



ASKED QUESTIONS

What is this change?

Minnesota Special Hockey is now an affiliate of the Minnesota Wild. The Minnesota Wild AND the NHL created and approved a logo for our Minnesota Wild Special Hockey Teams.

What is all changing?

- Our logo will become the image you see above.
- Our organization and team colors will become forest green, red, and cream like the MN Wild.
- Our association will still be the Minnesota Special Hockey Program, however we will all be Minnesota Wild Special Hockey teams. Our teams will no longer use the Stingers, Polars, etc... we will all be the Minnesota Wild Special Hockey, we will then be identified by the cities majority of their ice is scheduled in.

Will we all be on one team now?

No, we will still be separate teams same teams as in the past, just all wearing the same logo.

If we are all the same, will anyone be able to tell the difference?

We will identify each team as Minnesota Wild Special Hockey – Woodbury (each team will be identified by the city/town where majority of their home ice is scheduled)

Will my jersey change?

Yes! Each player will receive one home and one away jersey with the new logo. The dark jerseys will be for the home games and the light jerseys will be for away games. This way it is not confusing when we play each other. You will receive the new jerseys at no cost.

Will my jersey number change?

Not unless you want it to. Each team will still have all the numbers. With over 180 athletes it is impossible for us to have different numbers throughout the program. Every player will have first right of refusal for their current jersey number **AS LONG AS YOU ARE REGISTERED BY OCTOBER 1, IF YOU REGISTER AFTER THIS DATE AND SOMEONE ELSE REQUESTED YOUR NUMBER YOUR NUMBER WILL BE GIVEN AWAY.** If you want to change numbers you can. During the registration process, you will have the opportunity to put in a request for a new number. You will be asked to indicate your top 5 desired numbers. The requests for new numbers will be honored on a first come first serve basis. Those who register first will have the first rights to new/open (not currently in use) numbers.

Will I get a new jacket?

We are going to offer patches for no charge that will be able to be placed over the existing patches. We simply will not be able to afford all new jackets and jerseys this year. IF you would like to purchase a new jacket you will be given that opportunity. We will also be working on a plan to replace the others. It is just not in our budget this year.

When is the change occurring?

Effective immediately!

Why is this happening?

For a number of reasons.

- The biggest reason is that we want to unite with the MN Wild.
- Our existing association logo looks like we are with the U of M, Twin Cities and our Duluth team as not really like this as they are BULLDOGS! The Wild is the State of Hockey, the entire State of Minnesota.
- This will also help with future growth. It simply is not sustainable to continue to create new logos and new teams. Jerseys, Apparel, Branding and Marketing has always been a challenge. With us being youth small to adult 4XL AND we were going to be 14 different logos this year it is simply not sustainable!
- We will also be able to change up some games and opportunities.

What about my old team gear?

It's now vintage! You can still wear it of course and rep that you are a true Minnesota Special Hockey OG. Wear it with pride as you were there "way back when." The only ask we have is that when we are volunteering and promoting the program, say, at Disabled Hockey Night at the X, that you wear Minnesota Wild Special Hockey apparel.

What are these other program upgrades you talk about?

Well, you likely already know that we are adding teams in three new cities this year, Brainerd, the Maple Grove area, and St. Cloud. Second, instead of just one jersey, we will be getting home green and away white uniforms for every player, just like the Wild! Next, we will have a few game weeks this season that will be dedicated ability-level games just like we experience when we go to the national and international festivals. We are working out the logistics of this at the moment and will let you know more soon. Lastly, teams' rosters are going to be more defined like the MN Hockey Associations districts would. This will help maintain a better balance in teams, better balance in roster sizes, and help many of our players to be on a team closer to home.

Can I change teams?

Yes, you can change teams this year, however, if you choose to change you will need to change to the team that is closest to your home geographically. We are not going to be switching from team to team like we have in the past. All current players are able to stay on their current team, however in the future new players will register for the team that is closest to them.

When and where and how can I use the new logo?

We are producing a more detailed guide but the general idea is

- 1) if you are just wanting to show the logo to a friend, go for it.*
- 2) If you want to make anything to promote special hockey (flyers, apparel, brochures, etc) we will need you to ask us first as we have to get permission to use it.*
- 3) You cannot sell any branded material commercially/for profit.*
- 4) You cannot manipulate the logo.*