



The purpose of this document is to communicate as much information about the upcoming hockey season as possible. While there is a significant amount of planning that goes into each season, there are many factors that influence what ultimately occurs, including mandates from D6 and other governing bodies. Please understand these are general guidelines and estimates and that actual dates, costs, etc. will vary.

Mission Statement: Prior Lake-Savage Hockey Association (PLSHA) is a volunteer organization. Our objective is to teach our players respect for; teammates, coaches, the game, and to take pride in being a Laker community. We are guided by the values of: perseverance through adversity, personal integrity, discipline, and good sportsmanship. Our success will be measured by our players reaching their potential while having fun and loving the game of hockey. It's about the kids! Dedication to our mission will ensure PLSHA is represented at the highest level possible.

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General Info

| <u>Level of Play</u> | <u>Format</u> | <u>Age by birth date¹</u> | <u>Tryouts/Season</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rookie Mites | In house | Born on or before June 1, 2021 | Jan – Mar |
| Mite Level 1-4 | In house | Born on or after June 1, 2016 | Oct – Mar |
| Youth Squirt | Traveling | June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2016 | Oct – Mar |
| 10 & Under Girls | Traveling | June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2016 | Oct – Mar |
| Youth Peewee | Traveling | June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2014 | Oct - Mar |
| 12 & Under Girls | Traveling | June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2014 | Oct – Mar |
| Youth Bantam | Traveling | June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2012 | Oct - Mar |
| 15 & Under Girls ² | Traveling | June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2012 | Nov – Feb |
| Jr Gold 16 | Traveling | June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2010 | Nov - Feb |
| Jr Gold | Traveling | June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2008 | Nov - Feb |

¹Based on [Minnesota Hockey Age Charts & Participation Levels](#)

¹ Players MUST play at the level consistent with their birth date. Please refer to the [Operating Policy](#) for additional information regarding exceptions.

Girls Traveling Program: Please note that PLSHA is merging with Shakopee for Girls Traveling for the 2025-2026 Season. Additional details on registration will be provided to all Traveling Girls Families. Mite Girls will remain within PLSHA.

Registration dates (all registration to be completed at [PLSHA.com](#)*):

- **Traveling:** July 28 – August 17 @ 11:59 PM
- **Mites Level 1-4:** July 28 – September 22 @ 11:59 PM
- **Rookie Camp:** July 28 – October 1 @ 11:59 PM
- **Rookie Mites:** July 28 – December 1 @ 11:59 PM
- **Jr Gold:** July 28 – October 31 @ 11:59 PM

***ALL LATE REGISTRATIONS SUBJECT TO A LATE FEE OF \$100 MINIMUM**

Registration Payment:

Payment for registration must be made via credit or debit card through the PLSHA website registration software. It is important to note the following regarding registration fees:

- Any player who has a balance on their fees from the prior year will not be allowed to participate in tryouts and/or placed on a team until those fees are paid.
- A player who withdraws their registration shall only be issued a partial refund in the following circumstances:
 - Withdrawal prior to tryouts/evaluations will be assessed a \$50 registration processing fee. The remainder of the fee will be refunded.
 - For Rookie Mites: Withdrawal prior to the 1st practice will be assessed a \$50 registration processing fee. The remainder of the fee will be refunded.

- Withdrawal after tryouts have started due to placement on a Prior Lake High School team will receive a prorated refund of their registration fee based on the portion of the season already elapsed.
- A player who withdraws their registration after tryouts/evaluations have started will not be issued a refund for any amount of their registration.
- Players may only register and try out for either the youth or girls' program.

If you have questions regarding registration, please contact the registrar at plsharegistrar@gmail.com

Minnesota Hockey Participation Rule:

MN Hockey and District 6 have strict rules regarding residency and where a child is allowed to play. This is being strictly enforced and player information is being verified. For current policy details please visit www.minnesotahockey.org and view the Handbook. If you believe you would like to apply for a waiver, please contact PLSHA Registrar at plsharegistrar@gmail.com

Changes that went into effect prior to the 2024-25 season from MN Hockey are as follows:

- Mites MUST play where they reside/live, unless a discretionary waiver is issued. Must be granted each season.
- Squirts/10U players have the ONE-TIME ability to waive into an association whose boundaries incorporate the school in which the player is attending. MUST occur prior to the start of the players first year of Squirts or 10U level. This is a mandatory waiver.
 - Any player granted a school-based waiver prior to Jan 20 2024 is grandfathered.
 - If a player has not obtained a waiver based on school attendance prior to being eligible for Squirts or 10U they may ONLY play outside of their Association of residence by obtaining a discretionary waiver.
 - If the player stops attending the school they revert to their association of residence.
- Junior Gold players have the ability to waive into an association whose boundaries incorporate the school in which the player is attending. MUST occur prior to the start of the players' first year of Junior Gold. This is a mandatory waiver.
 1. **Discretionary Waiver** – an agreement between associations to transfer a player for reasons as agreed to by the affected associations and District Director(s).
 2. **Mandatory Waiver** – neither the releasing nor the accepting association can decline to approve a school attendance waiver that meets the requirements of MH.

Please read the announcement here: [Minnesota Hockey Announces Rule Change to Waivers](#)

Failure to follow the appropriate waiver process can result in team disqualification and/or being removed from the team during the season. A \$2000 fine will be issued to any family found to have provided false or fraudulent registration information, such as incorrect residential addresses. The fine is payable to District 6.

Minnesota Hockey Recreational League:

This league is designed as an alternative to competitive traveling league and has been a very popular option for parents and kids who are looking for a low cost, low commitment hockey alternative. If you

choose to play in the recreational league, you **SHOULD NOT** register with PLSHA. The mission of the MHRL is to teach kids the fundamentals of ice hockey in a recreational environment; to foster a spirit of sportsmanship and fair play; to provide a setting where learning about the game of hockey is fun and safe; and to promote affordable youth hockey opportunities in the Twin Cities metro area. Additional info about the Rec League and registration details can be found by visiting <http://www.minnesotahockey.org/recleague>

Coaches:

Non-Parent Coaches: The objective is to have non-parent coaches for the top team at each traveling age level (“AA”, “A” or “B1”). This is not always achieved but is PLSHA’s objective.

Parent Coaches: Parent coaches will be identified after final player level (e.g. AA, A, B1, B2, C, etc.) placements have been made and will be notified and offered the opportunity to coach at that time. Please apply at www.plsha.com – click on the Coaches tab and follow the instructions. All Coach selections will be made by the PLSHA Hockey Development Committee(s) (i.e. HDC).

Certification Requirements: All coaches at **any** level and with **any** involvement with a PLSHA team must follow the [coaching certification process defined and facilitated through USA Hockey and PLSHA](#). Updated guidelines are being issued for the season and will be communicated as soon as they are available via the Coach tab on PLSHA website. Any questions regarding coaching certification should be directed to plshacoaches@gmail.com

USA Hockey Registration: All PLSHA coaches assigned to a team **MUST** individually register as a “Coach” with USA Hockey at www.usahockey.com prior to any practice session. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!** This cost (along with other module-related coaching expenses) will be refunded **IF** a paid receipt is submitted, in one submission, by 12/31 of the current season. You must include your name and write your home address on the receipts and send them to the PLSHA mailbox at PO Box 92, Prior Lake, MN 55372, or drop it in the Treasurer’s mailbox in the Coaches Room, rink 2.

Mite Program Overview

Below, you will find important information that will help you to navigate through the PLSHA Mite season. Additional information and registration can be found on the [Mite Page](#) on the PLSHA website (www.plsha.com). If you have additional questions, please reach out to the Mite Director/Coordinator.

Program Objectives: To provide an enjoyable introduction to youth hockey for players of all abilities. Prior Lake/Savage Youth Hockey Association (PLSHA) will aim to teach the fundamentals of hockey that will include individual skill development such as skating, balance, agility, shooting and puck control. PLSHA encourages participation and commitment and will provide a healthy and fun environment to encourage development and learning. PLSHA Mite program will provide an opportunity for all to play at an appropriate level to strengthen your child's development.

Philosophy: The PLSHA Mite program is the first rung in the development ladder of the PLSHA youth hockey program. Building a positive and enjoyable environment for the youngest members of PLSHA is essential to a player's long-term participation, growth and successful experience in hockey. The PLSHA Mite program will focus on individual age-appropriate skill development for all players.

Program structure: The structure of the PLSHA Mite program is an important component in creating a successful experience for all players and parents. PLSHA is committed to creating an affordable, safe and family-friendly environment for all participants. The PLSHA Mite program will be divided into 5 levels in order to serve the various range of age, skill and ability of our players. **Team placement is determined by age and on-ice assessment** for Mites 1-4, **but not** for the Rookie Mite program.

- Following our assessment session(s), participants in the PLSHA Mite program will be placed onto teams based on age and ability.
- In order to ensure that every player possesses the basic fundamentals of skating, balance, agility, shooting and puck control, a minimum level of proficiency will be expected before players are able to move onto the next level.
- The importance of skating, balance, agility and edges will be stressed at every level.
- Our goal is to ensure that every player is able to reach their full potential as they grow and develop.
- We all realize that not every player will have the opportunity to play High School Hockey, but the skills and lessons that we are able to teach our kids on and off the ice will lead to a lifelong passion for the sport.

Player Development: The PLSHA Mite program is centered on skating, repetition, small area stations, small area games and cross ice games. Practices are designed in accordance to the ability level of the skaters in each level and will concentrate on the development of all players. It is important that all players are assigned to their recommended level of Mites in order to ensure every player's proper development. Placing players at a level above their ability will only hinder their development and potentially result in a player's loss of passion for the sport.

Mite Assessments: The purpose of mite assessments is to see where the kids are at in their respective age groups as it relates to six timed USA Hockey drills (Each player gets two attempts at each drill). Additionally, the results of the assessments are used to create equal teams across the Mite 1-4 Levels. PLSHA Hockey does not stack rank teams. Players of all ability levels are divided equally

across the # of teams at each mite level to help ensure that the teams are as equally matched as possible. This helps to develop all the kids better during the formative Mite years. Mite Assessments usually occur within the first week of October. The following criteria is utilized to create mite teams:

- Overall Assessment Time
- Grade Level
- Level Played Year Prior

There will also be pre-skate dates for mites this year. This will take place before assessments and will be communicated to Mite Families.

Rookie Camp: This Camp is offered to 1st year skaters/hockey players or Pre-K children having turned 4 years old (as of June 1st) to entering 3rd grade (**who attend schools in ISD #719**) as a way to expose them to the great sport of hockey without a significant investment! Sessions will be run by experienced PLSHA coaches. Content will expose kids to basic skating, shooting, puck handling drills while including lots of fun and games!

- Six, one-hour sessions for \$90
- Offered to the first 80 skaters registered, we have had waitlists in the past

Need equipment? Prior Lake Hockey will lend you equipment to use **FREE WITH \$100 DEPOSIT**. We offer a helmet, breezers, shin pads, chest protector, elbow pads, gloves and a bag. You will need to supply your skater with skates, stick, protective cup, neck guard and mouth guard. Jerseys and socks will be provided!

Rookie Season: This Rookie season is offered to 1st year skaters/hockey players or Pre-K children having turned 4 years old (as of June 1st) to entering 4th grade (**who attend schools in ISD #719**) as a way to expose them to the great sport of hockey with a shortened season that runs Jan 1 through mid-March, ending with the PLSHA Mite Jamboree! The season will expose kids to basic skating, shooting, puck handling drills while including lots of fun and games!

Traveling Teams Overview

Tryouts

| Level of Play | Approx. Dates | Format | Team Formation |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|--|
| Youth 10U/Squirt | 09/23-10/05 | Scrimmage only | Team formation will be determined based on registration numbers and tryout results. Primary consideration will be given to what leads to the best development of players over the long term. |
| 10 & Under Girls | 09/28-10/12 | Scrimmage only | |
| Youth 12U/Peewee | 09/25-10/08 | Scrimmage only | |
| 12 & Under Girls | 09/27-10/12 | Scrimmage only | |
| Youth 14U/Bantam | 09/27-10/09 | Scrimmage only | |
| Jr Gold/Jr Gold 16U | TBD | TBD | |

- Parents will not be allowed on site during tryout sessions. No Exceptions!

Traveling Season Commitment

| Level of Play | D6 Games (Approx.) | Tournaments | Practice |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------|
| 10 & Under Girls | 12-16 | 3-4 | ~55 |
| Youth 10U/Squirt | 12-16 | 3-4 | ~55 |
| 12 & Under Girls | 16 | 3-4 | ~60 |
| Youth 12U/Peewee | 16 | 3-4 | ~75 |
| Youth 14U/Bantam | 16 | 3-4 | ~75 |
| Jr Gold/Jr Gold 16 | 20+ | 1-3 | ~25+ |

Traveling team ranges are average for “B” teams. “AA/A” teams will generally run ~10% more and “C” teams ~10% less.

- Each team generally has at least 1 out of town tournament (i.e., Brainerd/Hibbing)
- The above generally results in 3-5 practices/games per week, excluding tournaments
- Older teams will have some practices later in the evening. Practice can end as late as 10:30pm for Youth 14U/Bantam, Youth 12U/Peewee, and 12 & Under girls and as late as 9:20pm for Squirt and 10U.

Player Placement – Drafting Practice (B and C teams):

When there is more than one equal team at the B or C levels, a “drafting” practice will be instituted. In this case, the coaches for the respective teams convene following the first practice, and make alternating player selections based on evaluation scores from tryouts and, in some cases, the opportunity to directly observe a pool tryout session. This practice is done under the supervision of at least one PLSHA Board member. This practice has been used successfully by PLSHA and many other associations.

Volunteers

To ensure the success of the Prior Lake Savage Hockey Association (PLSHA) families will be required to fulfill volunteer hours during each hockey season for **each** player in the association. The volunteer season will run from June 1 (prior to the season through District and State Tournaments the following spring).

Parents or guardians shall perform annual volunteer hours for each hockey season; a specified number of hours to the PLSHA/D6 and their respective team(s).

- **PLSHA and D6 hours:** will be designated year-to-year by the Board based on needs and PLSHA commitments. Volunteer hours that support the PLSHA and D6, at large, will be added to DIBS and tracked through DIBS
- **Team hours:** will be designated year-to-year by the team manager and/or assigned volunteer tracker. Volunteering for each player's team(s) at regular scheduled district games/tournaments/practices, such as staffing the penalty box, scorekeeping, locker room monitoring, streaming games is expected and will be rotated in order to successfully operate the team(s). Team hours do not count towards DIBS. Team hours allow each team to individually function.

Visit the [volunteer page](#) for more information.

PLSHA SafeSport

The safety of its participants is of paramount importance to PLSHA and USA Hockey. SafeSport is the organization's program related to off-ice safety.

SafeSport is in place to protect participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of abuse and misconduct that can be harmful to youth hockey players and other participants. These include without limitation Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Screening, Locker Room Supervision and Hazing Policies, in addition to Codes of Conduct applicable to administrators, coaches, officials, parents, players and spectators. The USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook ([found here](#)) is intended to update and collect USA Hockey's various policies to protect its participants from all types of misconduct and abuse. USA Hockey registration for the 2025-2026 season can be found [HERE](#). Registration must first be completed before other trainings can be started.

It is the policy of PLSHA and USA Hockey that all coaches and for any parent volunteering for locker room duty and persons with authority (board members, coaches, and team managers) to complete appropriate training in the area of child abuse, sexual abuse and other types of misconduct. The coaches WILL NOT be allowed to coach and/or participate in any manner e.g. in the locker room, on the bench, or on the ice if they do not complete the training prior to their team's first practice. The training consists of online videos adopted by USA Hockey, created by the United States Olympic Committee and takes approximately 90 minutes. The training is free of charge and can be found [HERE](#).

Equipment

Traveling jerseys: PLSHA will provide traveling teams a home and away jersey & matching socks. The home and away jerseys are included in registration costs, both will include the player's last name, and will be kept by the player each season.

Mite jerseys: PLSHA will provide one jersey and pair of socks which players will keep each season. Last names will be included on Mite Jerseys.

Player equipment: Players provide all other equipment. Navy equipment (breezers, helmets, gloves) are required for season play. Navy equipment will be enforced for all Squirts, Peewees, and Bantams. 10U, 12U, and 15U please reference your program guidelines. It is non-applicable to Mites, Junior Gold, and goalies.

- Individual water bottles required to prevent the spread of germs.
- Teams are strongly encouraged to purchase an apparel item to be worn to all games. All team apparel will be required to use the PLSHA approved logo.

Commitment/Expectations:

As PLSHA strives to build pride and a legacy of winning into our organization, we are seeing major improvements in our teams' performance both in terms of fewer disciplinary actions and greatly improved competitiveness at all levels. This is in large part due to the dedication of the players, parents and coaches in PLSHA. The following expectations and attendance policy are designed to ensure all participants in the PLSHA understand what is expected and that we continue on the path to success.

- The team is first; support your teammates.
- A consistent work ethic at all practices.
- An expectation of winning, not hoping you do.
- Positive attitude toward all team members and coaches.
- Respect for fellow competitors and officials.
- A willingness to learn and improve.
- Pride in your team and association.
- The best players work hard to improve and have FUN doing it!

Attendance:

To ensure maximum team and individual player development throughout the season and to strive for overall team success, it is critical to have players at practices and games. We expect a lot from our coaches (both parent & non-parent/volunteer) and believe that we owe them a method to encourage strong dedication and commitment in their players, particularly those teams competing at the highest levels.

- Players will be required to attend ALL games and practices
 - There will be tournaments over the Thanksgiving and New Year holidays
 - Acceptable absences include religion, illness, and family emergencies. The need to finish schoolwork is not acceptable; players must balance their schedules and learn how to become student-athletes. It will be required if they wish to play high school hockey and beyond.

- MEA weekend (Oct 16-19) & Christmas (Dec 24-26) will be OPTIONAL practices only for all PLSHA teams for this season. Other holidays and vacations will not be excused from your obligation to your team
- The following are the consequences of missing a practice or game; the same policy will be standard on ALL teams.
 - Players missing practice due to an unexcused absence will be required to sit one (1) period in the next game.
 - Players missing a game due to an unexcused absence will be required to sit the entire next game.

Estimated Season Costs – All Levels

| Level of Play | PAID AT REGISTRATION PRIOR TO SEASON START | | | | PAID DURING BALANCE OF SEASON ⁵ | APPROXIMATE TOTAL SEASON COST | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| | Registration Fees ¹ | USA & MN Hockey Fees ² | OPTION OF: Fundraising Cards / Cash Buyout ⁴ | Home-Away Jerseys and Socks | Season "ICE BILLS" | PLSHA Season Cost with Cash Buyout (Please note USA/MN Hockey fees not included) | Season Cost with Fundraiser cards (after reimbursement from resale) |
| Rookie Mite | \$105 | see below | \$200/\$125 | provided | N/A | \$265 | \$140 |
| Mite Tier 1 | \$295 | see below | \$200/\$125 | provided | N/A | \$360 | \$235 |
| Mite Tier 2, 3, 4 | \$295 | see below | \$200/\$125 | provided | TBD | ~\$360 | ~\$235 |
| Youth 10U/Squirt | \$310 | see below | \$200/\$125 | \$145 | ~\$900 | ~\$1,480 | ~\$1,355 |
| 10 & Under Girls | | | | | | | |
| Youth 12U/Peewee | \$310 | see below | \$200/\$125 | \$145 | ~\$1,075 | ~\$1,655 | ~\$1,530 |
| 12 & Under Girls | | | | | | | |
| Youth 14U/Bantam | \$310 | see below | \$200/\$125 | \$145 | ~\$1,450 | ~\$2,030 | ~\$1,905 |
| Jr Gold/Jr Gold 16 | \$280 | see below | \$200/\$125 | \$145 | ~\$1,000 | ~\$1,550 | ~\$1,625 |

Notes:

1. Registration Fees

- **Rookie and Mite 1s:** the fees cover the total costs of the season (ice, jamboree, referees, learn to skate lessons for rookies, etc.), as there are NOT monthly bills at these levels.
- **Mites 2-4:** the fees cover the total *estimated* costs of the season (ice, PL jamboree only, referees, learn to skate lessons, etc.), there may be an incremental bill at these levels to cover any overages in costs such as additional ice and jamborees outside of PLSHA.
- **Traveling:** the fees cover the ongoing costs of running the association. These costs include such things as coaches, goalie programs, maintaining ice at Lakefront, tax preparation fees, website maintenance, insurance, etc. There are additional monthly "season ice bills" at these levels for each team.

- **Goalies:** Those that own their own equipment (NHL legal) pay reduced registration but ARE obligated to participate in or buy out the fundraiser & volunteer programs and pay all other season costs.
2. **USA & MN Hockey Fees** – These are fees mandated by USA and MN Hockey. The USA Hockey structure is designed to provide a tiered approach that reflects players’ involvement and use of USA Hockey programs and benefits. The leading causes for the increases at certain levels include rising costs for member insurance, legal fees, and the overall increases in the cost of goods and services USA Hockey utilizes. Registration must be completed for all players regardless of age



**2025-26 USA HOCKEY
MEMBERSHIP FEE STRUCTURE**

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| PLAYERS (by birth year) | COACHES |
| 2019 & Younger \$17.00 | All Levels \$52.00 |
| 2017-2018 \$56.00 | OFFICIALS |
| 2013-2016 \$69.00 | Level 1 \$55.00 |
| 2007-2012 \$79.00 | Levels 2/3/4 \$110.00 |
| 2006 & Older (Adults) \$52.00 | Affiliated Non-Skating \$45.00 |
| | VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATORS |
| | All \$0.00 |

Minnesota Hockey fees, which apply to all USA Hockey members in Minnesota, will be:

- Ages 6 & Under – Free
- Ages 7-18 – \$10
- Ages 19 & over, including coaches – \$1

3. **Fundraising Cards OR Cash Buyout**

- Fundraising Cards: association member pays \$200.00/player at registration and receives 10 fundraising cards. These cards are sold to patrons or neighbors for \$20.00 each, total sale of \$200.00 which goes directly back to the member selling the cards.
- Cash Buyout: association member pays \$125.00/player at registration and can “opt out” of selling fundraising cards.

4. **Paid during the balance of the season**

- Mites 2, 3, 4: Any incremental costs NOT covered by registration may be reconciled in an end of season payment. Note that the total costs may vary depending on the number of practices, number of participants, etc. and as a result the monthly amounts may vary.
- Traveling Teams:
 - Bills are issued monthly. Traditionally this has been based on actual expenses incurred and VARY based on number of practice hours, amount of shared ice, and number of players per team.
 - Includes tournament costs, ice costs, and D6 charges
 - Estimate is based on the average cost per player during the 2024-2025 season and guidelines outlined above. An A team will generally be 10%-15% higher, and a C team will generally be 10%-15% lower
 - Please note the practice of PLSHA gambling issuing a rebate for ice bills is not guaranteed due to variable factors in our gambling program.

Summary/Future Meetings:

As mentioned at the onset, this document is intended to give players and their family's general information about the hockey season and set expectations about time commitment, costs, tryout format, etc. We are committed to open communication and will do our best to keep the association updated on a regular basis via emails, website, social media, etc.

Please join us for the traveling parent/player meeting on Sunday, September 21st at 6:30 P.M. at the Prior Lake high school auditorium for all traveling parents. This meeting is mandatory. The Mite Parent meeting will be on Monday, September 22nd at 6 P.M. at the upstairs conference room at Dakotah! The first Monday of every month there are board meetings that are held at 7pm at Dakotah! in the upstairs conference room, members of the association are always welcome to attend. We are always open to direct contact with questions, feedback, ideas or more volunteers!

The PLSHA Board

Best of Luck for a Successful Season – Go Lakers!