WATERTOWN LAKER HOCKEY

2026 – 2027

New Family Guide

Welcome to the WHA! Your essential resource for registrations, volunteer hours, equipment rentals, and team schedules.

Topics & Agenda

Registration & Programs

Learn about the WHA Programs offered and registration information.

Volunteer (DIBS) & Raffle Tickets

WHA is run entirely by parent volunteers. Learn about Dibs hour requirements and volunteer opportunities

Equipment

Rental options for lower divisions, equipment checklist, and jersey and game sock distributions.

Season Schedule

High level information on timing, practice, and game schedules.

Coaching & Officials/Referee Opportunities

High level information on coaching and referee opportunities

Questions & Answers

WHA Programs & Registration

For more information on beginner hockey programs click links below:

Wee Wobblers (ages 4 -6)

Learn to Play (ages 4-10)

Try Hockey for Free (4-10)

Age Division Level	Season Fee
Boys & Girls Varsity / JV	$660
14U (Bantam) & 14U Girls	$535
12U (Peewee)	$475
10U (Squirt)	$365
8U Travel (Mite)	$150

Additional Season Fees: Player development Fee ($200), Family Season Entry Pass ($30 to $60) plus mandatory raffle. WHA strives to keep youth sports affordable.

1. USA HOCKEY ACCOUNT

Every player must first complete membership at USA Hockey. You must submit your active confirmation number during WHA registration.

2. CROSSBAR SIGN UP

Our organization hosts scheduling and portals on Crossbar. Setting up a parent profile is needed before program registration.

3. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT FEE

This fee will support bringing in additional coaching resources, development tools, and ice time to support the development of our players. This fee will be paid along with the season registration rather than paying separately for each event.

Crossbar Account Setup

Travel League Registration

Laker Foundation Scholarship Fund

VOLUNTEER & RAFFLES REQUIREMENTS

VOLUNTEER DIBS PROGRAM

WHA is a volunteer run program that relies on each family to be able to operate. The Laker community thrives due to our incredible parent volunteers!

2026 - 2027 DIBS Requirements:

- 8U Mite travel - 20 hours total per player/5 hours allowed for shadowing
  - 3 hours must be at home tournament, up to 8 hours may be completed at tournaments toward the total of 20 hours.
- League Level (10U/Squirt and older) - 36 total hours per player
  - 6 hours must be tournament related DIBS, up to 16 hours may be completed at tournaments toward the total of 36 hours.
- Family Maximum - 70 hours

All hours will be earned starting June 1st to May 31st. Every hour has a dollar value of $40. If families hours have not been earned as of May 31st an invoice from WHA will be sent.

Opt-Out: Families may elect to opt out of volunteer requirements for $1,500 per season. If you elect to opt-out you must communicate this by December 1st of the current season.

[WHA Volunteer Policy]

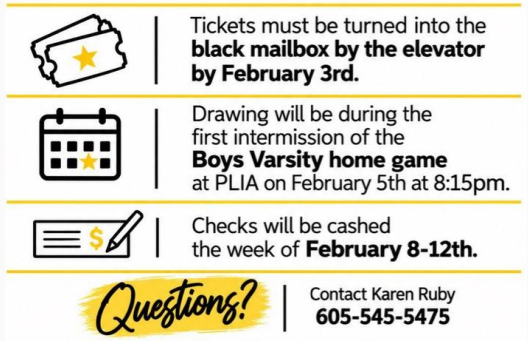
RAFFLE TICKETS

Fundraising is a necessary requirement for participation in WHA, except for Non-Travel players. Our league registration fee only covers a portion of the cost to operate WHA and so we have provided families with the opportunity to fundraise the remaining costs.

Raffle Selling Requirements:

Travel Mites (8U): **$300 value (15 tickets)**
Single League Player: **$600 value (30 tickets)**
Multiple League Players: **$900 value (45 tickets)**

**Parents receive the ticket packs. You recoup the full cash out by selling individual tickets to friends, family, and coworkers.*



VOLUNTEER Positions & Training

Volunteer Positions

Opportunities range from helping at events, joining committees to cleaning the rink. During games, we rely on families to run positions such as:

- **Box Positions:** Announcer, scorekeeper, and clock
- **Other Support:** Admissions, security, and facility support.

*Dibs are released in early November. May sign-up for any of the levels and opportunities released .

DIBS Training

Training sessions will be announced and available during the season

Shadow during other games to learn the positions

Don't be afraid to try the positions! Lower levels (Mites/Squirts) is a great time to jump and learn!

Training Videos, Resources & FAQ

How to sign up for DIBS

PLAYER GEAR & RENTALS

RENTING VS. BUYING

WHA provides convenient gear rentals for younger levels. Opt-in during registration, and staff will coordinate distribution times in early October.

SKATES	FULL PADS	GOALIE PACK
$30 / Yr	$70 / Yr	$150 / Yr

Skate Sharpening:
WHA will have skate sharpening available weekly. Designated days for your level will be announced at practice.

Game Socks & Jerseys:
Game Socks can be purchased during registration & Jerseys will be handed out Tuesday, October 20th
For USA Hockey How to Dress a player click here

Need to buy? Visit local favorites like Roy's Sport Shop in Watertown, Pure Hockey in Sioux Falls

Equipment Guide Resource Page



WHA SEASON & TRAVEL

PRACTICE & TRAVEL

- **Practices:** PeeWee and below practice 3x per week; Bantams and Varsity levels scale to 4x per week. Games typically Friday through Sunday
- **Calendar:** Practices start early October. League competitive games span mid-November through state tournaments in February and March.
- **Travel:** League level teams (10U - 18U) play in Watertown, Aberdeen, Brookings, Brandon Valley, Huron, Sioux Falls, Sioux Center, IA, Yankton, Mitchell, Pierre, Spearfish, and Rapid City.

  Tournaments are typically played in neighboring states, with occasional travel to Wisconsin or Kansas for the Varsity levels.

Mites (8U) Travel

Travel typically limited to 2-3 hour radius with at least one tournament played right at home.

Prairie Lakes Ice Arena helpful links:
Home page
Schedule



Home ice practices and games host at Prairie Lakes Arena.

Coaching Opportunities

Parents: Want to become a coach?

- If you, a friend, or family member have hockey experience and are interested in helping coach - Learn more on our WHA website/resource page ***click here***



Officials/Referee

Players: Want to become a official referee?

- **Starting Age:** Many youth officials begin around age 10 to 12, working lower-level games such as 8U/Mites, 10U/Squirts
- Learn more on our WHA website/resource page ***click here***



WELCOME TO THE LAKERS FAMILY

QUESTIONS?

Website

Access FAQs, registration forms, and training and more:

www.watertownlakers.org

New to hockey resources click here

Who to contact with questions?

Board of Directors & Staff members

Maggie Grohs - New Family Liaison

218-686-3456

developmentdirectora@watertownlakers.org