

EAGAN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

2025–2026 Annual Report

Eagan Wildcats • Eagan, Minnesota

2025–2026 Board of Directors

POSITION	NAME
President*	Ryan Thomas
Vice President*	Julie Ghere
Secretary*	Heath Pecor
Treasurer*	Jake Machacek
Hockey Operations*	Kyle Loch
Coach in Chief/Player Development Coordinator*	Jon Kerr
Bantam/Junior Gold Coordinator*	Trevor McKormick
Pee Wee Coordinator*	Dan Dushinske
Squirt Coordinator*	Jim Smith
10U/12U/15U Girls Coordinator*	Mike Lavine
6U/8U Girls Coordinator*	Patrick Foulks
Mite Coordinator*	Julie Ghere
Mini-Mite Coordinator*	Brya Norberg
Marketing/Special Events*	Katie Usset
Tournament Coordinators*	Jake McPherson and Nicki Le
Equipment Coordinator*	Melissa Christenson Ekman
Registration Coordinator*	Liz Becker
Volunteer Coordinator	Liz Becker
Gambling Manager	Sue Downey
Gambling Assistant Manager	Shannon Cady

* Denotes Board of Directors Member

Thank You to Outgoing Board Members

Thank you to the following EHA Board members who will not be running for another term. Your contributions of talent and time to the association are greatly appreciated. Best wishes in your next endeavors!

Ryan Thomas (2018–2026) • Liz Becker (2020–2026) • Katie Ussett (2023–2026) • Nicki Lee (2024–2026)

President's Message

Ryan Thomas, President

Dear Eagan Hockey Association Members,

As we wrap up another memorable season, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who makes Eagan Hockey what it is. This year brought tremendous energy to the rink, marked by player development, competitive success, and the kind of camaraderie that defines our community. It's something we can all be proud of.

To our coaches, team managers, and volunteers—thank you for your commitment and leadership throughout the season. To our parents and families—your support and dedication do not go unnoticed. And to our players—your enthusiasm, effort, and love of the game continue to inspire all of us and remain at the heart of everything we do.

Our association continues to see strong participation, with growth across multiple levels. Eagan Hockey Association has become one of the very largest and most prominent in not only the district, but the entire State of Minnesota.

We are once again incredibly grateful for the work of Sue Downey and the entire charitable gambling team. Their efforts, and the partnerships they maintain with local establishments, play a critical role in supporting our programs. Because of this work, we are able to invest in our players, enhance our facilities, and give back to the broader community through charitable contributions and scholarships for graduating seniors. Their impact cannot be overstated.

Our partnership with the City of Eagan also continued to strengthen this year. The progress at Goat Hill has been exciting to see, with continued improvements making it one of the premier outdoor facilities in the State. This impressive facility is the result of strong collaboration and many volunteer hours. Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute, and a special note of appreciation to Mike Larson and Robert Braun for their leadership and coordination with the City. We look forward to continuing this momentum in the years ahead.

I'd also like to recognize and thank our Board of Directors for their time and dedication this season. As we close out the year, we say thank you to outgoing board members Liz Becker, Nicki Le, Katie Usset, and myself for our time in these roles. It has been a privilege to serve this association and this community.

As the season comes to a close, I hope everyone takes time to recharge and enjoy the off-season. Work is already underway as we look ahead, and we're excited about what's to come. Thank you again for being part of Eagan Hockey. We look forward to seeing you back at the rink soon.

Sincerely,

Ryan Thomas

President, Eagan Hockey Association

Registration Coordinator

Liz Becker, Registration Coordinator

Summary of the Last Ten Years

LEVEL	2016-17	2018-19	2020-21	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Male	379	353	389	446	471	409	478
Female	129	113	131	173	180	118	191
6U/8U	25	41	28	55	56	45	37
10U	10	22	38	26	29	31	28
12U	29	15	21	38	39	29	30
15U	16	14	9	7	—	15	31
Termites	—	33	56	52	45	45	28
Mini Mites	93	73	125	120	129	112	119
Mite	64	68	68	106	129	132	111
Squirt	67	55	62	76	84	107	114
Pee Wee	52	60	62	61	71	70	72
Bantam	66	46	55	61	55	58	68
Jr. Gold	50	45	35	46	36	34	31
TOTAL	500	470	547	651	680	678	669

* 2014-15 6U/8U numbers were low enough that we rolled them into the Mite/Mini Mite program. The total number of female players at Mites/Mini Mites was: 31

** IGH/Eagan coop: 2016-17 10U program was cooperative with IGH, registered with USA Hockey through IGH. Coop continued in 2017-18 and 2018-19 with 10U through IGH and 12U through Eagan. These numbers represent the players who reside in Eagan and registered through EHA.

*** 2023-2024 15U girls were really low in numbers. The EHA girls were waived to other associations.

† 2015-16 Minnesota Hockey went to 15U on a pilot program for girls – previously 14U.

These numbers reflect our total registrations and do not account for move-ups or players who chose not to continue after registering. The 2025–2026 season has been a tremendous success, with participation remaining strong across all levels.

From first-time players to returning standouts, each participant is developing their skills, embracing competition, and creating lasting memories along the way.

These numbers are also a testament to our incredible families and dedicated volunteers, whose ongoing support makes EHA such a special and thriving program.

Volunteer Coordinator

Liz Becker, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer Requirement

Volunteers are the backbone of the Eagan Hockey Association, dedicating their time, talent, and energy to ensure the program's success. Their efforts not only benefit the players but also foster a strong sense of community among our members. Volunteer requirements for the 2025-2026 season were four hours for individual players and five hours for families with two or more players. In addition, the DIBs deposit checks remained at \$400.00 and an "opt-out" option continued at the time of registration.

We had an array of volunteer opportunities for our members to choose from including, but not limited to, helping during our hosted tournaments, various opportunities during tryouts, game day help, hot-dog hockey, multiple committees, 3v3 operations, social events, and much more. We had 98% of our families fulfill their DIBs requirements for this season. Thank you to all of our families who stepped up to help make this season a success. Your time and commitment to EHA does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated.

Hockey Operations

Kyle Loch, Hockey Operations

A significant investment of time, dedication, and coordination is required to deliver a successful hockey season. Eagan Hockey continues to benefit from strong participation, with players, families, and volunteers contributing their efforts to support a well-run and thriving program.

Over the past season, we have taken a closer look at how we utilize the ice hours that we are able to secure. In an effort to keep our teams practicing locally we secured a contract with St. Thomas Academy to utilize their facilities for the next several years. Level coordinators, working as part of the Ice Committee, will continue to review preliminary schedules provided by the scheduler and recommend adjustments to promote a more balanced distribution of ice time across teams and locations. During the off-season, the committee is establishing clearer guidelines to reduce the frequency of excessively late practices and to strengthen the overall schedule review process. Recognizing the demands of a season that runs from October through early March, the organization remains committed to coordinating both on-ice and off-ice activities in a way that supports an appropriate balance between player development and rest.

With respect to the tryout process, the Eagan Hockey Association remains committed to delivering evaluations that are fair, transparent, and consistent for all participants. During the off-season, the association reviews performance data and player development trends from the past year to identify opportunities for improvement.

The Tryout Committee—composed of both board members and members at large—ensures a broad range of perspectives, reinforcing the integrity and objectivity of the process. Feedback from parents, coaches, and independent evaluators is carefully reviewed each year to refine key elements, including evaluator selection, the role of parent and non-parent coaches, and the structure and timing of sessions across levels.

We extend our gratitude to parents for their ongoing feedback and encourage continued engagement, particularly with the non-board volunteers who support tryouts. The committee's role is to serve as a facilitator—organizing, coordinating, and administering the process—while remaining impartial and not influencing player placement decisions.

Finally, we sincerely thank all Tryout Committee members for their time, dedication, and commitment to ensuring a well-run and equitable tryout experience for all participants.

EHA will continue to make strategic use of pre-season ice time to support pre-tryout warmups, contact clinics, and 3v3/4v4 leagues. These initiatives—particularly the fall 3v3/4v4 leagues—remain a popular and effective way to help players transition into the season, offering engaging, on-ice experiences that promote skill development and team connection prior to the start of formal competition.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the level coordinators for their dedication in delivering another successful and enjoyable season. Their efforts in managing communications, addressing questions, and organizing key details—including tournament registration—have been invaluable to the overall experience for players and families.

Treasurer's Report

Jake Machacek, Treasurer

The fiscal year end is May 31 of each year and budget documents for the end of each fiscal year are included in the Board meeting minutes after year end. Below is a summary of the account balances as of this time compared to the previous year.

Account Balances (rounded to the nearest thousand)

ACCOUNT	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
Checking/MM/ICS *	\$102,000 **	\$242,000
Charitable Gambling	\$415,000 **	\$365,000
Line of Credit (Availability)	\$250,000	\$250,000
Total	\$767,000	\$857,000

*MM = Money Market; ICS = Insured Cash Sweep

**At the April 16, 2026 meeting, the Board approved a motion to transfer \$250,000 from the charitable gambling account to the EHA operations account. As of the date of this report, the transfer has not yet been completed; however, the transaction will be completed prior to the next Board meeting scheduled for May 11, 2026.

Budget – Highlight Items (rounded to the nearest dollar)

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
1. Ice Time (including tryout ice time)	\$632,783
2. Tournaments	\$123,491
3. Travel Team Jerseys/Socks/Shells	\$82,107
4. Donations given	\$82,100
5. Coach Stipend/Travel	\$70,220
6. Player/Goalie Development	\$69,693
7. Tryouts (not including ice time)	\$64,458
8. Home Ice Advantage (including ice time)	\$58,635
9. Slush Fund Contribution	\$54,595
10. District 8 Fees	\$34,944
11. Little Wildcats	\$22,583
12. Mini Mites/Mites	\$20,996
13. Dryland Facility	\$7,120

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
14. Outdoor Ice Rink	\$3,985

Taxes/Reports

- Tax returns and gambling reports for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2025 are completed.
- 1099 Forms for calendar year 2025 have been mailed and filed in accordance with deadlines.

Other

- Renewed EHA's \$250,000 Line of Credit (LOC) with Tradition Capital Bank in Q2 of 2026. The LOC is subject to renewal after one year and will be available, if needed but not limited to, any substantial outdoor rink expenditures at Goat Hill or the Eagan Civic Arena.
- Money Market current interest rate (APY) is 2.50% (down from 3.10% a year ago)
- Insured Cash Sweep current interest rate (APY) is 2.25% (down from 2.85% a year ago)

Coach-In-Chief / Player Development

Jon Kerr, Coach-In-Chief / Player Development Coordinator

This season continued to build on our commitment to delivering a strong, consistent development model for both players and coaches within the Eagan Hockey Association. We focused on elevating skill instruction, expanding access to specialized training, and refining our overall development approach based on prior feedback.

Coaching & Development Structure

Our hockey development committee met twice this year at Union 32, continuing to provide a forum for collaboration, feedback, and alignment across levels. These meetings create valuable opportunities for our coaches to connect directly with high school coaches, share perspectives with other coaches, and discuss all aspects of player development and the game. We remain committed to maintaining a strong connection with our high school programs, ensuring that our development models support players as they progress through the association.

Coaching Development Initiatives

Fortis On-Ice Coaches Skills Session

To kick off the season, we partnered with Fortis to deliver an on-ice skills development session specifically for our mite coaches. The session focused on advanced instruction in skating technique, puck handling, and edge control. It was well-received and helped set a high standard for skating skill instruction across all teams.

Coaching Resources

We continue to provide our travel coaches with a strong set of development tools and resources, including Ice Hockey Systems, CoachThem, and TheCoachesSite.com. These platforms offer access to practice planning, drills, systems, and insights from experienced coaches, helping ensure consistency and quality across all levels.

Player Development Enhancements

Expanded Best Shift Training Integration

We made a significant change to our skill sessions this season by fully integrating Best Shift Training. This created a more structured, high-tempo approach to on-ice development with a strong emphasis on puck control, shooting, and game-applicable skills. We also increased the number of on-ice instructors from one to two or three per session, allowing for more individualized attention and more effective station-based training. This change has had a positive impact on both player engagement and overall skill development.

Enhanced Dryland Training Approach

We increased our team dryland sessions at Best Shift this year and moved to a model that allows full teams to train together for 90-minute sessions. This is a shift from last year, when teams were split into two groups. The updated format has improved efficiency, team cohesion, and the overall training experience for our players. In addition, our St. Thomas ice sessions incorporated dedicated dryland time using their turf and shooting room, further expanding opportunities for off-ice skill development.

Goalie Development Improvements

We enhanced our goalie development at the squirt level by bringing in Taylor Ghery and Andy Uzpen to provide dedicated goalie training. Their work complemented our continued partnership with Devenir,

who remains involved across all levels during team practices. We also maintained our Sunday night goalie sessions, which continue to provide consistent, focused development opportunities for our goaltenders.

Mite Program

Our Mite team saw a significant increase in indoor ice time this year, replacing what would have historically been outdoor ice. This shift provides a more consistent and higher-quality development environment, which is a strong benefit for player growth at the Mite level.

Home Ice Advantage Program Evolution

Based on feedback from last year's Home Ice Advantage program and the 2025 to 2026 season skills sessions, we are making key updates moving forward. Beginning in 2026, the on-ice portion of Home Ice Advantage will utilize Best Shift Training to better align summer development with our in-season approach. In addition, we are adjusting the structure by running treadmill training during the same weeks as the Home Ice Advantage program, creating a more efficient and integrated training schedule.

Continued Focus Areas

We continue to prioritize a development-first environment that supports players at all levels while also equipping coaches with the tools and structure needed to be successful. Our goal remains to provide consistent, high-quality instruction and to evolve our programming each year based on feedback and results.

Overall, this season reflected meaningful progress in how we deliver skill development, particularly through expanded instructor support, enhanced goalie training, improved dryland structure, and a more unified approach to year-round programming.

Tournament Report

Jake McPherson & Nicki Le, Tournament Coordinators

In the 2025-2026 hockey season, we successfully hosted the annual Carter Weber Thanksgiving Shootout, as well as the Bantam AA/A and Girls 10U A district playoffs. We were also thrilled to add the inaugural Spartacat 15U B Winter Clash tournament to our list of hosted events.

Carter Weber Thanksgiving Shootout

We welcomed eight Bantam B2 and eight PeeWee B2 teams to the Civic Arena over Thanksgiving weekend for a total of 36 exciting games. For each game, teams received a tournament puck to gift their opponents, along with the opportunity to select an MVP from the opposing team. Continuing a popular tradition, we ended each game with a three person shootout, giving teams an opportunity to earn an extra shootout point. Every participant was gifted a tournament themed beanie, and the winners of the tourney took home their very own turkey trophy!

A huge shout out to the boys and girls High School Booster Clubs for their crucial role manning the score clock and Gamesheets. Your dedication made the tournament a huge success—thank you!

Bantam AA/A District Playoffs

We were able to continue to host our Bantam AA/A district playoffs, totaling 17 games. Our very own Bantam AA Wildcats took third place to move on to Regional Playoffs.

Girls 10U A District Playoffs

For the second year, we hosted the Girls 10U A district playoffs, and we were thrilled to see our very own SpartaCats take home second place.

Spartacat 15U B Winter Clash

We started this tournament more out of necessity than anything. Our 15U B team was having trouble finding enough tournaments to enter this season, so we decided to put one on for them! We ended up getting a fantastic set of teams to register, spanning three different states. It was a great opportunity for our girls to play competition they don't see often. Each participant received a Winter Clash themed pom beanie and puck. And to top things off, our very own Spartacats took home 3rd place, losing to a very talented Milwaukee team.

Again, a huge thank you to the boys and girls High School Booster clubs for volunteering in the scorers box at all the games—you are amazing!

10U/12U/15U Girls Program

Michael Lavine, 10U/12U/15U Girls Coordinator

The 2025-2026 season was the first year of a renewed 5 year agreement for the Spartacats Program. The committee continues to work together to find ways to develop, refine and coordinate ways to further improve the experience for our players and families. The revised agreement officially welcomed the South Saint Paul Youth Hockey Association as a named partner and member of the Spartacats Program. Thank you to the other members of the EHA contingency who served on the Spartacats Committee with me — Jim Smith and Jake McPherson.

Highlights for the Year

15U

This season, the 15U program was strong in numbers and fielded two teams, 15A and 15B. Best of luck to the 15U players who are moving onto their respective high school programs next season.

15A

15A had a great season against a bevy of tough teams throughout the season and ended up with a championship win in New Richmond's tourney and a third place finish in Bloomington's Winter Classic. They finished 2nd in D2 for the regular season, Champions in the D8 playoffs, advanced to the East Region where they placed second which advanced them to the state tournament. Congrats to Coach Anderson for leading a team to state for the second year in a row.

Tournaments: Bloomington Winter Warm Up, Fargo, Mounds View / Blaine, New Richmond



15B

15B had a similarly strong season as well winning the Shannon Cup in Rochester, taking second at the YHH Danglefest, and third at the new Spartacats Winter Clash and the Duluth Icebreakers tourney. They ended their regular season in 3rd place, were the champions of D8 playoffs, advancing them to Regionals.

Tournaments: Spartacats Winter Clash, YHH Danglefest, Duluth Ice Breakers



12U

At the 12U level, Spartacats fielded three teams – one at each of the available playing levels.

12A

12A had a very strong showing throughout their season, winning Championship titles at 3 of their 4 tournaments. They finished first place in the regular D8 season with an impressive undefeated record of 14-0-2. In the District 8 playoffs, they took the 3rd place hardware.

Tournaments: Spartacats Spectacular, Bloomington Winter Warm Up



12B1

12B1 also finished first in the D8 regular season (13-2-1), were the Champions in District Playoffs, and advanced to Regionals. They took the championship in Shakopee's tournament and runner-up at the Breezy Point and our home Spartacats Spectacular.

Tournaments: Breezy Point, Spartacats Spectacular, Blaine, Moorhead



12B2

12B2 finished 4th in the D8 regular season and 3rd in District 8 Playoffs. While not bringing much home for tournament hardware, they had some signature wins throughout the season and developed together to strengthen their skills and team play.

Tournaments: Spartacats Spectacular, Hudson Raider Classic, Bloomington Cupid Classic, Grand Rapids Star of the North



10U

Four teams were formed at the 10U this season: 10A, 10B1 Blue, 10B2 White, and 10UB2.

10A

10A finished in the middle of the D8 standings for the regular season, but fought a good fight in the post-season and finished as the Runner Up for the District Playoffs.



10B1 Blue

10B1 Blue finished 3rd in the D8 regular season and battled to earn a 4-0 post season record and finish as Champions in the District Playoffs. They also had a strong tournament season with a 2nd Place finish in Fargo, a 3rd place finish at Danglefest, a Championship at the home Spartacats Spectacular and a 3rd place finish in Owatonna.

Tournaments: Owatonna, Fargo, YHH Danglefest, Spartacats Spectacular



10B1 White

10B1 White finished in the middle of the pack of the D8 standings and finished 4th in District Playoffs. They did quite well on the road during tournaments taking 1st in Moorhead and 2nd Place in Waseca.

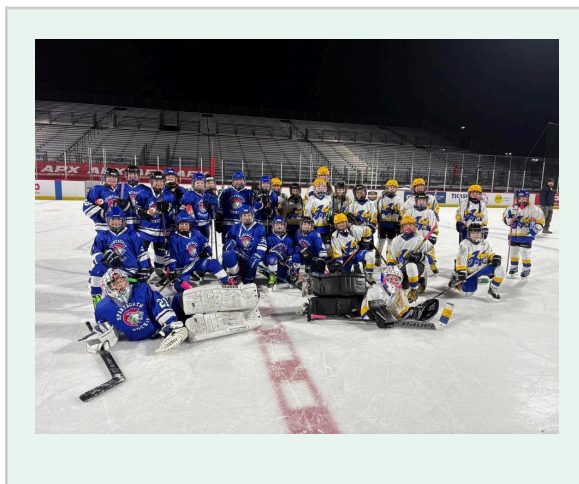
Tournaments: Moorhead, Spartacats Spectacular, Waseca



10B2

10B2 was tested consistently against strong teams, and while the results didn't always go their way, they continued to compete and show up each game. Over the course of the season, there was clear progress—players grew more confident, more comfortable in their roles, and more competitive as a group. They also had a chance to serve as leaders and examples for future 10U Spartacats, and had the chance to skate at the United Heroes Rink in Hastings.

Tournaments: St Paul, Albert Lea, Spartacats Spectacular



8U/6U Girls Program

Patrick Foulks, 6U/8U Girls Coordinator

The 2025–2026 season marked an exciting year of transition and growth for our 8U girls hockey program. While 6U remained in-house as part of the Mini-Mite program, the 8U level rejoined the Spartacats co-op alongside Inver Grove Heights and South St. Paul, creating new opportunities for development, competition, and community.

A total of 65 girls participated at the 8U level, including 38 players from Eagan, an increase of three from the previous season. Even more encouraging, every eligible returning 8U player from last year came back to continue their hockey journey.

Following evaluations, six teams were formed across multiple development levels to ensure the best experience for every player:

- Advanced: Frost & Sceptres
- Intermediate: Fleet & Charge
- Beginner: Sirens & Victoire

A major priority this season was building balanced rosters and creating equal skill-level counterparts for in-house play and practices. Considerable time and care went into forming teams that promoted competitive balance while also helping players feel comfortable during the transition into the newly reunited co-op program.

At the 6U level, we continued combining girls registered for Mini-Mites with their co-ed counterparts, providing a strong foundation for future growth. We are also focused on increasing awareness and participation among incoming kindergarten and first-grade families as we continue to build the girls program pipeline.

Outdoors, Goat Hill once again served as a special home for memorable experiences, including Hot Dog Hockey and an outdoor jamboree. Goat Hill continues to be a unique and valuable asset for our association, creating lasting hockey memories for our families.

Throughout the season, our players also enjoyed exciting opportunities beyond regular practices and games. Team outings included attending a University of Minnesota Women's Hockey game, a Minnesota Frost PWHL game, and skating out with the starters during Eagan Girls Varsity games. These experiences helped inspire our young athletes while strengthening their connection to the game.

As the three associations reunited at the 8U level, this season provided many valuable learnings and numerous successes. We are proud of the progress made and excited about the opportunities ahead as we continue building a strong and sustainable girls mite program for years to come.

We wish all players advancing to 10U the very best in their next step of development.

Finally, a sincere thank you to all coaches, coordinators, volunteers, and parents whose time, energy, and support made this season such a success.

Go Wildcats and Go Spartacats!

Mini Mite & Recruiting/Retention

Brya Norberg, Mini-Mite Coordinator



Our 2025-2026 season continued with steady numbers. Mini-Mites had 12 teams with a total of 112 kids. We split our program into 6 teams of Mini-Mite K's (Kindergartners) and 6 teams Mini-Mite 1's (1st graders). Teams were created based on schools to keep friends playing with friends. The Mini-Mite program had 2 hours of ice every Saturday and Sunday for practice. These skill-based practices were very beneficial to the Mini Mite's this season, we saw tremendous growth from the start to end of the season in all skaters. We also offered the opportunity again for our Mini-Mite 1's to give goalie a try by providing each of the teams with a set of goalie gear. Starting at the end of December we started our "Game Days". Both the MM1's and MMK's had a few Sunday "Game Days" each month throughout the remainder of the season. It was a fun way for the kids to show their competitive skills against their friends in cross-ice in-house games.



Our Little Wildcat program was yet again a hit! We had 64 skaters in our Little Wildcat Program this season. We had two groups that completed 3 hours of practice each. We were able to provide all these kids with new free gear from Pure Hockey, which went very smoothly.

This was the 7th year for our Termite Program. This program is for our Pre-K skaters that will be entering Kindergarten next year. We had 28 Termites this year. The development this group of skaters had was very fun to watch. Some of them went from getting on the ice for the first time to skating the entire length of the rink by the end of the season. It was a great season for them.

The on-ice practices are the focus for our Mini-Mites. In addition to that development another major aspect of our program is the fun activities offered to our skaters. Hot Dog Hockey was in full effect this year, every Friday from December through February that we held HDH it was packed! We hosted a Skate with the Wildcats night in January at Hot Dog Hockey where the Boys and Girls High School Teams came and skated with our Mini Mites, Mites and 8U players, it was a huge hit! We hosted an outdoor jamboree in January at Goat Hill where we had the Brick Oven Bus come, an indoor jamboree at the end of February, and a high energy end of the year party on the last day of February. All Termite and Mini-Mite teams got to participate in a Little Chipper Game which is played in between the 1st and 2nd period of the Girls and Boys Varsity Home Games. It was a fun and exciting season for our skaters, parents, and everyone else who came to share in the joy of hockey.

Thank you to all the coaches and team managers who made this season a huge success!

Mite Program

Julie Ghere, Mite Coordinator

The 2025–2026 Mite season was another successful and rewarding year for our young skaters. We kicked off the season with an eight-game Fall 4v4 session, open to all 2nd and 3rd grade skaters. This four-week program provided a fun and engaging way for players to get back on the ice and build confidence before the official season began.

This season included 114 skaters across 10 Mite teams. In October, player evaluations were held to help coaches form balanced teams at the Mite 2, Mite 3, and Mite 4 levels. This marked EHA's third year offering a Mite 4 level and the second year allowing 1st graders to be evaluated for Mite placement. Five first graders joined the Mite program this season, which helped reduce congestion at the Mini-Mite 1 level, ensured skaters were placed at an appropriate developmental level, and allowed for more focused coaching at the Mite 2 level.

Development remains the cornerstone of our Mite program, and every level plays an important role in a player's growth. Once the season was underway, teams were on the ice three times per week, including one half-ice game day each week that emphasized fun, skill-building, and game awareness.

Beyond the regular schedule, our Mites participated in several memorable events that added to the excitement of the season, including:

- Hot Dog Hockey
- One out-of-association jamboree per team
- EHA Outdoor Jamboree at Goat Hill
- EHA Indoor Paw Power Jamboree
- End-of-Season Party

These experiences helped create lasting memories and reinforced our goal of keeping hockey fun and engaging for young players.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone who supported the Mite program this season, including coaches, team managers, parents, grandparents, spectators, and most importantly, our skaters. It truly takes a village, and I am thankful to be part of such a supportive hockey community. GO WILDCATS!

Squirt Program

Jim Smith, Squirt Coordinator

For the 2nd year in a row, EHA fielded eight Squirt teams during the 2025-2026 season. A spirited debate was held throughout the summer as to what level a 9th team should compete at — only to see the numbers break toward 8 teams of 13 skaters. Again, EHA went with an A, two SB1's, three SB2's and two SC's.

From a bird's eye view, Squirt A, both B1s and 2 of 3 B2s finished in the top half of their level's D8 standings. The other 3 were not far off that mark and were generally competitive. Top Finisher B2 White lost in OT to a B2 team that never lost a District Game. So close to a repeat championship at B2! Overall, EHA Squirt teams were able to show off the quantity and quality of hockey players EHA is producing!

Thank you to all the parents, coaches, managers, streamers, and players for a successful season all around! We know it takes everyone playing a part to have organized and fun seasons for the kids. Below, is a general recap of each Squirt team along with a few words from their coach.

Squirt C Green

- Finished .500 in District play and 5th place. Lost a close game in the consolation final for the Silver Division in the District Playoffs.
- Enjoyed strong tournament play in Fargo, Hudson and Wayzata.
- Tournaments: River Lakes Hockey (Richmond, 5th place), Tiger Winter Classic (New Richmond), Jim Foley Outdoor Classic (St. Mary's Point), Squirt International (Fargo)
- The team got better each month as the season progressed and played some of its best hockey down the stretch and in tournament play. Great strides in skills and team play was easily observed.
- Special thanks to Coach Jeremy Gaiser and assistant coaches: Justin Boughton, Jordan Carlson, Michael Rowekamp and Brian Torborg, as well as team managers Meridith Boughton and Nick Lebens.

Squirt C Blue

- Finished 1st Place in D8 Maroon Division to end the season!
- Enjoyed strong tournament success with First place finishes at the Cowtown Classic and Fargo Emerald Division.
- Coach Tony Czech notes that the team made very noticeable strides as players learned new positions, developed an understanding of strategy and systems, and grew more confident each and every day, all while being a great group of kids with parents free of controversy and complaints. A fun season was definitely had by all.
- Thank you to assistant coaches Steve Butler, Jason Dresow, Andy Johnson, Luke Rassmussen and Steve Squire and first class team manager Katie Johnson.

Squirt B2 White

- Finished 2nd place in D8 in the regular season and lost in OT in the District Playoff Championship.
- Two Third Place Finishes at Duluth and Forest Lake Tournaments were highlights.
- Coach Cory Kanz rightfully boasts that every single player played forward positions and defense and greatly improved their overall understanding of the game while continuing their skill development. Our team was complimented numerous times by opposing coaches and parents — and referees who commented on our passing and team play. It was a great year.
- Shout outs to assistant coaches Bret Johnson, Andrew Uzpen, Jeremy Doyle and Gene Chang. Katy Uzpen did a bang up job as Manager.

|Squirt B2 Green

- Took home the District Championship for the Maroon Division in convincing 4-1 fashion.
- The team competed well in the Cowtown Classic and St. Louis Park Winter Classic.
- Coached by EHA's Jon Kerr, the team grew continuously as the season progressed and was playing their best hockey at year's end — demonstrating large strides in skills and team play.
- Thank you to assistant coaches Louie Weber, Peter Naas and Matt Knapp. Team managers Colleen Cahill and Kelly Rosemark were excellent and appreciated along with scrimmage coordinator Katie Weber.

|Squirt B2 Blue

- Qualified for D8 Top Flight Playoff, winning their last game to finish 7th Place.
- 2nd Place Hudson Tournament Finishes and 5th Place Consolation Champions at St. Paul.
- Head coach Craig Howe praises his team's overall work ethic and notes that the team rallied around a late injury to their goalie as well as supporting off-ice challenges several players faced.
- Special shout out to Manager Jeff Baumann and assistant coaches Kyle Moen and Andrew Jensen.

|Squirt B1 Green

- Lost in the Championship of D8's Top Flight District Playoff — Highest Finish in Squirts this year!
- A first Place Finish in the Minneapolis Cup, 2nd Place in St. Paul McCormick Cup and 1st Place in their Emerald Bracket in Fargo suggest a tremendous year was at hand!
- Coach Jake Machacek (killer EHA Treasurer as well) stated it well: "For much of the season, we battled in the #9–12 range in the district standings, but this group never stopped competing. Finishing 6–2 in our last eight District 8 games (starting the season 3-5), we earned a spot in the top 8, advanced to the Gold Division playoffs, and ultimately took 2nd place."
- Shout out to excellent managers Janie Gossen and Molly Brott, along with the gaggle of assistant coaches who put in a lot of time (Dave Hanson, Stephen Deuth, Brent Martinson and Nick Larson).

|Squirt B1 Blue

- Qualified for D8's Top Flight District Tournament.
- Finished 2nd Place at St. Louis Park Tournament — won a last minute consolation contest by tying the game with less than a minute before scoring to win with 0.2 seconds on the clock!
- Coming back from a 5-1 deficit to beat Hastings showed this team's character and courage.
- 8/14 players all played together on B2 Blue last season — yet the new players wouldn't have known it by how tight the group was on and off the ice.
- Coach Mike Olson relays that "We had a great group of players and parents. Our season was full of nail biters and last second heroics with several games coming down to the last few seconds. The kids had fun in lots of ways, like when in Duluth Coach Bonin drove a van full of players to the rink screaming the lyrics to Pink Pony Club at the top of their lungs. The kids developed as players, laughed a lot, and made new friends along the way."
- Thank you to a triplicate of managers — Jena Reveland, Megan Montpetit and Leslie Bonin, as well as assistant coaches Brett Bonin, Mike Reveland, Justin Boughton and Jim Smith.

|Squirt A

- Qualified for Top Flight District Tournament.
- Won One Hockey Blaine Tournament, Finished 2nd at Breezy Point and won Consolation in Spring Lake Park.

- Played an extremely competitive schedule against top teams and notched up a couple of wins against top 10 teams at Squirt A according to YHH.
- Coach Kevin Dixon reports that the team showed a lot of skill and team development over the course of the season. A late season injury and off-ice adversity caused the team to come together and grow as a team. Lots of highlights and passionate parenting lead to a fun season.
- Thank you to the assistant coach stable of Heath Pecor, Ryan Kurtz, Dan Dushinske and goalie coach Chad Brovold, as well as excellent team manager Adrienne Todd.

Pee Wee Program

Dan Dushinske, Pee Wee Coordinator

EHA fielded five Pee Wee teams for the 2025-2026 season. There were a total of 63 skaters and 8 goalies this season. PWA had 13 skaters and 2 goalies, PWB1 had 13 skaters and 2 goalies, PWB2-Blue had 12 skaters and 1 goalie, PWB2-Green had 13 skaters and 2 goalies, and PWC had 12 skaters and 1 goalie. Of the 71 total PW players, 30 were 2nd year players and 41 were 1st year players.

Preseason 3 on 3 also had a strong turnout this season with 66 skaters and 7 goalies and was a great tune-up for tryouts and the regular season.

|Pee Wee A

Final overall record: 25-17-4

Final district record: 10-2-3 (Runner-Up)

District playoff record: 3-1

East Region participant record: 1-2

Tournaments: Big Pumpkin (Rochester), Pee Wee Panther Classic (Spring Lake Park), 56th Annual Tradition Invitational (Edina), and Breezy Point Ice Fest (Breezy Point)

Thank you to Head Coach Dave Karsnia, Assistant Coaches: Ben Barbato, Stephen Deuth, and Marcus Ploeger. Additional thanks to Team Manager Terry Jung.

|Pee Wee B1

Final overall record: 20-16-4

Final district record: 7-7-2 (10th place)

District playoff record: 0-2

Tournaments: Wolfpack Pumpkin Bash (Cottage Grove), Head of the Lakes Classic (Duluth), Warroad (Warroad), and Jon McLaughlin Championship Hockey Tournament (Elk River)

Thank you to the Head Coach Andrew Schultz, Assistant Coaches: Sean Greenlee, Brad Eckel, and Tim Johnson. Additional thanks to Team Manager Anna Sexe and Scrimmage Coordinator Anna Sitek.

|Pee Wee B2-Blue

Final overall record: 18-22-5

Final district record: 6-7-3 (6th place)

District playoff record: 1-2

Tournaments: Carter Weber Thanksgiving Shootout (Eagan), Pee Wee B Frost Tournament (Faribault), Clash at the Champion (Appleton), and Zenith City Invitational (Duluth)

Thank you to Head Coach Sean Scott, Assistant Coaches: Nick Gleason, Aaron Diederich and David Morgan. Additional thanks to Team Manager Shannon Braun.

|Pee Wee B2-Green

Final overall record: 18-25-4

Final district record: 3-12-1 (8th place)

District playoff record: 2-1-1

Tournaments: Pee Wee Ranger Classic (Forest Lake), Carter Weber Thanksgiving Shootout (Eagan), The Lakes Classic (Detroit Lakes), Superior Amateur Hockey Association — Pee Wee B (Superior)

Thank you to Head Coach Charlie Bauman, Assistant Coaches: Joe Klenner, Jake McPherson, Pat Donohue, Pat Lorence, and Tom Haynes. Additional thanks to Team Manager Ladonna VerStrate and Scrimmage Coordinator Beth Laurent.

|Pee Wee C

Final overall record: 33-10-4

Final district record: 13-2-2 (T-1st place)

District playoff record: 1-0-1 (1st place)

Tournaments: Pee Wee Pool Party (Delano), Water Park Classic (WI Dells) — Champs, Cowtown Classic (So. St. Paul), and Mid-Winter Classic (Duluth)

Thank you to Head Coach John Stokes, Assistant Coaches: Wyatt Hass, Anton Martinez, and Jackie Larsen. Additional thanks to Team Manager Andrea Kostiuk and Scrimmage Coordinator Angela Martinez.

Bantam Program

Trevor McCormick, Bantam/Junior Gold Coordinator

EHA fielded four Bantam teams for the 2025-2026 season. We started the season with a total of 60 skaters and 8 goalies this season, but one skater and one goalie left during the year. BAA had 14 skaters and 1 goalie, BB1 had 15 skaters and 2 goalies, BB2 had 15 skaters and 2 goalies, and BC had 15 skaters and 2 goalies. Of the 66 total Bantam players, 34 were 2nd year players and 32 were 1st year players.

Preseason 3 on 3 also had a strong turnout this season with 54 skaters and 7 goalies and was a great tune-up for tryouts and the regular season. We again concluded the year with the annual event for graduating 2nd year bantam players as a capstone for youth hockey. The event featured a dinner, a slideshow showcasing 10 years of youth hockey and scrimmage for the players.

Bantam AA

Final overall record: 24-25-6

Final district record: 9-6-1 (4th place)

District playoff record: 3-1

American Region participant record: 1-2

Tournaments: Battle of the Blue Ox (Moorhead), First Test of the Best (Eden Prairie), Super Rink Spectacular Christmas Tournament (Mounds View), and Ricky Brunel (Roseau)

Thank you to Head Coach Gus Kluender, Assistant Coaches: Reed Kluender, William Randall. Additional thanks to Team Manager Sheila Umland.

Bantam B1

Final overall record: 20-15-6

Final district record: 8-5-3 (7th place)

District playoff record: 0-1

Tournaments: Winter Classic (Bloomington) – 3rd place, Warroad (Warroad), Big Ole' Hockey Tournament (Alexandria) and Laker Shootout (Prior Lake)

Thank you to the Head Coach Benton Olson, Assistant Coaches: Chris Rasinen, Jeff Currie. Additional thanks to Team Managers Jen Crews and Christine Currie.

Bantam B2

Final overall record: 40-12-5

Final district record: 11-3-2 (2nd place)

District playoff record: 3-1 (2nd place)

Tournaments: Carter Weber Thanksgiving Shootout (Eagan) – 2nd place, Sauk Rapids (Sauk Rapids) – 3rd place, Sioux Falls (Sioux Falls, SD) – 2nd place, and River Falls (River Falls, WI) – 3rd place

Thank you to Head Coach Ken Putt, Assistant Coaches: Ty Renner, Landon Potts, Gene Chang, Mike Olson. Additional thanks to Team Manager Robert Braun.

Bantam C

Final overall record: 17-23-2

Final district record: 6-8-2 (7th place)

District playoff record: 1-2

Tournaments: SLP Winter Classic (St. Louis Park), Hayward (Hayward, WI) – 3rd place, Eric Dornfeld Bantam Classic (St. Mary's Point), and Mid-Winter Classic (Duluth)

Thank you to Head Coach Mike Kolehmainen, Assistant Coaches: Brian Geisler, Tom Schlundt, Max Seeley. Additional thanks to Team Managers Brooke Correll and Mara Swanson.

Junior Gold Program

Trevor McCormick, Bantam/Junior Gold Coordinator

There were two teams representing Eagan hockey during the 2025-2026 season at the Junior Gold level. In the season there were a total of 27 skaters along with 2 goalies who skated and represented Eagan. Due to our numbers, we welcomed five players from other associations who were able to continue their hockey careers and all represented Eagan proudly.

Junior Gold B

JGHSL Gold B — Gold Division: 27-6-5 (3rd place)

Playdown record: 2-2

Tournaments: Bemidji (Bemidji) – 3rd place, Junior Gold (Buffalo) – Champions

Thank you to Head Coach Ryan Ellingson, Assistant Coaches: Chris Bryntesen, Mike Henrickson. Additional thanks to Team Manager Lori Olson.

Junior Gold 16

JGHSL 16U – Gold Division: 19-6-9 (8th place)

Playdown record: 1-2

Tournaments: Jr. Gold 16U (Moorhead) – Champions, Jr. Gold U16 (Somerset, WI) – 2nd place

Thank you to Head Coach Nathan Allard, Assistant Coach: Jeff Currie. Additional thanks to Team Manager Christie Myers.

Equipment Report

Melissa Christenson Ekman, Equipment Coordinator

Mouthguards

Prior to the start of the 2025-2026 season, EHA partnered with Minnesota Orthodontics to provide custom mouthguards to our players. Many players took advantage of this opportunity and we will look to provide this again for next year.

Breezer Covers

This year, EHA purchased custom Bauer breezer covers for all travel level players (Squirts through Jr. Gold) to complete our uniforms. These are now part of our uniforms and are intended to be worn for any scrimmage or game when game jerseys are worn. Players that have received covers may keep them until they either no longer fit and exchange them for another size, or return to EHA when no longer playing for the association. Covers will be available for exchange or handed out to 1st year Squirt players during the pre-season tryout clinics. We anticipate this investment will last for many years.

Game Jerseys / Legacy Numbers

For this year's 1st year Squirts, we had more players than jersey numbers available resulting in some number duplication. We reviewed and discussed options for changing our legacy number program. At this time with the anticipated number of 1st year Squirts for the 2026-2027 season, we have decided to maintain our legacy number program for this upcoming season. We will continue to monitor the number of players moving up in the program to determine if/when there is a need to implement another plan which would eliminate the possibility of duplicate player numbers ending up on the same roster. More information on this possible change will be communicated to our association members if/when a change is needed when the number of players exceeds the player numbers available.

Equipment and Apparel

EHA will continue to partner with Pure Hockey as the primary provider of equipment, youth uniforms, and CCM/Bauer branded apparel, due to their loyalty points program that allows us to stretch your dollar even further to help our kids in all levels of play. We have engaged and are in discussion with Pure Hockey to be a sponsor of our association who would provide all of our apparel needs and would provide additional benefits to our program. More to come when an agreement is finalized. This year, EHA continued to support several local businesses and past Eagan hockey alumni for fan apparel and travel team uniforms including Camelsota, Athletic Outfitters — UNRL, Gemini Athletic and Verbero.

I'd like to THANK the parents and committee volunteers who were instrumental on the EHA Equipment/Apparel committee who helped organize and distribute uniforms/socks/apparel for EHA teams. Thank you for all your time, work and for keeping our players and families looking sharp!

Charitable Gambling Report

Sue Downey, Gambling Manager

Thank you for continuing to support EHA and our partners. The end of year gambling report will be presented to the Board after the end of the Fiscal Year on June 30 and documented in the minutes.

Support Our Gambling Partners! Pull Tabs & BINGO!

Have some fun and support EHA by playing BINGO, or trying your luck at PULL TABS while enjoying great food and service at our charitable gambling locations.

LOCATION	ADDRESS / PHONE	OFFERINGS
Ansari's Mediterranean Grill & Lounge	1960 Rahnclyff Ct., Eagan, MN 55122 (651) 452-0999	Wednesday Night Bingo • Pull Tabs
Lone Oak Bar and Grill	3010 Eagandale Place, Eagan, MN 55121 (651) 789-2081	Pull Tabs
Trail Stop Tavern	525 Diffley Road, Eagan, Minnesota 55123 (651) 493-3035	Pull Tabs • Horse Races
Wildcat's Bar & Grill	1488 Yankee Doodle Rd; Eagan, MN 55123 (651) 452-2475	Monday & Wednesday Night Bingo • Pull Tabs
721	4250 Lexington Ave S. #111, Eagan, Minnesota 55123 (651) 348-7361	Pull Tabs

Thank you EHA.....See You Next Year!

Eagan Wildcats Hockey Association • Eagan, Minnesota