve the right to stack lines.
 8. We will suspend players from game play (shift, period, game) for loss of emotional control and indiscipline
 9. Examples of indiscipline: arguing with the coaches about shift changes or swinging your stick at a player or arguing with each other. Will also be at the coaches discretion.
 10. We will remove players for unsafe play or inappropriate behavior
 11. We will suspend players from the locker room for partial or complete games for disruptive or inappropriate behavior

Awards

Coaches will jointly select the player of the 'game' for each weekend of play. Coaches are not allowed to vote for their own child. The player of the game will be awarded the ? until the next weekend of play. This will not be handed out for tournaments.

Tournaments

1. November. 6-8 Grand Rapids, MI
2. December 4-6 Ann Arbor, MI
3. January 15-18 Lexington, KY
4. February 12-15 Oxford, OH
5. End of February/beginning of March – MCHL end of season league.

Stay-to-Play tournaments - you must stay a minimum of two nights in the hotel that we are assigned. We usually know hotel assignments about a month prior to the tournament. And we usually know tournament schedules 1-2 weeks prior to tournament weekend. There is potential to play early on the Friday of tournament weekends, or late on Sunday or Monday (if holiday).

Leadership

1. The team will vote anonymously on one captain and two assistant captains
2. Coaches will encourage all players to become leaders

Locker Room

1. Only players, coaches and the locker room monitor are permitted
- All coaches and locker room monitors have completed Safe Sport training and background checks.
2. No bullying, sexism, racism, cussing, or messing with other people's property

3. The locker room is a privilege. If rules are not obeyed, we reserve the right to temporarily suspend players from the locker room

4. No cell phones can be out in the locker room (or any device that can take pictures and send messages) they can have them put away but need to leave the room to use them

If I see them out, I will take them away for that practice or game

3rd offense will result in player suspension from the locker room

I recommend leaving them in a car or with a parent

Expectations for Parents

1. Please do not pressure your player to perfection – We will be encouraging trying new things and being creative – They will make mistakes and that is acceptable and a great learning experience.

2. We will be focusing on skill and overall game play this year. The goal is team play.

3. Encourage them to work hard, try new things, control emotions, and listen to the coaches

4. Leave the officials alone – they are all going to miss things and make bad calls

5. If you see something unsafe that we miss, please let the coaches know so we can address with the officials...after games

6. Yelling at officials and questioning calls never helps and doesn't give us an advantage

7. Our behavior also influences how the kids behave

8. There is a problem with decreasing numbers of people going into officiating. Without officials, our kids can't safely play the game.

9. Be part of the solution in making this better by treating the officials with respect during the games. If you see them leaving the ice, please thank them even if they blew a ton of calls.

10. Do not yell at a player on the other team or get into arguments with other parents – Hockey is a great sport with great people

11. By agreeing to allow your child to play this sport, you understand there will be times a coach or referee can not prevent a player from injury. This is a physical sport.