



Newsletter #3 – It's Go Time

 September 17, 2025

A Note from the President

Well folks, it is **GO** time! I can hardly believe we are just a week away from our players hitting the ice. The past few months have flown by, and like many of you, I am more than ready for the start of our **2025–26 SASA Season!**

This is already our third newsletter, and each month I am proud of the updates and improvements we've been able to share with our incredible membership. This month is no different.

First, some important board news: **Danielle Luneau has stepped down from her board seat** to focus on her family. We are so grateful for her years of commitment to SASA. At the same time, I am excited to announce that **Adam Routhier has been unanimously appointed to the board**. Adam brings years of coaching experience and a deep passion for SASA—especially for our kids. Please join me in welcoming Adam!

Now for the big announcement: **SASA has been selected to host this year's Vermont State Tournament!** This is an incredible opportunity to showcase not only the strength of our program but also our town, our businesses, and our people. We want this to be an amazing experience for our guests and to solidify our program as one of the very best.

As we prepare for the season, thank you for your continued commitment to our program and, most importantly, to our kids. What we do here is so much more than teach hockey. We are building resilience, compassion, work ethic, and pride. We are helping our kids learn how to celebrate wins and handle losses with grace.

Let's remember to be kind to one another—both on and off the ice—because we never know what someone else might be going through.

Warmly,

Kevin Smith


President, St. Albans Skating Association

SASA September Updates

Board Updates

- Thank you, **Danielle Luneau**, for your years of service.
 - Welcome, **Adam Routhier**, to the Board of Directors!
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State Tournament Update

- **SASA will host the 2026 Vermont State Championship Tournament**
 -  **February 27 – March 1, 2026**
 - Partnering with **Holiday Inn Express** (across from the Complex) – block rates for families coming soon.
 - Locals: if you have an **Airbnb or rental available**, please reach out!
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Mental Health Awareness – 1616 Program

- **What is 1616?** A premier, virtual program designed to support positive youth development on and off the ice.
 - **Mission:** Put mental fitness at the center of youth hockey by building confidence, resilience, and strong mindsets—for sports and for life.
 - **Who participates?** All SASA players ages **10+** and all coaches. More details to come.
 - Learn more at 1616.org and check out the flyer at the end of this newsletter.
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Fundraising – Calcutta 2025

-  **October 23** |  Maquam Barn & Winery 5:30-9pm
-  **\$2,500 Grand Prize**
-  Meal catered by **Mill River BBQ**
-  Tickets available now on our website, Facebook page, or by QR code.
- **Silent auction donations & sponsorships still needed—please reach out if you can help!**



Snack Bar Improvements

- New **popcorn machine & air fryer** approved!
 - Will be using food vendor to streamline products and orders
 - New rolling door being installed for security and aesthetics
 - Snack Bar offerings will be expanding this season!
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Skate Shop

- **Renovations are nearly complete!** Huge thanks to **Mike Irwin** for generously donating his time to revamp our space.
 - We're excited to open with a **larger, more accommodating shop** that's **fully stocked** with player essentials for the season.
 - Interested in helping? Please reach out to **Joe Montagne** at joe@stalbanshockey.org if you'd like to **learn how to run the skate sharpener** or **work a shift** in the shop—training available.
 - **Hours will be posted soon** on the website and in the Complex lobby.
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New Technology

- **Electronic Score Sheets** – all scores now tracked digitally via Gamesheet.
 - **iPads** purchased to support scorekeepers.
 - **New Scoreboard & Controller** – coming soon to the North end of the Complex, thanks to a generous community partner!
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SASA Sponsored & Hosted Tournaments




- Glen Heald Memorial (Leafs) | Nov 15–16
 - Bob Ashton (18U) | Nov 21–23
 - Connor Roberts (10U, 12U, 14U) | Nov 28–30
 - Rail City Challenge (Girls 10U, 12U, 14U) | Dec 5–7
 - Andrew Irving Mite Jamboree (8U) | Jan 2–4
 - Maple City Face Off (Tier IV) | Jan 23–25
- 👉 Full details on the **Tournament Tab** of our website



Girls' Hockey Updates

- **Try Skating & Hockey for FREE** | Sun, Oct 12 | 11 AM–12 PM (flyer at end of newsletter).
- **COMET Film Premiere** – “2002: A Vermont Hockey Odyssey” | Nov 18 | Welden Theatre.
Tickets: bfahockey.com.
- Huge thank-you to players & coaches for a fantastic **Dust & Ice Summer Camp**!
- 14U girls fought hard against the Central VT Black Bears on September 14th @ the Kreitzberg Arena and are preparing for their State Tournament which will be held in November this year.

Jerseys, Gear & Headshots

- **New Jerseys, Shells & Socks are IN—and they look AWESOME!**
- **Gear Pickup Event:**  Sept 28 |  9 AM–12 PM |  Complex
- **Photography by SB Sports** for player headshots (Crossbar + SASA media).
- Players: bring **gloves, sticks, shoulder pads, and pants**.
- Arrive 10 minutes early for your time slot.

Schedule

- 9:00 – Youth 10U T2
- 9:30 – Youth 10U T3
- 10:00 – Youth 10U T4
- 10:30 – Girls 10U
- 11:00 – Youth 12U T2
- 11:30 – Youth 12U T3
- 12:00 – Youth 12U T4
- 12:30 – Girls 12U

- 1:00 – Youth 14U T3
- 1:30 – Youth 18U T4

 Questions? Contact **Adam Routhier** at adamr@stalbanshockey.org

Communication Updates

- Starting **Oct 1**, all SASA communication moves to **designated emails** (see website).
 - Social media inquiries → **info@stalbanshockey.org**.
 - Facebook & Instagram will **no longer accept private messages**.
 - Share your **photos, highlights, & good news stories!** Submissions: info@stalbanshockey.org.
 - Be on the lookout for a monthly SASA Spotlight featuring players, teams, coaches and other ways our SASA community is proudly representing the program!
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Bylaw Committee Update

The **Bylaw Committee** has been hard at work and recently submitted proposed changes to our attorney for review and feedback. The goal is to hold a **special meeting** to discuss the attorney's input and move toward formal adoption.

A huge thank-you goes out to the committee members and membership volunteers for their time, energy, and dedication. It feels great to be on a clear path toward adopting a **solid, modern set of bylaws** that will help govern SASA for years to come.

Our aim is to **implement the new bylaws ahead of the nominating process** and before the **end of the 2025 calendar year**.

How Can Membership Help?

- Support the **Calcutta** – buy tickets & help secure auction items/sponsors.
 - Leverage business connections for sponsors & donations.
 - Volunteer in the **Snack Bar, Skate Shop, and Tournaments** (schedule posted soon).
 - Share photos & stories to brighten SASA social media.
 - Spread the word about our amazing community & program.
 - Reach out to any **Board Member** with questions or concerns—or attend a meeting!
 - We are in this together. With the unwavering support of our membership and the positive culture we've built, there is **nothing we cannot accomplish—TOGETHER**.
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☀️ SASA Spotlight – St. Albans Rec Street Hockey League in Partnership with NHL Street

This summer, over **30 kids signed up** to play in the **St. Albans Rec Street Hockey League**, run in partnership with **NHL Street**.

- Players traded skates for sneakers and hit the pavement for **fast-paced games, skill development, and plenty of fun.**
- The program kept kids active and engaged all summer while building friendships and community spirit.
- Huge thanks to the **St. Albans Recreation Center, NHL Street, volunteer coaches, and families** who made this program such a success.
- With such an incredible turnout, this partnership is proof that hockey truly can be played **anywhere, anytime**—and we can't wait to see it grow next year!



WHAT IS 1616?

1616 is a premier, virtually delivered program designed to inspire and support positive youth development both on and off the ice. With real stories from pro players, 1616 is all about building Connection, Confidence, and Character. Backed by research and real-world results, 1616 gives kids, Hockey Parents, and Coaches the tools they need to grow, face challenges head-on, and come out stronger together.



BUILDING A BUFFALO MINDSET

Through this program, kids will learn how to take on the attitude and mindset of the buffalo, to face life's inevitable storms, with courage and resilience.

JOIN OUR HERD!

Learn more & sign up at
1616.ORG



Sixteen Sixteen.

PROGRAM DETAILS

WHEN: October - March 2026

DURATION: Self-paced

DESIGNED FOR: U13 Players (ages 10-12), along with their Hockey Parents and Coaches.

CONTENT: Delivered virtually, 1616 requires just 20 minutes per week.

COST: Free

1616 is delivered weekly through a blend of:

1

Quality video content featuring "lived experience" stories from the best hockey players in the world that illustrate the 1616 principle of the week.

2

Guided in-person discussion prompts for Coaches and Hockey Parents.

3

On-ice drills created specifically to enhance the skills and physical performance of athletes while reinforcing the 1616 principle of the week.

4

Team and individual challenges to help participants 'Live It Out' each week.

5

Rewards and incentives to keep participants motivated and committed.



GIRLS TRY SKATING AND HOCKEY FOR FREE!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

**11:00 am On Ice Skate
12:00 pm - Pizza**

**Collins Perley Sports Center
St. Albans, VT**

<https://www.stalbanshockey.org>



-SKATES, HELMETS, & EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO
USE

-NO SKATING OR HOCKEY EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

CURRENT SASA PLAYERS MAY ATTEND THIS
EVENT ONLY IF THEY BRING A FRIEND TO
TRY SKATING AND HOCKEY!

St. Albans Skating Association is hosting a celebration of girls hockey by offering a free event for all girls to try skating and hockey! Take the opportunity to skate with your friends and the Comets High School players, try shooting hockey pucks, play games on the ice, have some pizza, and most importantly have fun!



THE ST. ALBANS SKATING ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENTS: TO PROVIDE A FUN, SAFE, COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT THAT ALLOWS NOT ONLY EACH CHILD TO GROW AND DEVELOP INTO THE BEST HOCKEY PLAYER THEY CAN BE, BUT THE BEST PERSON THEY CAN BE. THIS IS TO BE DONE BY LEARNING TEAMWORK, CAMARADERIE, SPORTSMANSHIP, DEDICATION, AND HAVING RESPECT FOR THE GAME, COACHES, OFFICIALS, AND PARENTS WHO HELP SERVE OUR HOCKEY COMMUNITY.