



## Why play travel hockey for the Anaheim Jr. Ducks?

**Whatever level you aspire to**, the Jr. Ducks have a program to fit your personal and developmental needs and a track record of player growth and advancement. Here is some of what the Jr. Ducks can provide during your hockey playing experience.

### Our Mission

The Irvine ICE Foundation Amateur Hockey Association, consisting of the Anaheim Jr. Ducks and Lady Ducks, is dedicated to the development of our players at every skill level. Over the past 20-plus years, our association has maintained its status as one of the premier hockey programs in not only California but the Western United States by providing its players with a positive atmosphere that encourages good sportsmanship, teamwork and, above all, an opportunity to enjoy their youth hockey experience. The Jr. Ducks and Lady Ducks are recognized as Model Club Associations by USA Hockey and are dedicated to age-appropriate, age-specific skill development, in accordance with USA Hockey's American Development Model. Our Tier I (AAA) teams gain the highest possible development and competitive learning experience, and they develop elite players who are capable of attaining their future hockey goals.

### Any path is within reach

**Pro hockey:** The club had eight alumni playing professional hockey during the 2019-20 season, and that number figures to climb after NHL teams picked three former Jr. Ducks in the past two NHL Entry Drafts and several other players are poised to conclude their college careers. The Entry Draft picks were Slava Demin by Vegas (99<sup>th</sup> overall) in 2018 and Cam York by Philadelphia (14<sup>th</sup> overall) and Ryan Johnson (31<sup>st</sup> overall) by Buffalo. York is the highest-drafted California-born and -trained player ever. In addition, Annie Pankowski was the first overall pick in the National Women's Hockey League draft in 2018.

**International competition:** Cam York, Ryan Johnson, Josh Groll, Cayla Barnes, Annie Pankowski and Dominique Petrie have represented Team USA in various competitions. Barnes won gold with Team USA at the 2018 Winter Olympics, while she and Petrie have won gold at the Women's Under-18 World Championships. Pankowski has been on three Women's World Championship gold medalists and numerous other age-specific competitions. York has represented Team USA at the World Junior Championships as well as at the U18 and U17 levels. Johnson and Groll have won medals for the U.S. in the World Jr. A Challenge and at the Five Nations Cup. York became the first Jr. Duck to play for the prestigious U.S. National Team Development Program in 2017. Johnson, Slava Demin and Nick Kent have attended the USNTDP's top-40 evaluation camp in recent years.

**College:** A total of 25 Jr. Ducks have made NCAA Division I college commitments in the past six years and at least three dozen more have played D-III or ACHA club hockey. A total of 36 alumni played NCAA or ACHA hockey during the 2019-20 season.

**Juniors:** In seven seasons of AAA hockey, the Jr. Ducks have helped 60-plus players move on to Junior A hockey, dozens more play Junior B and a couple more ascend to major junior in Canada. This past season alone, 44 former Jr. Ducks were playing various levels of junior hockey.

**Prep school:** More than a dozen Jr. Ducks have gone on to the nation's top prep schools.





## We give you the tools to get there

**Coaching:** Our coaches have played in top leagues around the world, including the NHL and in Europe, and have represented their countries in international competitions, with Director of Coaches Craig Johnson having played in the Olympics. Johnson also served as an assistant coach for Team USA at the 2016 Deutschland Cup. Many hold Level 4 or Level 5 certifications from USA Hockey. Several are renowned for their skill development work with players from the pro, college, junior and youth hockey ranks.

**Connections:** Several members of the Jr. Ducks coaching staff scout for teams in the BCHL, NAHL, USHL and WHL, and Director of Player Personnel Alex Kim serves as the USHL's Chief Scout and participates in USA Hockey' High Performance Camp as a coach and evaluator.

**Competition:** The Jr. Ducks AAA teams compete in the heavily scouted Tier 1 Elite Hockey League, playing in at least eight nationwide showcases every season. The 16U team won the league's regular-season championship in 2017-18, and the 16U and 18U teams regularly finish in the top half of the standings.

**Facilities:** The club has access to 13 sheets of ice at six Rinks facilities in Southern California, highlighted by four sheets in Irvine at the state-of-the-art Great Park Ice and Five Points Arena, which opened in 2019.

## Recent Jr. Ducks NCAA Division I commitments

F Cayla Barnes (Boston College)	F Elijah Barriga (American Int.)	F Sam Deckhut (St. Lawrence)
D Slava Demin (Denver)	F Jack Gates (Colorado College)	F Andre Ghantous (N. Michigan)
F Josh Groll (Michigan)	F Cooper Haar (Canisius)	F Rory Herrman (RPI)
D Ryan Johnson (Minnesota)	D Nicholas Kent (Quinnipiac)	D Kyle Mayhew (Denver)
C Shane McMahan (Minnesota St.)	F Jackson Niedermayer (Arizona St.)	G Gavin Nieto (Brown)
G Garrett Nieto (Union)	D Jerrett Overland (Air Force)	F Jonathan Panisa (Massachusetts)
F Dominique Petrie (Harvard)	G Patrick Pugliese (Niagara)	D Rourke Russell (Miami)
D Chad Sasaki (Colorado College)	F Eetu Selanne (Northeastern)	F Henri Schreifels (RPI)
D Julian Timba (AIC)	F Ethan Wolthers (Massachusetts)	D Cam York (Boston College)

## Individual development goes hand-in-hand with team success

**Team successes:** In the seven seasons since the Jr. Ducks expanded their program to include AAA hockey, the club has had 11 teams – including the 15U squad in 2019-20 – qualify for the USA Hockey Nationals. The 16U team took third in 2018, bringing the club its first AAA medal. Eight AA teams have qualified for Nationals since 2013. The Jr. Ducks have won 19 CAHA State titles at the AAA and AA levels since 2015.

**Individual achievements:** The accolades for Jr. Ducks players have been numerous in recent years:

- In June 2019, the club had alumni Cam York and Ryan Johnson selected in the first round of the NHL Entry Draft. York, taken 14<sup>th</sup> overall by Philadelphia, became the highest-drafted California-born and –trained player ever. Johnson was selected 31<sup>st</sup> overall by Buffalo. York previously was the club's first player to earn a spot in the prestigious U.S. National Team Development Program. In June 2018, Slava Demin, who is playing collegiately at Denver, was taken in the fourth round of the Entry Draft by Vegas, 99<sup>th</sup> overall. Annie Pankowski was the first overall selection in the NWHL draft in December 2018.
- In February 2018, Cayla Barnes helped Team USA win a gold medal in women's hockey at Olympic Games. She also won golds at the 2019 Women's World Championship and the U18 Worlds from 2015-17.
- Annie Pankowski has won three gold medals at the Women's World Championships (2015, 2016, 2019) and has won five medals, including three golds, at the Four Nations Cup. She also won a silver medal at the 2012 U18 Worlds and was a three-time member of the U22 Select Team.
- In 2018 and 2017, Dominique Petrie helped Team USA win gold medals at the Women's U18 World Championships.





- In May 2017, Johnson became the highest-drafted Californian ever in the USHL Futures Draft in 2017 (third overall to the Sioux Falls Stampede). He went on to win a gold medal with Team USA at the 2018 World Jr. A Challenge and the USHL's Clark Cup with the Stampede in 2019.
- In August 2017, Johnson and Josh Groll helped Team USA win gold the U17 Five Nations Tournament. Groll later won a bronze medal with Team USA at the 2019 World Jr. A Challenge.

## Don't just take our word for it

"I wouldn't have the skills I have today without the pre-practice sessions and the coaching I received from Craig Johnson and Scott Niedermayer. When I listened to them at the time I didn't always know what was going on, but now that I've moved on in the game I realize how helpful their advice was."

*Cam York, Michigan class of 2023 and 2019 Philadelphia Flyers first-round draft pick*

"The coaching I received helped me tremendously. Progress was expected. All of the coaches I played for and took lessons from were beneficial. The competition, both within our team and against other teams, pushed us to get better. Everyone got along, and that culture helped me grow as a person and a player."

*Ryan Johnson, Minnesota class of 2023 and 2019 Buffalo Sabres first-round draft pick*

"It was nice to be able to practice against and play with skilled, motivated players. Every day we were competing against guys who were going to playing in juniors and college."

*Jack Gates, Colorado College class of 2021 and Janesville (NAHL)*

"What sets the Jr. Ducks apart is how professionally the teams are run. Every day we were expected to work our hardest, and that high level of expectation pushed our team to play its best."

*Josh Groll, University of Michigan commit and one of the top scorers for Lincoln (USHL)*

"I played my entire youth hockey career with the Jr. Ducks and went to Nationals four times with four different coaches. I learned valuable lessons from every coach I had. ... I had everything I needed with the Jr. Ducks, I never needed to look elsewhere to play."

*Paul Selleck, Alberni Valley (BCHL) and Trinity College class of 2023*

"The Jr. Ducks develop competitive teams and players every season. You know you're going to get great coaching and compete at the highest levels. I played with great players, and we're still very close knit."

*Chad Sasaki, Doyle Cup champion Wenatchee (BCHL) and Colorado College class of 2023*

## Notable Jr. Ducks Alumni

Chase Balisy, NHL (Florida), AHL, Europe, NCAA

Max Becker, Princeton (ECAC)

Noah Clarke, NHL (L.A., New Jersey), AHL, Europe

\*Slava Demin, Denver (NCHC)

Jack Gates, Colorado College (NCHC)

Nate Kallen, ECHL, NCAA

Dennis Kravchenko, ECHL, NCAA

Kyle Mayhew, Denver (NCHC)

P.J. Musico, ECHL, NCAA

Darren Nowick, Europe, AHL, NCAA

Brett Peterson, AHL, ECHL, NCAA

Chad Sasaki, Colorado College (NCHC)

Garrett Stafford, NHL (Dallas, Det., Pho.), AHL, Eur.

Mitch Wahl, AHL, Europe

Cayla Barnes, Boston Col. (Hockey East), Team USA

Matthew Caito, Europe, AHL

Collin Delia, NHL (Chicago), AHL

\*Torrey DiRoberto, AHL, ECHL

\*Ryan Johnson, Minnesota (Big Ten)

Alex Kim, AHL, Europe, Asia, NCAA

Troy Loggins, AHL, ECHL, NCAA

Justin Morrison, AHL, Europe, NCAA

Gavin Nieto, Brown (ECAC)

Annie Pankowski, Wisconsin (WCHA), Team USA

Colin Reddin, ECHL, USNTDP

Brian Salcido, NHL (Anaheim), AHL, Europe

Carl Stankowski, Seattle (WHL)

\*Cam York, Michigan (NCAA), USNTDP

*\*NHL draft pick*

