



THINKING ABOUT HOCKEY?

SAN LUIS VALLEY YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
SEASONAL INFORMATIONAL

2026-27 SEASON

WELCOME TO VALLEY HOCKEY

SLVYHA is where youth across the San Luis Valley learn to play, grow as teammates, and find where they belong, on and off the ice. We're a competitive travel program, built and run entirely by volunteers who love this community as much as the game.

If you're trying to decide whether hockey is right for your family, this is for you.

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

- Can my family do this?
- Is my kid the right age?
- What's the real cost?
- What's included with registration
- What's expected of me?
- What if we try it and want out?
- How to find answers

CAN MY FAMILY DO THIS?

Hockey asks a lot from a family: time, travel, and teamwork. And that's part of what makes a season so rewarding. Here is a base line of what to expect, so you can dive in with your eyes open and get the most out of it.

SEASON AT A GLANCE

SLVYHA plays in the Colorado Recreational Hockey League (CRHL), under USA Hockey



A TYPICAL WEEK IN SEASON

- Plan on about three nights a week for practice, with a possible fourth Friday morning practice
- Practice and home games are held at the Alamosa Family Recreation Center Ice Rink

TRAVEL

Hockey in the Valley means hitting the road together. SLVYHA competes across Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas, and since we don't have enough local teams to fill a season, most games become a team trip

- Travel adds up over the season: roughly 2 travel weekends in October for tiering, another 5 for league games between November and February, and 2 more for tournaments
- Expect a mix of day trips and overnight weekend trips depending on the opponent
- We work to get as many home games as we can, but away games make up most of the schedule

IS MY KID THE RIGHT AGE?

DIVISION	BIRTH YEARS
12U	2014-2017
14U	2012-2013
18U	2008-2011

EVERY PLAYER IS WELCOME AT SLVYHA NO MATTER WHERE THEY'RE STARTING FROM

For kids new to hockey joining 14U or 18U, we recommend at least a year of recreational hockey first. Coaches prioritize player safety when determining game time. Because of this, a new skater may focus on building skills during practice before competing.

Not sure where your child stands? Reach out to sanluisvalleyhockey@slvhockey.org and we'll help set realistic expectations for what that would look like for your child.

WHAT'S THE REAL COST?

Real numbers, no surprises. Here's everything that goes into a season, broken down so you can plan ahead.

REGISTRATION FEE

DIVISION	FEE
12U	\$575
14U	\$650
18U	\$650

USA HOCKEY MEMBERSHIP A REQUIRED SEPARATE FEE

This is paid to USA Hockey directly, not to SLVYHA, and it's required before you can register with us.

WHAT IS THIS FEE AND WHY DO I NEED IT?

USA Hockey is the national governing body for the sport. Membership covers player insurance and is what makes your kid eligible to play in any USA Hockey sanctioned program nationwide, not just here. It's set by USA Hockey, not SLVYHA, which is why it's billed separately.

Full details at usahockey.com.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR REGISTRATION

Est. 80+	Hours of practice ice time available over the season	Est. 20+	Games per season
2	Entry into two non-league tournaments	ALL	required CAHA, league, and referee fees

OTHER COSTS TO KNOW ABOUT

Beyond registration and USA Hockey membership, plan for these as well.

GEAR

\$450-\$1950

Budget roughly \$455 to \$1,940 for a first-year skater's gear, depending on new versus used and what you already have. This is an estimate, and actual cost will vary.

JERSEYS

\$110

Every player's gear starts with a refundable \$110 deposit, covering a home jersey and an away jersey. You'll get it back once everything returns to us at the end of the season.

TRAVEL

Gas, hotels, and meals for away games and tournaments are a family expense. Team Managers help coordinate lodging room blocks for away games, which is a great way for teams and their families to bond off the ice.

OPTIONAL COSTS

- Personalized home and away jersey sets are available to purchase for about \$110, individual jerseys for about \$55, yours to keep (cost may vary based on shared shipping costs)
- Warm-up jackets and pants are optional purchases, not required as part of registration
First-time SLVYHA players receive their first team jacket free with registration

MANAGING THE COST

We want every family to feel supported when it comes to registration. Here are a few ways we help manage the cost of the season

- No registration fee for a 4th child (or more) registering in the same family, same season
- Discounts available through fundraising participation
Discounts are subject to change. Please contact the Treasurer at treasurer@slvhockey.org for current registration discount offers
- Payment plans available, spread across the season

REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE

Cost shouldn't be the reason a kid misses a season. SLVYHA maintains a limited registration assistance fund for families who need it.



WHAT'S EXPECTED OF ME?

Joining SLVYHA means joining the whole community, not just signing your kid up for a season. Here's what being part of the Valley Hockey family looks like.

YOU'RE PART OF THE CREW

- SLVYHA runs on the families who play here, and getting involved is one of the best ways to feel at home in this community
- No strict hour requirement, every bit helps keep the season running and costs down for everyone

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

GAME DAY

These are the easiest way to jump in. No long-term commitment, just show up and help out.

- Scorekeeper
- Timekeeper
- Game Music
- Penalty box
- Concessions

MORE COMMITTED ROLES

- Coach
- Locker Room Monitor
- Team Managers
- Equipment Manager
- Registrar
- SafeSport Coordinator
- Parent/Coach Liaison
- Fundraising Chair
- Media Chair
- Community Outreach
- Committee Member

GOVERNING BOARD

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasure
- Director of Operations
- City Liaison
- 3x At Large Board Members

SAFESPORT TRAINING

Every volunteer working closely with players goes through USA Hockey's SafeSport training and a background check first.

- Coaches pass a criminal background check and complete USA Hockey SafeSport certification before they're on the ice
- Locker Room Monitors are screened before they're posted
- Any adult with regular contact with players completes SafeSport training too

Full list of
opportunities and role
details



WHAT IF WE TRY IT AND WANT OUT?

Committing to a season is a big step, and things don't always go as planned, an injury, a move, or something else out of your control. Refunds are based on timing only, not the reason for leaving. Here's exactly how it works.

REFUND SCHEDULE

WHEN YOU LEAVE	WHAT YOU GET BACK
BEFORE THE FIRST TEAM GAME	FULL REGISTRATION REFUND
AFTER THE FIRST GAME, BEFORE 25% OF TEAM GAMES PLAYED	50% OF REGISTRATION REFUND
AFTER 50% OF TEAM GAMES PLAYED	NO REFUND

All SLVYHA equipment must be turned before any refund is issued.

HOW TO REQUEST ONE

- Send written refund request to our Treasure
- Once the board approves, refunds are issued within 4 weeks

MORE QUESTIONS?

You're never emailing into a void. Here's exactly who to reach, and for what.

ROLE	HELPS WITH
REGISTRAR	Registration dates, deadlines, eligibility
SAFESPORT COORDINATOR	Safety and compliance questions
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS	League, games, and what a season looks like
TREASURER	Registration assistance & Refund info
ANYTHING ELSE	General questions

WANT TO GO DEEPER?

Head to our website. The Resources Tab is built for new Valley Hockey families, with everything you might need to know in one place.

OTHER HELPFUL REFERENCES

SLVYHA Documents

- SLVYHA Handbook: full policies, codes of conduct, and forms
- SLVYHA Bylaws: how the association is governed

Affiliate Organizations

- USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook
- USA Hockey Parent Handbook
- CAHA (Colorado Amateur Hockey Association)



REGISTER

READY TO GET YOUR KID ON THE ICE? WE CAN'T WAIT TO HAVE YOUR FAMILY IN THE VALLEY HOCKEY COMMUNITY.

STEP ONE: GET YOUR USA HOCKEY MEMBERSHIP

Every player needs an active USA Hockey membership before registering with SLVYHA



STEP TWO: CLICK REGISTER

Head to our registration page and complete your SLVYHA registration, forms, and payment.



STEP THREE: CHECK OUT WEBSITE RESOURCES

Explore our website for everything else you need as a new Valley Hockey family

