

Dear Lakers Parents,

Planning has begun for the 2025/2026 hockey season. This letter is to inform you of the upcoming season tryouts and what each team's expectations are. We are excited about what the future holds for the Lakers organization, and we hope that these guidelines will help us become a more competitive youth hockey organization.

Tryout Expectations:

This Fall, we will hold tryouts for all Lakers teams for the 2025/26 season (10U-14U). The expectation is that your child will attend ALL tryout sessions that are assigned to them, but we understand that the fall is a busy season and everyone has conflicts. If your child has a conflict with one of the tryout sessions, please email your age-appropriate director (see contact list attached) with the following details: your child's name, tryout date that they will miss and reason (sickness, injury, conflict).

A tryout pinnie will be supplied to each skater on night 1 of tryouts.

During the tryouts, parents are asked to leave or stay in the designated areas (entry way or concession stand room).

Tryouts:

Attending tryouts is mandatory to be eligible for a Laker's team. If your child doesn't attend the required tryouts, they will be placed on the appropriate team deemed by the YHC.

All players interested in trying out for the "A" team must attend the first 2 nights Tuesday September 23rd, 2025, and Thursday September 25th, 2025, of evaluations.

Then the top players will be invited to the "A" tryout Sunday September 28th, 2025.

If your skater isn't chosen for the "A" team tryout, they will not skate on September 28th, 2025, and they will need to attend the "B" tryout Tuesday September 30th, 2025.

Any female skaters wishing to cross-roster must attend the first 2 nights of tryouts. Selections for the "A" tryout will be made, and those female skater(s) must attend the "A" tryout, or they'll attend the "B" tryout.

Tryouts will be a combination of drills and scrimmages to evaluate each skater's skill level and hockey sense in game like situations. They will also be evaluated on listening, coach-ability and overall attitude.

Tryout evaluators are made up of West Bend Power Players (Independent Evaluators) and Lakers coaches.

"Our mission is to grow the whole child, educational, physical, mental, emotional, and social. Because hockey teaches life skills, our coaches will evaluate not only on-ice ability but also how each skater listens, responds to coaching, treats others, and carries themselves."

Goalkeepers:

Any player interested in trying out specifically as a goalie must attend both the regular age level tryouts and the goalie specific tryout. The goalie specific tryouts are held on a different night than the regular tryouts and a goalie expert is brought in to evaluate.

The goalie tryout will be on Wednesday September 24th, 2025, and the time will be communicated to all goalies prior to the week of tryouts.

Team Selection Process:

Overall, the goal is to place players on teams where they can succeed and have fun. Our process is designed to create teams that match appropriate skill level with anticipated level of competition.

There is a great deal of data, time, and effort that goes into the coordination and selection of Lakers teams. Information from fall tryouts, West Bend Power Players, Laker's coaching staff evaluations, and coach evaluations from the previous seasons are consolidated and presented at the Evaluation Meetings for each age level and gender.

The purpose of the player evaluation meeting is to have all YHC members and the potential Lakers coaching staff discuss the players and placement. The independent evaluators tryout data, in combination with the coach's feedback and evaluations, are compiled and brought forth to the Laker's Youth Hockey Committee for review, determination and finalization of the Lakers rosters.

The team selection committee will consist of the Laker's Youth Hockey Committee. Committee members who have a skater within an age group will not be allowed to participate in finalization of team selection for that age group. For example, a committee member has a skater at the 10U level, they will not participate in 10U discussion, only 12U and 14U. Coaching staff will not be allowed to evaluate their own skater.

Please note that Coaches for all teams are NOT selected until rosters are set.

Teams for the 25/26 season will be announced once the YHC Committee has concluded the selection process. Notification will be sent via email to your Laker's family email account.

Player and Family Expectations for the season:

It is expected if you COMMIT to a Lakers team that you will actively participate. While we understand that hockey will not be a child's only activity, it is expected that a player selected to a Lakers team will make a commitment to that team for both practices and games.

While conflicts with other sports are sometimes unavoidable, especially in the early fall, we ask that your child place a priority on his/her Laker's hockey games (practice conflicts should be shared 50/50 with other sports practices).

While this can often be a time of stress for parents and players, please remember that we are going to do everything we can to place your child on the appropriate team for their development.

Please keep an open mind and maintain some perspective throughout the process. There will not be grievance night moving forward. If you have any questions or concerns, we ask you to follow the 24-hour rule before you reach out to your YHC Chairpersons via email with your comments or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support of Lakers Hockey and look forward to seeing all your kids out on the Ice.

Regards,

The Youth Hockey Committee

Youth Hockey Committee Tryout Contact List

John Taber | Co-Committee Chair | Otis53@yahoo.co

Michael Thun | Co-Committee Chair | mikethun@yahoo.com

Brian Allen | Referee & Tryout Coordinator | briankona919@gmail.com

Corey Munger | Bantam (14U) Director & Tryout Coordinator | c_puck_score@yahoo.com

Casey Girdaukas | PeeWee (12U) Director + Goalie Coordinator | gird0004@gmail.com

John Osterman | Squirt (10U) Director | ostermannjohn1@gmail.com

Mike Gartman | Mite (8U) + Mitey Mite (6U) Director | michaelgartman1@gmail.com

Rob Sandrone | Director of Hockey, Safety Officer + RR High School Liaison | sandronefam@yahoo.com

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