

ARIZONA KACHINAS

2026-2027 Tier I & II Organization Outlook

ORGANIZATION RESTRUCTURE

- Organization has reached nearly 300 members over the 7 seasons, we as an organization wanted to take a step back to make adjustments to account for this growth
- Reallocating resources to appropriately focus on key focus areas:
 - Financial Sustainability
 - Retention
 - Burnout
 - Recruitment
- Organizational Curriculum for Coaching Staffs from 8U-19U

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Reallocating ice expectations and burden of ice costs on Elite
 - REDUCED Fees for Elite families
- Identify and solidify tournament schedules
 - Less East Coast focus, identify stable tournaments
- Girls playing against girls in the state of Arizona
- Financial Relief from established sponsorship opportunities

RETENTION

- Creating positive experiences
 - Development
 - Girls receiving similar experiences across the rinks
 - Development to Elite transition
 - Non-Tier
 - Introduction of travel and more competitive play
 - First step from Development to Elite, understanding what it means to be a travel hockey parent
 - Tier
 - Managing workloads to create highest performance/compete level
- Set clear expectations for all teams and levels, helping determine the best fit for all players & families

RECRUITMENT

- Retention of Non-Tier & Tier Kachinas and prep existing Kachinas for the next level
 - Establish expectations for each team and level to hold organization and its participants to
- Identify female hockey players in local youth organizations, providing opportunities for girls to play against other girls in the state
- Continue developing and marketing Arizona girls pipeline
 - Little Leightons -> Small Frys -> Kachinas Development
- Streamline information for growth of Tier Program
 - Coach/Player interactions with College Coaches
 - Introduction of Billet Program (with org support)
 - Updates of impacts from USA Hockey rules and regulations
 - Clean communication of what is and isn't allowed

ORGANIZATIONAL ADDITIONS

- Matt Shott Memorial Tournament Host
- Reintroducing Consistent Scheduling at Tier Program
- Kachinas Girls Hockey League
- Tuesday Skills Sessions
- Billet Program

MATT SHOTT MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

- We have moved on from RUSH Hockey, Savage will be the Tournament Director
- Identify Tournament Committee to help with event team sourcing, event promotion & execution
- College Exposure Camp - December 10th
 - Includes NCAA DI/DIII & ACHA DI Coaches hosting on-ice and off-ice sessions
- Tournament Dates - December 11th-13th
 - Age Groups - 10U-19U
 - Levels - A/AA/AAA



KACHINAS GIRLS HOCKEY LEAGUE

- Playing girls hockey in Arizona against girls from Arizona in Arizona
 - Will include controlled, competitive games in our own building
 - Brings girls together to compete and push each other, as Kachinas
- Tier Program:
 - 3 weekends to incorporate girls at the Tier level competing against each other internally
- Non-Tier Program:
 - 2 weekends to incorporate girls at the Tier level competing against each other internally
- Development Program:
 - 3 Kachinas Mites Jamborees
 - 8-Regular Season Squirts/Peeweeps Games
 - October-February (pending rink schedules)
 - KGHL Playoffs
 - Held over 2 week span
 - Target championship games the week of RMD District Tournament (normally first week of March)

TUESDAY SKILLS SESSIONS

- Tuesday Skills will be open to 2 different age groups
 - 8U-12U - 5:20 - 6:20 PM
 - 14U-19U - 6:30 - 7:30 PM
- Tuesday Skills will be ran under the USA Hockey ADM model, focusing on individual skills in small areas and groups
 - Will be ran by a Tier Program Head Coach or Hockey Operations Staff Member
 - Groups will be pre-determined prior to the start of the skill session and will have themes for participation
 - Themes include Power Skating, Stickhandling, Shooting, Offense vs Defense, Body Contact, etc.
- Skills Cost:
 - All Players paying association fee receive a 10-session punch card
 - Additional purchase available if punch card is completed
- Total Sessions: 27 throughout the season

BILLET PROGRAM

Tier Program offers billet opportunities for out-of-state players. A billet program is standard for Tier I associations, providing players a "home away from home" with local families during the season.

Host families provide room and board in exchange for a monthly stipend for food costs. Billet opportunities are coordinated through AAHA and the Kachinas organization.

- **Background Checks:** The Arizona Kachinas require screening (via a release form) on all adults in a billet home, comparing information with a government database to ensure player safety. This information remains confidential. Completion of the screening release form finalizes the background check.
- **Family Information:** Players and billet families submit information forms to the Hockey Director for compatibility matching, ensuring limited adjustment for both parties.
- **Home Visits:** The Hockey Director and Head Coach may conduct random visits during the season to strengthen the bond and address any questions or concerns.

Interested in hosting, please contact the Elite Hockey Director.

ORGANIZATION PROGRAM RESTRUCTURE

OVERVIEW	DEVELOPMENT	NON-TIER	TIER
ORGANIZATION FOCUS	First steps into program, located at nearest rink to the participant	First introduction to travel hockey and CCIC facility	Consistent focus on developing hockey players for the next level
PRACTICE	Practices focused on skill, fundamental development	Practices focused on skill, fundamental development and introduction to game systems	Practices have skills built into game systems for high tempo, decision making skill
COMPETITION	Teams play against boys in the rinks house league	Teams play against local boys travel programs and participate in girls tournament/league play	Teams play at highest level of competition in region/nation

Specific expectations being built out for each group, to align families expectations before they sign up

TIER PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS

- Reduced Fees
 - Accounts for ice commitments, more home games, less east coast travel
- Consistent Practice Schedule (subject to travel)
 - 3 Schedule Templates
 - Regular Practice Week (Half Ice - 1, Full Ice - 2)
 - Travel Week (Full Ice - 2)
 - High Performance Practice Week (Half Ice - 1, Full Ice - 3-4)
- Practice Allotment Adjustment
 - 4 mandatory practices -> 3 mandatory practices w/ weekly additional skills opportunity
 - 4.5 hours -> 3.75 hours (+optional 1 hour skills)
- Kachinas Girls Hockey League
 - 3 weekends to incorporate girls at the Tier level competing against each other internally
 - Will include controlled, competitive games in our own building

TIER PROGRAM TRAVEL SCHEDULES

- 19U Tier I is the premier team. Most games, most travel, highest cost.
 - 19U/16U Tier I Vertical Integration
 - 16U Players have the opportunity to tryout for the 19U Team, 2 options will be approached:
 - Full Season Play-Up
 - USA Hockey Vertical Integration Opportunities for up to 8 games
 - Includes 2 pre-determined tournaments for players to participate with the 19U team
 - Vertically integrated players are responsible for tournament and team weekend fee associated with the tournament
- 19U Tier II is limited practice, more games focus team
- Guaranteed games focus rather than skeptical tournament opportunities
- More home games
 - NGHL vs PGHL & WGHL schedules
 - Matt Shott Memorial Tournament - RAN BY THE KACHINAS

TIER I HEAD COACHES

19U Tier I

CJ Bradburn



16U Tier I

Kyle Pavlack



14U Tier I

Patrick Murphy



19U TIER I

Tournament Overview

Dates	Tournament Name	Location
Sep 4-7	NAHA Labor Day	Boston, MA
Oct 15-18	Girls NIT	Minnesota
Dec 11-13	Matt Shott Tournament	Home
Dec TBD	ECW Holiday Invitational*	Boston, MA
Jan 16-19	NGHL Mountain Mayhem	Denver, CO
Feb 13-16	JWHL Challenge Cup*	Arlington, VA
TBD	Districts	TBD

19U Tier I Overview

- Anticipated Cost - \$10k
- Total Travel Trips - 9-10 trips
- Anticipated Game Count - 47-56 games
 - League Play - 14-18
 - Tournaments - 24-28
 - Host Weekend - 2-4
 - Scrimmages - 5
 - Districts - 2-3

 - KGHL - 9 scrimmages
- Anticipate 2-3 High Performance Weekends (Aug, Nov, Feb)

Does not include League Play. WGHL Tier I or PGHL Tier I. Includes: 1 host weekend & 2-3 travel weekends

* Identify Vertically Integrated tournaments

16U TIER I

Tournament Overview

Dates	Tournament Name	Location
Sep 4-7	NAHA Labor Day	Boston, MA
Oct 15-18	Girls NIT	Minnesota
Dec 11-13	Matt Shott Tournament	Home
Jan 15-18	NGHL Mountain Mayhem	Denver, CO
Feb 5-7	Motor City Girls Fest	Detroit, MI
TBD	Districts	TBD

16U Tier I Overview

- Anticipated Cost - \$9.3k
- Total Travel Trips - 8 trips
- Anticipated Game Count - 43-55 games
 - League Play - 14-18
 - Tournaments - 20-25
 - Host Weekend - 2-4
 - Scrimmages - 5
 - Districts - 2-3
 - KGHL - 9 scrimmages
- Anticipate 2-3 High Performance Weekends (Aug, Nov, Feb)

Does not include League Play. WGHL Tier I or PGHL Tier I. Includes: 1 host weekend & 2-3 travel weekends

* Identify Vertically Integrated tournaments

14U TIER I

Tournament Overview

Dates	Tournament Name	Location
Aug 14-16	St. Louis Ice Breaker	St. Louis, MO
Oct 15-18	Girls NIT	Minnesota
Dec 11-13	Matt Shott Tournament	Home
Jan 15-18	NGHL Mountain Mayhem	Denver, CO
Feb 5-7	Motor City Girls Fest	Detroit, MI
TBD	Districts	TBD

14U Tier I Overview

- Anticipated Cost - \$9.3k
- Total Travel Trips - 8 trips
- Anticipated Game Count - 41-56 games
 - League Play - 14-18
 - Tournaments - 20-24
 - Host Weekend - 2-4
 - Scrimmages - 5
 - Districts - 2-3
 - KGHL - 9 scrimmages
- Anticipate 2-3 High Performance Weekends (Aug, Nov, Feb)

Does not include League Play. WGHL Tier I or PGHL Tier I. Includes: 1 host weekend & 2-3 travel weekends

TIER II HEAD COACHES

19U Tier II

John Kieber



16U Tier II

Zack Savage & Aubrey Beskid



14U Tier II

Adam Estle



19U TIER II

Tournament Overview

Dates	Tournament Name	Location
Sep TBD	WGHL TBD	TBD
Nov TBD	WGHL TBD	TBD
Dec TBD	WGHL TBD	TBD
Dec 11-13	Matt Shott Tournament	Home
Jan 29-31	WGHL Championships	Denver, CO
TBD	Districts	TBD

19U Tier II Overview

- Anticipated Cost - \$7K
- Total Travel Trips - 4 trips
- Anticipated Game Count - 34-39 games
 - League Play - 20-21
 - Tournaments - 4-5
 - Host Weekend - 2-4
 - Scrimmages - 5
 - Districts - 3-4
 - KGHL - 9 scrimmages
- Anticipate 2-3 High Performance Weekends (Aug, Oct, Feb)

Schedule intended to have no conflicts around AHSWA schedules. Increased 19U participation.

16U TIER II

Tournament Overview

Dates	Tournament Name	Location
Sep TBD	WGHL TBD	TBD
Oct 9-12	Columbus Day TBD	TBD
Nov TBD	WGHL TBD	TBD
Dec TBD	WGHL TBD	TBD
Dec 11-13	Matt Shott Tournament	Home
Jan 15-18	MLK TBD	TBD
Jan 29-31	WGHL Championships	Denver, CO
TBD	Districts	TBD

16U Tier II Overview

- Anticipated Cost - \$8K
- Total Travel Trips - 6 trips
- Anticipated Game Count - 43-52 games
 - League Play - 20-21
 - Tournaments - 12-15
 - Host Weekend - 2-4
 - Scrimmages - 5
 - Districts - 3-4
 - KGHL - 9 scrimmages
- Anticipate 2-3 High Performance Weekends (Aug, Oct, Feb)

14U TIER II

Tournament Overview

Dates	Tournament Name	Location
Sep TBD	WGHL TBD	TBD
Oct 9-12	Columbus Day TBD	TBD
Nov TBD	WGHL TBD	TBD
Dec TBD	WGHL TBD	TBD
Dec 11-13	Matt Shott Tournament	Home
Jan 15-18	MLK TBD	TBD
Jan 29-31	WGHL Championships	Denver, CO
TBD	Districts	TBD

14U Tier II Overview

- Anticipated Cost - \$8K
- Total Travel Trips - 6 trips
- Anticipated Game Count - 43-52 games
 - League Play - 20-21
 - Tournaments - 12-15
 - Host Weekend - 2-4
 - Scrimmages - 5
 - Districts - 3-4
 - KGHL - 9 scrimmages
- Anticipate 2-3 High Performance Weekends (Aug, Oct, Feb)

OFF-SEASON TIMELINE

DATES	DETAILS
Mid-March	Kachinas Tier I Coaches Announced
Early April	Kachinas Tier II Coaches Announced
Early April	Official Tryout Announcement
April 9th-29th	Kachinas Tier Program Spring Camp
April 18th	Kachinas Development 3v3
April 17th-19th	AAHA Player Dev Camp
April 26th	Kachinas End of Season Party & Skatin' for Leighton
Early May	Kachinas Tier Program Tryouts
Early May	Kachinas Non-Tier Program Tryouts
Mid-May	Kachinas Development Coaches Announced
June 1st-8th	Kachinas Development Eval Camp
June 6th	Kachinas 3v3 - ALL Girls 10+
June 10th-13th	Kachinas Development Evals
August 1st-2nd	Kachinas 3v3 - Tier & Non-Tier
August 8th	Tier Program Season Starts
August 22nd	Non-Tier & Development Season Starts