



May 2026 Newsletter

Mite, Squirt, Peewee, Bantam

- Squirts playoffs were this past weekend. They went 1-1.
- NIHL confirmed that there will be no playoffs/championships. With the lack of playoffs, peewees and bantams will be participating in UHT Chicago Dog classic tournament instead. The tournament dates are May 29th-31st, and schedules will be released by the 22nd.

Midget

- 16u participated in the Windy City Spring Fling tournament April 24-26. They went 2-2 for the weekend, losing in the semi-finals to finish 3rd place for the weekend.
- 18u recently played in the Chicago Deep Dish Cup May 1-3. The team went 2-2 as well for the weekend but unfortunately were defeated in the final minutes of the Championship game to end in 2nd place.
- 16u participated in the Dragon's Lair tournament this past weekend. They went 0-4.
- 18u is signed up for the Chicago Dog Tournament May 29-31. Possible game locations will be Blackhawks Ice Center, Rosemont Ice Arena, Canlan West Dundee and Addison Ice Arena.

The next **Board Meeting** help on 6/8 will be executive session only.

Please reach out to any board member directly with questions and concerns, so that we may address them.

Irish

- The club has purchased a bulk amount of the green CCM shells. These will be added to the uniform package at registration and will be required for new Irish players. 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. These have longer lead times. Current order should be delivered at the beginning to middle of June.
- Tony Johnston has been awarded the Brendan Olszewski Memorial Scholarship for the 2025-2026 season. Thank you Tony for your application for this scholarship and we wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Tier II Update

There was recently a rumor that the tier II AHAI committee had already decided to deny all tier III clubs seeking tier II designation this year. We have been in contact with AHAI and have been told this is incorrect. What was communicated is that Central States would not allow any NWHL teams in without tier II designation. This does not mean that we are denied Tier II designation. It means we are not eligible for Central States unless we are approved for Tier II.

Our application for tier II designation is still under review and consideration. They have requested information about Kankakee's "learn programs", which has now been provided. We are hopeful that they will make a decision soon and we will communicate as soon as we know more.



Highschool Partnership Committee Update

- The goal of this committee is to partner with the high schools in our combined application to recognize their students who play for the Kankakee Irish players. This can include but is not limited to:
 - Include Irish players in a fall preview night or something similar if applicable
 - Include Irish players in the yearbook
 - Provide an athletic letter for the Irish player
 - Distribute the Irish Schedule with their other sports/club activity schedules
- Bishop McNamara has recently agreed to include the Irish players who attend their school in the yearbook.
- The committee still needs jpeg files of the school logo from Clifton Central and Reed Custer for patches. We need these jpg files to order patches for our Irish player jerseys. If anyone has a school administrator contact at one of these schools and can assist us in obtaining the files, please let us know.
- In the next few years, we have players moving up from Grant Park and Mومence. Those schools will be added to the list next year. If you are interested in being a committee liaison to one of these schools, please reach out to volunteer@kankakeehockey.com.

2026-2027 Coaching Applications

If you are interested in coaching for the 2026-2027 fall season, Please fill out an application by clicking the link below. These are live on our website as well.

Irish: <https://www.kankakeehockey.com/registration/67610>

Coyotes: <https://www.kankakeehockey.com/registration/67612>

Marketing and Promotions Committee Update

- Marketing plans on having an "Open House" event to connect with prospective families on May 19th from 7-9PM.
- The Summer Market update: Manteno is not accepting non-seller, informational booth entries. Mومence and Kankakee are still possibilities.
- Spring spirit wear orders are in.
- The committee is hopeful to have new options added and a spirit wear store open for fall registration.

Fundraising Committee Update

- We are in need of volunteers to chair the Ad Book and Family Fundraising Committees. We currently have one volunteer committed to organizing two family fundraisers for the upcoming season. If these roles are not filled, this will be the extent of the fundraising opportunities offered for the 2026-2027 year.
- Family Fundraising: There are two fundraisers planned for the 2026-2027 fall season: Laundry Soap and Hockey Fantasy
- Club Fundraising: Leanne Gregoire has volunteered to take on the role as Club Fundraising Chair. Thank you Leanne!