

Iron Range Hockey Association



2026-2027 Season Guide

Welcome to the 2026-2027 IRHA Season

We're excited to kick off another season with you. This welcome packet contains important information about the upcoming season.

Our **mission** is to provide kids with a safe, supportive environment to learn the game of hockey, develop teamwork skills, and practice good sportsmanship. We work hard to uphold these values and ask every participant to do the same. If you ever feel these standards are not being met, please reach out.

All current IRHA policies are located on our website under the Resources tab. Scan the QR code to access our website.



Volunteers Needed

IRHA is a House (B) and Tier II (AA) hockey league built on volunteerism and we welcome any time or talents you are willing to share. Prior hockey knowledge or experience is not required – there are many ways to contribute and help provide a positive experience for our youth.

- **Board of Directors:** We currently have openings on our Board of Directors. If interested, please fill out an application and submit to the board. Please contact Eric Beckman with any questions.
- **Team Parents:** Each team needs a Team Parent to serve as a key contact, help relay information, schedule concession duties, coordinate reservations, and more. The more parents that volunteer to help with team tasks, the better! If you are interested in this role for your player's team, please reach out to our Director of Team Parents, Amy Dale.
- **Committees:** Several committees are always looking for additional members. Contact a Board Member for more information.
- **Coaching/On-Ice Help:** If you would like to coach or assist on the ice, please complete the application form available on our website.

If you have questions or concerns not covered in this packet, don't hesitate to contact a board member or coach. We're here to help! Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation in making our program successful. We look forward to a great season. Go Miners!!

Key Contacts

Board Members:

President: Eric Beckman

president@ironrangehockey.com

Vice President: Don Poupore

dpoupore@ironrangehockey.com

Secretary: **Position Open**

secretary@ironrangehockey.com

Treasurer: Vicky Aldridge

treasurer@ironrangehockey.com

Dale Hopper

dhopper@ironrangehockey.com

Perry Wooden

pwooden@ironrangehockey.com

Robert Spear

rspear@ironrangehockey.com

Andrew Herriman

aherriman@ironrangehockey.com

Chris Penney

cpenney@ironrangehockey.com

Samantha Toth

stoth@ironrangehockey.com

Kirby Frantti

krantti@ironrangehockey.com

Doug Bourdeau

dbourdeau@ironrangehockey.com

In addition to individual coaches and team managers, each level of hockey has a board liaison that can help with anything that may arise throughout the season.

Team Liaisons:

Learn to Skate: Don Poupore

6U & 8U: Vicky Aldridge

10U B: Doug Bourdeau

10U AA: Eric Beckman

12U B: **Position Open**

12U AA: Perry Wooden

14U B: Andrew Herriman

14U AA: Dale Hopper

18U AA: Kirby Frantti

Team Head Coaches:

Learn to Skate: Bryan Hill, Tim Sorenson, Don Poupore, Justin Farley, Kirby Frantti, Tyler Riutta

6U: Jake Spear, Mike Finnilla, Mitch Marlowe

8U: Kyle Storm, Ted Pietila, Rudy Goupille

10U B: Eric Toth

10U AA: Dan L'Esperance

12U B: Ryan Kangas

12U AA: Tim Jaska

14U B: Mike Hubbard

14U AA: Paul Storm

18U AA: Tim Lystila

IRHA Goalie Coach: Brad Petzke

Concession Stand

Each registered IRHA member agreed to adhere to the IRHA Concession Policy during the registration process. IRHA does not offer a concession buyout option—every family is required to contribute. While working concessions may not be everyone's favorite volunteer role, the revenue generated helps keep hockey costs affordable for all families.

Each player/family is responsible for signing up and completing their concession shifts.

Concession Stand Operating Hours:

Opening: The concession stand must open **10 minutes before the start of the first concession-eligible on-ice activity** of the day, unless otherwise noted.

Closing: The concession stand should remain open until the **Zamboni has completed resurfacing the ice following the final concession-eligible on-ice activity**, unless otherwise noted.

Concession Stand Training:

New to IRHA or need a refresher? Attend one of our training sessions.

Training Dates:

- Tuesday October 13, 2026 at 5:30pm
- Friday October 16, 2026 at 7:00pm

Training Topics:

- ★ Opening & Closing procedures
- ★ Operating the Square credit card system
 - Processing concession sales
 - Selling skate sharpening services and punch cards
- ★ Operating concession equipment and food preparation machines
- ★ General concession stand policies and expectations

Important: Working the concession stand is a **mandatory** requirement for program participation.

Families who do not sign up by the deadlines will be assigned shifts. Missed shifts (no-shows) may result in fines and, if unpaid, players being pulled from the ice.

Please review the **IRHA Concession Stand Policy** attached to this packet. All IRHA policies can also be found at www.ironrangehockey.com.

Concession Stand

Required Concession Shifts:

Each player is required to work concession stand shifts in each of the following categories.

- **Practices** – 1-2 weeks per season (depending on team size). Families sign up in week-long blocks (Sunday-Saturday). Each **Team Parent** will organize the signup process and the team concession schedule.
 - ◆ *Saturday & Sunday practices* – **all levels** (including AA teams) are required to staff the concession stand during their scheduled practice times.
 - ◆ *Monday-Friday practices* – **Learn to Skate and 8U** are required to staff the concession stand during their scheduled practice times. Levels 10U and above are not required to staff the concession stand during these practices.
- **Games** – **Team Parents** will develop and organize the schedule for the concession stand during their home games.
- **Special Events** – Each **player** is required to sign up for **one (1) special event shift**.

Special Event options include:

- ◆ Saturday Open Skate (6-8pm)
- ◆ Sunday Open Skate (4-6pm)
- ◆ High School Hockey Games (JV & Varsity) (2 hour shifts)
- ◆ Women's Hockey Tournament (November 6-8, 2 hour shifts)
- ◆ Men's Hockey Tournament (February 5-7, 2 hour shifts)

Special Events concession shift signups will be completed on SignUp Genius and must be completed by **November 6, 2026**. Any player not signed up by the deadline will be assigned an open shift and notified via email. The SignUp Genius link will be emailed to the email address used to register your player and will also be available on IRHA's FaceBook page and website.

Mandatory Fundraisers

Each family participates in the following fundraisers. Each of these fundraisers was paid for during registration. Details of each fundraiser are below:

→ Cash Raffle Tickets

- ◆ **Drawing Date:** December 2, 2026 at IRHA Board Meeting 6:30pm
- ◆ **Tickets Due:** November 13, 2026 (submit in numerical order to your Team Parent)
- ◆ **Cost:** \$5 per ticket | Money collected from ticket sales is **yours to keep**.
- ◆ If you choose not to sell tickets, complete them with your own name/contact information for a chance to win cash prizes.
- ◆ Additional tickets may be requested in batches of **20 tickets** after your initial batch is sold. Contact **Eric Beckman**.
 - Additional tickets must be prepaid.
 - Your original set of tickets must be sold and turned in to **Sarah Bekkala** before purchasing additional tickets.
 - For each additional ticket sold, **\$3 will be refunded** to you after the December drawing. (Prepay \$100 for 20 additional tickets, get \$60 registration refund)
- ◆ There is no limit on tickets (until supplies last though) – you could potentially cover your entire season cost through raffle sales.

→ Gun Raffle Tickets (Not applicable for AA teams)

- ◆ **Drawing Date:** December 2, 2026 at IRHA Board Meeting 6:30pm
- ◆ **Tickets Due:** November 13, 2026 (submit in numerical order to your Team Parent)
- ◆ **Cost:** \$5 per ticket | Money collected from ticket sales is **yours to keep**.
- ◆ If you choose not to sell tickets, complete them with your own name/contact information for a chance to win the prize.
- ◆ Additional tickets may be requested in batches of **5 tickets** after your initial set is sold. Contact **Eric Beckman**.
 - Additional tickets must be prepaid.
 - Your original set of tickets must be sold and turned in to **Sarah Bekkala** before purchasing additional tickets.
 - For each additional batch of 5 tickets, your player's name will be entered into a drawing for a **\$250 cash prize**. (Prepay \$25 for 5 additional tickets, get 1 entry into the drawing for \$250 cash prize)

Schedule and Communication Tools

IRHA is continuing to utilize **Crossbar**. Make sure to download the Crossbar mobile app using the email address used during IRHA registration for families to stay updated throughout the season.

- **Schedules:** All practice and game schedules will be posted on Crossbar. Please check regularly, as schedules are subject to change.
- **Support:** If you have questions or need help navigating the website, contact our Website Custodian, Eric Beckman ebeckman@ironrangehockey.com.
- **Social Media:** Follow IRHA on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok for additional news and updates.
- **Team Communication:** Each coach will determine the best communication method for their team. Please ensure you are connected so you don't miss important team or association information.

Team Tournaments

Individual teams may decide to register for tournaments throughout the season. The head coach will coordinate the team registration and planning of the team's attendance at the tournament. These tournaments are separate from the IRHA season registration and are funded by the team.

Equipment & Uniforms

IRHA provides each player with a uniform and socks; head coaches will distribute jerseys and socks to their team. All other equipment is the responsibility of the player and their family.

Please note: **Neck guards are always required for all players while on the ice.**

Important Dates

Start Dates

October 10, 2026 – First day of 2026-2027 season!

October 26, 2026 – First day of Learn to Skate.

In-Season Dates

November 6, 2026 – Last day to sign up for Special Concession shifts on SignUp Genius

November 13, 2026 – Raffle Tickets (Cash and Gun) must be turned in to your Team Parent. Please make sure all raffle tickets are in numerical order and completely filled out.

December 2, 2026 – Raffle Ticket drawing at monthly IRHA board meeting. 6:30pm

January 16, 2026 – Mite Jamboree at Negaunee Ice Arena

March 6, 2027 – Learn to Skate Jamboree at Negaunee Ice Arena

March 7, 2027 – Last day of 2026-2027 season

March 8– 19, 2027 – 3v3 mini season, more information to come in 2027

Tournament Dates

Level	Regional Play Down	Districts	States
8U B			March 12–14, 2027 Rochester, MI
10U B	January 15–17, 2027 (if needed) TBD	February 12–14, 2027 Houghton, MI	March 5–7, 2027 Allen Park, MI
10U AA	N/A	January 29–31, 2027 Houghton, MI	March 5–7, 2027 Trenton, MI
12U B	January 15–17, 2027	February 5–7, 2027 Iron Mountain, MI	February 26–28, 2027 Cheboygan, MI
12U AA	N/A	January 29–31, 2027 Negaunee, MI	March 12-14, 2027 Livonia, MI
14U B	January 15–17, 2027 (if needed) TBD	February 12–14, 2027 L'Anse, MI	March 5–7, 2027 Tawas, MI
14U AA	N/A	January 29–31, 2027 Marquette, MI	March 3–5, 2027 Kalamazoo, MI