



**NC FORCE HOCKEY
2017-2018 SEASON PROGRAM**

TIER II AA , TIER II A

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PROGRAM DETAILS & COST

NC FORCE 2017-2018 PROGRAM					
	U10 A	U12 AA/A	14 AA/A	U16 AA	U18 AA
Ages	9-10	15-16	17-18	15-16	17-18
Birth Years	2008-2007	2005-2006	2004-2003	2002-2001	2000-1999
USA Hockey Level	A	AA/A TBD	AA/A TBD	AA	AA
League	CHL	CHL	CHL	CHL	CHL
Roster Size	15 skaters, 2 goalies	14-16 skaters, 2 goalies	14-16 skaters, 2 goalies	16-18 skaters, 2 goalies	16-18 skaters, 2 goalies
Tryouts	No	No	No	No	No
Practices	30-34 Full/Shared	30-34 Full/Shared	30-34 Full/Shared	26-28 Full/Shared	26-28 Full/Shared
CHL League Games	12 (3-9 home)	12 (3-9 home)	12 (3-9 home)	12 (3-9 home)	12 (3-9 home)
Exhibition Games	6-8 (3-5 home)	9-12 (5-7 home)	9-12 (5-7 home)	10-14 (6-8 home)	10-14 (6-8 home)
Tournaments	2	2	2	3 to 4	3 to 4
Total Games	25-28	30-32	30-32	40-44	40-44
National Bound	NA	NA	NO	TBD	YES
Uniforms/Jerseys	\$250 Approx.	\$250 Approx.	\$250 Approx.	\$250 Approx.	\$250 Approx.
Team Warm Up Suits	\$100 Approx	\$100 Approx	\$100 Approx	\$100 Approx	\$100 Approx
Program Cost	\$2,350	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,900	\$2,900
COACHING STAFF	PAUL STRAND	HEAD COACH	U10-U18	PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER	
	STEVE SABO	HEAD COACH	U10-U18	DIRECTOR OF HOCKEY OPERATIONS	
	GEOFF GRANT	ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH	U14-U18		
	JOHN LOEHR	ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH	U10-U12		
	KYLIE STEPHENS	GOALIE COACH	U10-U18		

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

- Weekend Model – Friday/Sunday Evening practices, Wake Forest
- League Games – Carolinas Hockey League
- Exhibition Games – Locally and mainly within CAHA, D.C., Atlanta, Etc.
- Tournaments U16,U18 – Nike Bauer, Orlando, Prep Showcase, Etc
- Tournaments U10,U12, U14 – Local, D.C., Nashville, Driving Distance, etc.
- Professional Coaching Staff

Monday through Thursday

- School Work
- Alternative sports
- Family time
- Physical and Athletic development (Track work, Cross-fit, Gym)

PROGRAM HISTORY

NC Force began in 2015-2016 with two teams, U16 and U18. The idea was to provide the hockey community with an alternative to the current offerings that required our players to be consumed with hockey 24/7 for 7-9 months of the year. The NC Force program had a later starting date and would set free the weekdays (Monday-Thursday) for the kids to compete in other sports, work on schoolwork, spend time with family and friends outside of the hockey world.

NC Force believes that with professional coaching, the hockey players of North Carolina can utilize less ice time, the main driver of costs for our young kids, to develop quality hockey players at a comparable level to



programs that utilize greater quantities of ice time with volunteer or parent coaching staffs. This allows NC Force to keep their costs lower in comparison to other A and AA programs while proving in its two seasons to remain highly competitive. Or in the case of the U10 program in 2016-2017 to show the greatest improvement from start to finish than any other program in the area.

In 2015-2016, NC Force U16 and U18 teams were highly competitive. U16 winning a AA tournament in Pittsburgh and the U18 team reaching the finals of the Big Bear tournament in Raleigh over MLK weekend. Both teams improved from start to finish. The U16 team sent multiple players to Junior Hockey, Prep School and AAA teams for 2016-2017 (Brian Robson and Connor McCreedy - Carolina Eagles Junior, Blake Flanders- Atlanta Knights Junior, Mac Makel New Jersey Titans U18 AAA, Joshua Beese Culver Academy)

In 2016-2017, NC Force added a U10 A team. All three teams played difficult schedules in relation to their skill level. The U16 and U18 teams beat all local teams, including the National Champions Carolina Junior Hurricanes U18 twice in the Big Bear Dry Code tournament held in Raleigh on Presidents weekend 2017. Both the U16 and U18 won the championship that weekend. The U10 A NC Force saw the single biggest improvement per player in the Wake County area over the course of the season.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

NC Force wants to provide a good sports/school/life balance and at the same time believes we are here to encourage and assist kids in moving on to higher levels or to levels that they wish to attain. After the initial season NC Force moved several kids to other programs:

- Mac Makel – New Jersey Titans U18 AAA
- Joshua Beese – Culver Academy
- Blake Flanders – Atlanta Knights Junior
- Connor McCreedy – Carolina Eagles Junior
- Brian Robson – Carolina Eagles Junior
- Mikey Rea – University of Carolina – Charlotte

This past spring NC Force took 4 of its players (Austin Finch-2000, Buddy Barritt-1999, Jake Humble-2000 and Anthony Digirolamo-1998) and 2 Carolina Eagles Junior players (Zac Horn-1999, Eric Daniels-1998) to a tryout in North Battleford of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey Tier 2 Junior A league. The SJHL is one of the top Tier 2 leagues in North America. In 2016-2017, North Battleford Stars won the regular season and the playoffs earning a berth in the Western Canada Cup. NC Force is all about providing opportunities for kids to get to a higher level and will look for these opportunities for all players who have the desire, work ethic, skill and dreams to play hockey in their future.

These players were not charged for the tryout and only had to pay expenses to get there. NC Force will always try to make sure that players get opportunities to get looked at in an environment that is not a 'money maker' for another hockey program. The players had a great experience and NC Force is confident that the experience gained at tryouts like these will result in future promotions.



COACHING STAFF: HEAD COACHES

PAUL STRAND

- UNIV. OF ALBERTA GOLDEN BEARS - 15 TIME CANADIAN UNIV. CHAMPIONS
- 7 YEARS MINOR PRO - ECHL, GERMAN BUNDESLIGA, CHL
- 6 YEARS - YOUTH COORDINATOR CAROLINA HURRICANES NHL
- 15 YEARS COACHING EXPERIENCE - MITE THROUGH COLLEGE
- QUEBEC PEE-WEE CHAMPION COACH 2010

STEVE SABO

- UNIV. OF WISCONSIN BADGERS - NCAA DIVISION I - 6 TIME NCAA CHAMPIONS
- 4 YEARS MINOR PRO - AHL, ECHL
- 15 YEARS COACHING EXPERIENCE - MITE THROUGH U18
- U16AA NATIONAL CHAMPION COACH 2013 - GREENSBORO STARS

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACHES

GEOFF GRANT - U14, U18

- RAISED IN MONTREAL YOUTH HOCKEY
- 2 YEARS ASSISTANT COACH U16AA, U18AA
- 8 YEARS COACHING HOUSE LEAGUE - U18AA

JOHN LOEHR - U10, U12

- 27 years hockey experience
- 10 years of hockey coaching experience
- Bladez on Ice: (Learn to Play, House Hockey League, Power skating, Learn to Skate, Camp Programs, and Private Lessons)
- ECHA Jr Pirates: (Developmental Team, Squirts Travel Team, Clinics, Pirate Prep, Pirate University, Off-Ice Development, and State Games)
- RYHA: (U18 Coach)
- Polar: (Learn to Skate, Camp Hockey Lessons, Slapshot Sam, Kindercanes, Hockey Basics, Youth Learn to Play, Adult Learn to Play, Power Skating, Hockey Clinics)
- Privates: Coaches hockey full time, and has coached over 150 private students in The Triangle. John currently has over 50 students that work with him ongoing each month, as well as others that work with him over summer break and track out breaks. He has helped many parents and other adults develop a love for the game while learning the game as well.
- USA Hockey Level 4 Coach
- PSA: CER Category C



GOALIE COACH

KYLIE STEPHENS - NCAA HARVARD DI

Kylie grew up in the Raleigh area and played locally with the East Coast Eagles. She also played youth hockey with the Assabet Valley girls program in Massachusetts and won three Tier I USA Hockey National Championships. Kylie played her high school career at the Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, MA. In '05 and '06 she was selected to USA Hockey National Player Development Camps. She graduated from Harvard in 2011 where she played three years with the Women's DI team and one year with the men's club team. She has been coaching at camps since she was sixteen and has actively worked with both adult and youth goalies in North Carolina since 2011. She is a USA Hockey certified Level 4 coach.



QUESTIONS

Please feel free to contact us with any questions, concerns or comments regarding the upcoming hockey season. Thank you **NC FORCE HOCKEY**.

CONTACT US

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