



SCYIHA REGISTRATION & TRYOUT PROCESS 2025-2026 STATE COLLEGE ICERS & KEYSTONE WILD

Registration for Tryouts

- Registrations for tryouts will utilize Sports Engine and you must have a Sports Engine ID and password to access the registration system.
- All rostered players will need to obtain a 2025-2026 USA Hockey number which is available through the USA Hockey website beginning April 1. USA Hockey numbers will be collected after team placement is accepted.
- To register for tryouts, navigate to www.scyiha.org and select 25-26 Registration under the Icers or Keystone Wild tab along the top of the menu bar. Follow the instructions for registration for both State College Icers and Keystone Wild teams. SCYIHA requires that all players who attend State College Icers or Keystone WILD team tryouts pay a nonrefundable \$50.00 registration fee when registering for tryouts (girls-only tryouts are \$25.00 due to only being one date). **All players must register via the website and a registration fee will be required to complete the SportsEngine registration. No payments will be collected at tryouts.**
- Players desiring to tryout for both an Icers team and Keystone WILD team will need to **register for both teams independently**. There is no discount for playing on an Icers and WILD team.
- Female players desiring to play co-ed Icers or Wild should register for the appropriate tryout. A separate registration will be available for girls-only hockey. SCYIHA will support options for girls-only PAHL participation as well as girls-only tournament teams depending on demand. Females interested in girls-only (in lieu of or in addition to co-ed) should register for the all-age girls tryout which will establish commitment to a girls-only program. Girls only practice is anticipated to be held once per week.
- Players intent on playing in State College but unable to attend tryouts due to an acceptable absence must still register. Acceptable absences from announced tryout dates include illness/injury, school participation or opportunities, a scheduled game in another sport, and extenuating family circumstances. Players participating in tryouts with an injury or illness that may limit a player's potential during the tryout should report those concerns in advance. Aside from same day illnesses, any absence must be communicated to the SCYIHA secretary (scyiha.secretary@gmail.com) no later than 72 hours prior to the start of the event in order to be considered excused.
- Unless other arrangements are made or an excusable absence communicated, players **must** attend both tryouts! If a player is trying out for a coed and a girls-only team, or Icers and WILD team, the player should plan to attend all tryouts for each group.
- Players that request and are approved for a late try out or those registering *after* the tryout dates will be evaluated at the convenience of SCYIHA. A \$50 late fee will be assessed in addition to the standard \$50 Registration fee (**total of \$100 reg fee**) for late registrations (after tryouts have started). A late tryout after teams are announced may affect team placement as team sizes are already set.
- SCYIHA has a policy relative to "playing up". Please refer to the [SCYIHA Policy Manual](#) on the website for more information. Requests to "play up" must be made and approved before registering for tryouts. Please contact scyiha.secretary@gmail.com with such requests.
- Tryout dates and times by age group for the State College Icers and Keystone Wild can be found on our website (www.scyiha.org). Dates and times are subject change.



- Tryouts will be closed to spectators for the 2025-2026 season. Anyone found in the rink observing tryouts will be asked to leave; parents/guardians who are uncooperative may affect their player's placement.

State College Icercs Tryout Process:

- State College Icercs will hold tryouts at Pegula Ice Arena, State College, PA.
- All players trying out must be in full hockey equipment, including mouth guard. Players will be assigned a tryout number to pin on the back of their jersey, this will be their Tryout ID. Tryout numbers will be available for pickup at the rink on the night of tryout. Please use this same tryout number for **both** tryouts. Initial roster placement announcements will be posted using Tryout ID's, not player names...so remember your number!
- Tryouts will follow USA Hockey age-specific rules regarding body contact and checking. For the 14U age group and older, tryouts will be conducted with checking.
- See Team Placement Process below for more information on tryouts.

After Tryouts (State College Icercs):

- After tryouts, results will be compiled along with previous coach evaluations, and reviewed for final placement by the placement committee according to the team placement process (see below).
- Every effort will be made to place as many players as possible. However, not every player trying out is guaranteed a roster position on a team.
- By midnight on **Sunday, April 20th**, the team information/roster spots will be made available on the State College Icercs website www.scyiha.org. The information will be posted by Tryout ID.
- **A player has 48 hours from the time roster spots are announced to decline their roster spot. The deadline to accept or decline your team will be Tuesday, April 22nd at midnight. If you do not send an email to scyiha.secretary@gmail.com to decline your spot by Tuesday, April 22nd at midnight, you will be charged your first non-refundable ¼ installment of your season dues on Wednesday, April 23rd.**
- Remaining payments will be withdrawn on June 1st, July 1st, and August 1st. See SCYIHA policy manual regarding player fee reimbursements for rostered players.

Keystone Wild Selection:

- Team placement for Keystone Wild will be based on a selection process involving an on-ice tryout. Head coaches are expected to lead the evaluation process and whenever possible will include assistant coaches or other non-parent evaluators for feedback.
- Tryout ratings and rankings can be used to inform selection, but are not required. Placement is at the sole discretion of the coach. The intent is to field a team that is of uniform competition at the highest skill level possible based on available players. Roster offers will not be made to fill to a full roster unless skill alignment is met based on the coach evaluations.
- At the discretion of the coach, following the scheduled evaluation, a player may be asked to attend practices for additional evaluation before being offered a roster position.
- Coaches are encouraged to provide feedback to those who were not selected with suggestions to improve the player's chances in the future.
- Rosters for Wild teams are not considered final until December 31. Player adds or removals are at the sole discretion of the Head Coach.
- Head Coaches will contact players/parents before **9pm on Sunday, April 20th**, with offers for roster positions, offers for practice only positions, requests to attend practices for additional evaluation, or regrets.



- **The deadline to accept or decline an offered roster position will be Tuesday, April 22nd at midnight. If you do not communicate to the Head Coach your intent to decline a roster position by then, you will be charged your first non-refundable ¼ installment of your season dues on Wednesday, April 23rd.**
- Remaining payments will be withdrawn on June 15th, January 15th, 2026 and February 15th, 2026.

A full description of the State College Icers player placement and coach selection processes are below. Both of these processes have been used for the past several seasons with minor changes to improve placements. These processes have been approved by the Board of Directors as part of the SCYIHA Policy Manual.

We welcome constructive feedback from any member of the association following team and coach selections. If you identify any manner which you feel the process can be improved for the betterment of our association as a whole, please submit those suggestions to scyihasecretary@gmail.com or use the comment box on the website.

Team Placement Process - State College Icers

1. The placement process is managed by a committee of individuals with a wealth of hockey experience as approved by the board of directors. The Placement Committee is selected to be as unbiased as possible in the player placement process. The Placement Committee as approved by the Board of Directors is made up of Matt Erlichman (Chair; SCYIHA Coach Coordinator), Megan Klaus, David Lee, Hayden Fried, Bryan Lee, Jake Lukasic, Paul Robinson, Kyle Elkin, Mike Doyle, and Pete Brumberg (SCYIHA President).
2. SCYIHA will strive to create or provide an opportunity for all players interested in participating on an Icers team. Team size, skill range, team composition, player safety, the individual's development opportunities will all be considered when evaluating and rostering players. Not all players are guaranteed to be offered a roster position. In addition, SCYIHA cannot guarantee all proposed teams will exist following player placements as that is dependent on enough players accepting their roster spot.
3. A player's physical skill is the main point of evaluation during a tryout. However, emotional and mental maturity as well as hockey IQ are more evident over the course of a full season. All attributes combined contribute to a proper player placement. Since our association is small and nearly every player trying out is known to at least one coach, our process relies on that knowledge of a player's attributes as seen over the course of a full season to help supplement the results of a tryout rating process.
4. Prior to tryouts, head coaches from the past year will be asked to evaluate and provide feedback on every player to be used to validate tryout results. Head coaches will be asked to include a statement on each player, including recommendations for next year, player ratings in individual areas which are hard to discern through tryouts, and a player ranking within their team. Head coaches with a player on the team must defer evaluation and ranking of their player to an assistant coach. These player evaluations will be made available to the placement committee.
5. During tryouts, players will be evaluated at every age level by experienced hockey players and coaches. Evaluators are selected so that no parent will evaluate an age group in which they have a player. Preference is given to evaluators who have served as a head coach or assistant coach within SCYIHA. When possible, evaluator assignments are made to remove evaluators from age groups where they are familiar with the players.
6. Evaluators are all provided a standard form with a numerical scale on which to rate each player over multiple categories. Each evaluator's ratings are individual and relative to their own views. Players are evaluated based on player tryout ID and not player names. Player evaluations will not be released or otherwise made public. Parents interested in tryout feedback are encouraged to speak to the Placement Committee.
7. Following completion of both tryouts, the Placement Committee will compile each player's tryout rating based on the average of each category scores for any individual. Ratings from previous coaches will be combined with the



tryout ratings. A weighted average is used based on the player's previous age group and team along with the tryout rating (roughly 50% average for tryout rating and coach rating). All players in an age group are then ranked (player ranking) in order based on the combined tryout and coach rating (known as the player rating). Player rankings are listed in order of highest to lowest based on player rating by Tryout ID.

8. The Placement Committee will convene to review the resultant of player rankings. Based on number of players and skill level split, the committee will first make a determination on the appropriate number of teams at each age group, and then identify the cut line based on tryout ID and player ratings. Team sizes are considered when developing cutoff points for player placement. Cutoff points will also consider jumps or gaps in player ratings. Player rankings and cutoffs will not be released or otherwise made public. Parents interested in tryout feedback are encouraged to speak to the Placement Committee.
9. Following initial team splits, player names will be revealed as part of the placement process as they are associated with the player tryout ID. A review will be conducted for each player's placement based on player ranking compared to the previous year's coach evaluations and recommendations. A combination of tryout rating and coach evaluations/rating will be used to inform final player team placement. A player's team placement position will be adjusted from the tryout ranking where there is clear data informing that decision, and only when a majority of the committee is in favor of the adjustment. Previous head or assistant coaches may be consulted prior to final placement decisions for further input to guide the committee with player placement.
10. Should any of the committee members be in a position where they are a parent of an affected player (directly or indirectly) being discussed, that member will excuse themselves from the discussion.
11. Once final team placements are agreed upon by the committee, a recommendation for team sizes at each age division will be presented to the Board of Directors for final approval of team sizes by player tryout ID. The teams as presented to the board will indicate player by tryout ID only (player ratings will not be included) with final placement as adjusted through the process outlined above. No names are included for board review unless specific reason dictates that as necessary and as supplied by the committee. Any objections to any team roster or player placement by any member of the committee will also be conveyed for board consideration during final approval.
12. SCYIHA will not revise placements following the announcement of teams. There is no appeals process for player placement. Should players need to be re-rostered following the placement announcement (typically due to departure or influx of players), request will be made to the player for approval. Re-rostering is not anticipated to include a move from a higher skilled to a lower skilled team.

Coach Selection Process (as approved by the Board of Directors):

1. The coach selection process is managed by a committee of individuals with wealth of coaching and development experience as approved by the Board of Directors. The coach selection committee is formed to provide a range of coaching viewpoints and backgrounds from individuals committed to following USA Hockey's American Development Model for Long Term Athlete Development. This year's Coach Selection Committee as approved by the Board of Directors consists of Matt Erlichman (Chair; SCYIHA Coach Coordinator), Bryan Lee (Pegula Rink Manager & Official), David Lee (past SCYIHA Coach), Rob Jacobs (SCYIHA Board Member & Coach), Bryan Ollendyke (SCYIHA Board Member & Coach), Jake Lukasic (SCYIHA Coach & Official) and Pete Brumberg (SCYIHA President).
2. Interested coaches are required to submit an application via SportsEngine. Applications include questions such as previous coaching experience (hockey and non-hockey coaching), coaching credentials through USA Hockey, approach to coaching and views on player and youth development.



3. As many of our coaches are also parents who want to remain with their player, coach selection is completed following team placement (coach assignments do not dictate player placement). Interested coaches are compiled into the teams they would coach based on completed player placement.
4. Non-parent head coach qualifications are reviewed and as appropriate are given priority in coach selection. Non-parent head coaches have in the past been asked to take ownership of teams that had no other available coach even though it was not their preferred age group or skill level.
5. The coaching selection committee reviews options when available for each team, discusses the qualifications, characteristics, and known history of those coaches within the association.
6. Selection is made based in the best interest of the team being discussed and may not be reflective of the coach with the most experience. For example, a change in coach may be viewed as a benefit to player development resulting in a less experienced coach being selected over a more experienced coach who had coached those same players in previous years.
7. Coach selection must be agreed upon by the majority of the committee.
8. Where a coaching candidate also serves as a member of the coach selection committee, that coach remains eligible as a coaching candidate. Where such crossover occurs, the candidate is not eligible to vote on the coach selection for the team on which they are a candidate. They are eligible and encouraged to take part of the discussion for each candidate including answering committee member questions regarding their own qualifications.
9. The coach selection committee may choose to interview candidates or have discussion regarding approach as part of the selection process.
10. Once coach selections are made, those recommendations are provided to the Board of Directors for review and approval. Any committee member objections to the recommendations for head coaches will be conveyed to the board for their consideration during final approval.
11. Once head coaches are approved and notified, they will be asked to form their coaching staff by selecting assistants and to help identify a team manager with whom they will work throughout the year. While assistants and team managers are left to the discretion of the head coach, the board reserves the right to approve, deny, or remove any coaching staff member at any time based on actions which are not commensurate with SCYIHA policies, mission or goals.