



April 2026 Newsletter

Mite, Squirt, Peewee, Bantam

- The end of year banquet is next Friday, 4/10. After the Elks Club took a large amount of damage in the storm a few weeks ago, we were lucky enough to be able to move to Kankakee Country Club. We are using decorations from last year with some added pops of color that Emily Herbst is providing. Mite mom Leanne Gregoire has been working on getting desserts.
- Mom's night out was Friday Marh 3rd!
- Practices kicked off the week of March 31st, for all 4 levels. Practice on Tuesday, May 5th, had to be moved to Wednesday, May 6th, for all four levels. Times are still the same.
- Most jerseys were handed out during practices. If any jerseys do not arrive in time for games, we will find temporary jerseys for the players to wear.
- Squirt game scheduling took place on March 22nd. Squirts have 4 away games and 4 home games. Their first game is on April 12th at Riverdogs, and their first home game is on April 19th. Unfortunately, due to some ice conflicts, two home games will need to be rescheduled. The squirt manager will update their team once the new games are set. Squirts also had a new player join this week. They have 15 skaters (2 are part-time goalies) and 3 players who are practice only.
- Peewee and Bantam game scheduling took place via email. Both teams have 3 home and 3 away games. Peewe's first game is on April 11th in Darien, and their first home game is on April 12th. The peewe's have 7 skaters, 1 full-time goalie, and one practice-only player. Bantams first game is a home game on April 19th. Bantams have 13 skaters and one full-time goalie. Unfortunately, due to some ice conflicts, each team will have to reschedule a home game. Both managers will update teams once the new games are set. NIHL also informed us that there is a possibility that there will be no playoffs for their teams. They said leagues will be voting on it, and they will keep us updated. If there ends up being no playoffs, the Coyotes are going to look into what can be done to compensate the teams.
- Coach evaluations and feedback were sent out, and responses have begun coming in. We encourage families to keep filling these out for all the coaches their player(s) had in the fall.

Midget

- Midgets finished registration with 26 skaters and 2 goalies for the spring season. We will be able to field two teams.
- Both teams will continue to practice together on Thursdays from 6:45-8pm until the end of spring season
- Mark Calahan will head coach for both teams. Assistant coaches will be Elliot Kraft, Matt Zagorski and Max Williams. Thank you to everyone else that expressed interest in helping with the Midget teams. If there are any game conflicts and extra bench help is needed Coach will reach out.
- Unfortunately, our initial plan of participating in the Midget division of NIHL's spring season did not work out. NIHL did not have enough commitment at the midget level. With this development, we have made the decision to transition to a tournament only option for our teams. We have 4 local Chicago tournaments we are looking into. We will decide on 2 tournaments for each team once evaluations are done and we know the team make-up and availability of players and coaches.
- Spring is a busy time, as we get into spring sports, proms, graduations and any other school or family activities, so we will try to accommodate everyone's availability when deciding which tournaments. The decision will be based on majority availability. Possible weekends are April 24-26, May 1-3, May 15-17, and May 29-31. Please contact Lisa, irish.chair@kankakeehockey.com, if your player is unavailable any of these weekends.



Irish Season Wrap-up



- Illinois West All Star game was March 8th at Rosemont Ice Arena, with Tony Johnston, Dexter Nordmeyer and Brodie Most representing the Blue team. They ended with a win over the White team. It was a fun game and the commentators had a lot of good things to say about our Irish players how our season was this year.
- Irish traveled to Kalamazoo, Michigan March 13-15 for the Green Ice Classic tournament. While game play didn't quite go our way, we had some competitive games. Irish ended 5th. Overall, it was a fun weekend and some great end of season team bonding.
- Irish banquet was held at the Kankakee Boat Club on Friday March 27th. Thank you to those parents that helped with decorating beforehand and especially cleaning up after we were done. We had a great turnout and had a fun night.
- Congrats to our 13 Irish players that earned Academic Awards from Illinois West this season.
- Also, Congrats to Dexter Nordmeyer who also received an additional award from Illinois West for being the top JV scoring Champion, finishing the Illinois West season with 40 goals and 30 assists for a total of 70 points in the regular season.
- In addition to Dexter being the top scorer, Brodie Most was 2nd in the league with 29 goals, 30 assists for a total of 59 points, and Jace Adams earned himself 27 goals, 29 assists for a total of 56 points for regular season.
- The club is purchasing a bulk amount of the green CCM shells to have on hand for any incoming Irish players. These will be added to the uniform package at registration and will be required for new Irish players to purchase. **If any returning players need to purchase a new shell, please let Lisa know** so we can make sure we have enough ordered for new players to start the season with due to the longer lead times on this special order piece.

Spring Spirit Shop

A small spirit shop is up with Elite Designs featuring the logo on our spring jerseys. The shop will be open for 2 weeks and orders will should be ready for pick-up the following week, [Elite Designs](#)

Little Blackhawks Helpers Needed

Ice Valley is looking for a few volunteers (High School and older) to help with the Little Blackhawks program. Ice time is 6-7PM on Fridays 4/10-5/22.. Volunteers will receive passes for Drop-in Hockey. Email Zach at zmullady@kvpd.com.



Announcements

- **Coach evaluations/feedback surveys** were emailed. PLEASE fill these out if you have not already. This is a quick survey and the information you provide is valuable.
- **Coyote Banquet has a new location.** We will now be at the Kankakee Country Club. 4/10 6:00pm
- The next **Board Meeting** will be 5/6 6:30pm at Ice Valley

Fundraising Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to chair the fundraising committee. The roll of Family Fundraising Chair, Ad Book Chair, and Club Fundraising Chair are open. If you are willing to serve in any of these capacities, please indicate it on the interest survey or reach out to Corinne at Volunteer@kankakeehockey.com.

[Interest Survey](#)

END OF SEASON BANQUET

COYOTES
VS
COYOTES

New Location: Kankakee Country Club

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026 DOORS OPEN 6:00 PM

PAY VIA VENMO
@KARI-JAMICICH

OR CASH AT DOOR

ADULTS \$20/ EACH
KIDS (10 & UNDER) \$10/ EACH
PLAYERS/COACH/MANAGER
FREE

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
THE SEASON!

RSVP TO KARI JAMICICH
708.691.7649
BY MARCH 30

04 | 10 | 26
GATE | ROW | SEAT