

# **AAHL**

## **TRYOUT AND TRAVEL**



## **HOCKEY GUIDE**

### **2023-2024**

## TEAM STRUCTURE

For the 2023-2024 season, all players will be grouped based on their birth year.

2022-2023 SEASON BIRTH YEARS	
MITE / ADM (8U)	2015 & YOUNGER
SQUIRT (10U)	2013 & 2014
PEE WEE (12U)	2011 & 2012
GIRLS (12U)	2011 - 2014
BANTAM (14U)	2009 & 2010
GIRLS (14U)	2009 - 2010
MIDGET (16U)	2007 & 2008
MIDGET (18U)	2005 & 2006
GIRLS (19U)	2004 - 2008

## FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

### Tryouts and General Disclosures:

- To be eligible to participate in the AAHL tryouts, a player must complete the online registration. All payments are made online, including the non-refundable tryout fee. NO CASH OR CHECK PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- Every player must have current medical insurance to participate. Player parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible in making sure that this item is covered prior to tryouts and/or any team participation.
- At least two tryout sessions (in most cases) will be provided for each division.
- All tryout fees are non-refundable. Refunds are not issued for missed sessions, declining a team offer, or for not being chosen for a team.

Any earned credits from the previous season cannot be used for the tryout fee or commitment fee. Once teams are established any credits will be applied to the remaining season fee balance.

## **Team Evaluations:**

AAHL teams are selected based on competitive criteria of AA, A, and B. The evaluation of players is necessary for the selection of teams. Players and families are bound by the results of these evaluations. Should you feel an appeal is necessary, you must bring your request to the AAHL Board of Directors for consideration.

## **Playing “Up” Policy:**

The AAHL philosophy of player development is that it is usually best for all players to play within their respective age group. However, in special circumstances a player may benefit from participating in a higher age group. Requests to play “up” must be in writing to the AAHL Board of Directors before tryouts of the upcoming season. Players are only permitted to tryout one (1) birth year higher (example – a 2nd year squirt could tryout for peewee, but a 1st year squirt is ineligible to try out for peewee). A player that wishes to move upward in age classification, must score in the top 1/3 of all player’s tryout evaluation scores at the higher age classification to be moved up.

The AAHL Board of directors may, at its discretion, move players upward in age classification to achieve a balanced team population. Such Board decisions will be made in conjunction with and on the recommendation of coaches, with parent’s approval.

## **USA Hockey Registration:**

Online registration with USA Hockey is required. The USA Hockey registration fee is not included in the yearly dues for AAHL.

## **Medical / Liability Release Statement:**

If your child is injured during a USA Hockey, PAHL, PIHL, or Amateur Armstrong Hockey League (AAHL) sponsored event, you give permission to the person(s) in charge to seek medical attention. Upon entering events sponsored by USA Hockey or its member districts, you agree to abide by the rules of USA Hockey, PAHL, PIHL, and AAHL. You understand that participation in the sport of ice hockey constitutes risk of injury. You voluntarily and knowingly recognize, accept, and assume this risk and release USA Hockey and the AAHL, its affiliates, their sponsors, event organizers, coaches, and officials from any liability, therefore.

## **Commitment Fee:**

The non-refundable Commitment Fee will be automatically charged to your account once tryouts are complete, and you have accepted a position on the team. If the player declines his placement within the posted timeframe, there will be no further financial obligation to AAHL, and your commitment fee will be refunded. When you accept a position on a team you are obligated to pay the entire Season Fee and the Commitment Fee (unless fee is due upon registration).

If a player decides to resign from AAHL after having accepted a position, it is the responsibility of that player or that player’s parents to notify both an Executive Officer of AAHL and either the Manager or Coach of that player’s team. The notification to the Executive Officer must be in writing. All unpaid season fees will be due prior to issuing a release to play for another association.

## Payments:

At the time of registration, the option to pay in full or make payments will be available. All payments will be made online through the AAHL website. NO CASH OR CHECK PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. The Commitment Fee will go towards the total season dues. If AAHL is charged a NSF fee for any player, that player is responsible to make that payment and to pay any NSF fees charged to AAHL.

To ensure the financial stability of the Amateur Armstrong Hockey League (AAHL), if your account becomes delinquent according to the terms of this agreement, you agree that AAHL may commence proceedings before a District Justice or Magistrate to collect the unpaid amount and obtain a judgement for such amount plus interest and costs; and execute on such judgement by all lawful means.

## Volunteer Responsibilities:

AAHL continues to offer reasonable fees through the voluntary efforts of its members. We depend upon the families in the organization to participate in the running of the Belmont kitchen. If you do not wish to work in the kitchen, a buy-out is available at \$240/player per team (\$60.00 per shift). In the event of a NO-SHOW for your shift, your account will be billed \$75.00/shift.

## Uniforms:

Arrows player uniforms consist of home/away jerseys, socks, and a shell. Each player will be required and responsible for the purchase and care of their Arrows uniform. Costs associated with their uniform are not included in the season fee. National Bound (12U Prep/14U/16U/18U and 14U/19U Girls) Teams are required to wear navy helmets and gloves.

## Equipment disclosure:

All players must be equipped with the following: hockey skates, approved helmet with full face guard, mouth guard, throat protector, elbow pads, hockey gloves, chest protector, groin cup, padded hockey pants, shin guards and a regulation hockey stick. USA Hockey Rule 304, regarding "Equipment" must be followed. Costs associated with hockey equipment are not included in the season fee and are the player/parent responsibility.

## Player Numbers:

- All players beginning at the age of 7 in ADM/8U through 19U will be eligible to lock their player numbers for their continuous AAHL hockey career.
- All players will be able to lock in their number; provided there is not another player with a birth year directly above or below, that has previously locked in the chosen number.  
**Example: If a player has a 2013 birth year, no player with a 2012 or 2014 will be permitted to use that number.**
- ADM/8U players that are ages 5 and 6 will choose numbers; however, they will not be locked in until they reach the age of 7.  
**Example: If a player is 6 and a new player enters the league that is 8, both players will be allowed to use the number during ADM. This ensures the 8-year-old player to be able to lock that number for use in 10U.**
- In the instance that a player leaves the league, the player's number will be released and available for use and will not be held upon the possibility of return.

## **Injury Exemption:**

If a player becomes injured during the season and is not medically able to participate for more than 6 weeks, contact the treasurer to complete an injury exemption form to seek a reduction in season dues prorated to the length of the playing absence. Documentation from the doctor will be required and attendance requirements during the injury are up to the coaching staff.

## **Tournaments:**

If the team participates in any tournaments, that team is responsible for collecting the fee(s) to cover the costs of those tournaments. *Exceptions are the National Bound (12U Prep/14U/16U/18U) Teams in which these fees are included in the season fees.*

## **Release for "Use of Likeness":**

By completion of the online registration, and/or appearing on a USA Hockey Roster for an AAHL registered team, all individuals (players, parents, guardians) consent to the use or publication of their image or likeness as part of any or all visual, audio, and/or video production, now or in the future, either produced by the AAHL or sanctioned by the AAHL, without requiring consent or compensation, and without protest. The AAHL has the authority to produce - or authorize production of - the name, image, and/or likeness of all (players, coaches, parents, guardians) for use on websites, social media networks, publications, and similar media at the sole discretion of the AAHL.

## **FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES**

Throughout the season parents are offered the opportunities to decrease their hockey season costs. Some opportunities are league wide while others are available through individual teams.

Fundraisers/Fundraising: The league may choose to have one mandatory fundraiser during the season to ensure that adequate operating funds are available. The opportunity for additional individual fundraising credit to offset individual player fees will also be available. All fundraising needs to be approved by the AAHL Fundraiser Coordinator.

## **TRYOUTS**

The Armstrong Arrows tryouts will take place at The Belmont Complex, in Kittanning, Pennsylvania.

### **Tryout Registration:**

- Our registration system is provided by AAHL Website/Crossbar Platform. You must have an ID (email address) and password to access our registration system. If you are a returning player, you will need to retrieve your ID and password from last year. If you are new to the Arrows, you may need to create a new ID and password.
- Obtain a 2023-2024 USA Hockey number after April 1<sup>st</sup> at [www.usahockeyregistration.com](http://www.usahockeyregistration.com). With your USAH number, go to <https://www.armstrongarrows.com/> and click on the Program Tab along the top of the menu bar and select the program that you are registering for, then follow the instructions for registration. All players will pay by credit card or ACH (bank account) withdrawal for

tryouts. All players must register via the website – all payments must be made prior to taking the ice on the first night of tryouts.

## Tryout Registration Fees:

***All prior Season balances must be paid in full before a player may be permitted to tryout.***

- A non-refundable \$100.00 tryout registration fee paid online prior to first day of tryouts.
- \$400.00 commitment fee will be paid online via credit card or bank account (ACH) with tryout registration. The commitment fee will be refunded if you decline your position on the team within the allotted time or if a position is not offered on a team.

## Tryout Absence:

If a player is going to miss all or part of tryouts, due to injury or illness, the player must still register and pay the tryout fee. The tryout team will make every effort to place the player on a team with like skilled players.

## First Day of Tryouts:

- Must have registered online and paid tryout registration fee prior to first day of tryouts. Tryout registration fee is non-refundable.
- **Players should arrive at the rink 60 minutes prior to each session and check in at the registration table - please bring:**
- A copy of your player's birth certificate if new to playing for the Armstrong Arrows.
- TWO jerseys to every session - **one dark and one white.** These jerseys should be unmarked. No names and no emblems of PAHL, PIHL, or AAA teams are permitted at tryouts. Please also remove identifying pants shells and socks for tryouts.
- Full USA Hockey equipment including neck guard and mouthpiece.
- After the first session please check the AAHL website to confirm your next tryout time.

## After Tryouts:

- Tryout numbers of the players that made a team will be posted on the tryout page.
- Shortly after results are posted, the head coach will reach out to all players to welcome them to the team.
- If your player is offered a position on an AAHL team, you will have the established deadline to accept or reject the position.
- If a position is offered and you choose to decline the position before the established deadline, the commitment fee will be electronically refunded back to you. A response will be sent back confirming your decline.
- If you do not respond within the established deadline, the commitment fee will NOT be refunded.
- If your player is not offered a position on a AAHL team your commitment fee will be electronically refunded back to you.
- An offer email will be provided to set up payment options for the season. You will be able to pay in full or use our monthly payment plan for the season via credit card or bank deposit (ACH). The commitment fee will be applied to your season fees.

## Who to Contact?

If you have any questions or concerns during the tryout process, please contact one of the following individuals:

**AAHL Hockey Director Lee Grafton at:** [aahlhockeydirector@yahoo.com](mailto:aahlhockeydirector@yahoo.com)

**AAHL President Jim Rearic at:** [jimrearic@gmail.com](mailto:jimrearic@gmail.com)

*This AAHL Tryout and Travel Guide is not a contract. This is a guide to help assist parents and players navigate through the registration process and hockey season. This guide will continuously be updated by the AAHL to provide you with the most current information.*

## ARROWS ADM/TRAVEL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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# ARROWS NATIONAL BOUND PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Arrows National Bound Teams 2023-2024:	12U PREP	14U	16U	18U	14U GIRLS	19U GIRLS
NUMBER of TEAMS PLANNED:	1	1	1	1	1	1
TRYOUT FEE:	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
SKATER TUITION FEE:	\$2360	\$2460	\$2660	\$2660	\$2400	\$2400
GOALIE SEASON FEE:	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
WORK BELMONT KITCHEN:	Yes or \$240 Buyout	Yes or \$240 Buyout	Yes or \$240 Buyout	Yes or \$240 Buyout	Yes or \$240 Buyout	Yes or \$240 Buyout
COMMITMENT FEE (Deducted from tuition balance):	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
PAYMENT PLAN OPTION:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
COACHING FEES PER PLAYER (Only applicable for non-parent coach):	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included
Apparel/Uniform Package: Game Jerseys, Game socks, Game Shell:	\$300 Estimate	\$300 Estimate	\$300 Estimate	\$300 Estimate	\$300 Estimate	\$300 Estimate
Additional Items Available: Arrows hockey bag and Team Warm-ups	Mandatory Additional Cost (Free Bag)	Mandatory Additional Cost (Free Bag)	Mandatory Additional Cost (Free Bag)	Mandatory Additional Cost (Free Bag)	Mandatory Additional Cost	Mandatory Additional Cost
Mandatory Fundraiser:	Yes - \$500	Yes - \$500	Yes - \$500	Yes - \$500	Yes - \$300	Yes - \$300
Roster Size - Skaters:	14-16	14-16	16-18	16-18	16-18	16-18
Roster Size - Goalies:	2	2	2	2	2	2
Weekly Ice Practices:	2	2	2	2	2	2
Summer Ice Practices/Preseason Camp:	Yes – Included with Season Fees	Yes – Included with Season Fees	Yes – Included with Season Fees	Yes – Included with Season Fees	Team Option Additional Fee	Team Option Additional Fee
Fitness Testing:	Included	Included	Included	Included	Team Optional	Team Optional
Schedule Format:	PAHL/Tourneys/Independent	PAHL/Tourneys/Independent	PAHL/Tourneys/Independent	PAHL/Tourneys/Independent	PAHL/Tourneys/Independent	Tourneys/Independent
National Bound (If Eligible):	No	Yes – Tier II	Yes – Tier II	Yes – Tier II	Yes – Tier II	Yes – Tier II
Game Schedule Goal:	40-50 Games	45-50 Games	45-50 Games	45-50 Games	35-40 Games	35-40 Games
Home Games Goal:	15-20	15-20	15-20	15-20	TBD	TBD
Local Tourney Goal:	2	2	2	2	2	2
Travel Tourney Goal:	2	2	3	3	2	3
Additional Cost for Tournaments & Independent Games:	Included with Season Fees	Included with Season Fees	Included with Season Fees	Included with Season Fees	Included in Season Fees	Included in Season Fees
Who Selects Tourney's?	NB Program Coordinator	NB Program Coordinator	NB Program Coordinator	NB Program Coordinator	Coaching Staff	Coaching Staff

*Armstrong Arrows National Bound Program is High School Friendly. Players are permitted to miss practice for HS Games. Players must attend National Bound Practices when HS practices conflict.*