

Fox Valley U16 Midget Program – 2019-20

August 15, 2019

New for 2019-2020, Fox Valley Youth Hockey Association is excited to announce the inaugural season of a Tier II U16 Midget Minor hockey program under its umbrella! As with any new program, we expect to learn as we go and provide our members with the most up to date communications as changes occur.

Fall Season (Sept 9 - Nov 10)

Evaluations – Evaluations are September 9th and 11th, cost \$35, and require USA Hockey Registration. The number of teams will depend on interest and we could include practice only players. We are targeting 15 skaters and 2 goalies per team.

Cost - After evaluations, players will be notified of the results and invited to join the program. Final costs will be determined at that time with a range of \$325 - \$475 depending on number of players and games/tournaments. At that time we will have a better understanding of season availability and will be able to present a more cohesive cost structure. Our FVYHA board is thrilled to add the U16 program to our umbrella. However, as a pilot program, the program is required to be self-funded (i.e. - registration and any U16 fundraising cover the full cost of the program).

Schedule - Practices are typically Mondays and Wednesdays 7:30 – 9 PM, along with Saturdays from 1:30 – 3PM. The fall season target is 30-35 hours of practice ice and 4-8 games. A full team page and schedule will be found on the FVYHA website very soon. Note - all ice slots are all at Tri-County Ice Arena.

Registration will be open in the next few days at: <https://foxvalley.pucksystems.com/>.

Winter Season (Nov 11 - March 22)

Due to the rules surrounding WIAA Hockey competition, we will segment a fall season option to allow players to report to WIAA practices if they choose. *At this time we are not certain of the interest level for a U16 Midget team during the winter season (Nov 11- Feb 15, Current WIAA JV season). With enough interest a team could be assembled for the winter season or reconvene as a post season team. These options will be communicated as the information becomes available.

**Note - The FVYHA U16 Midget program is not intended to compete with the local high school and co-op varsity programs but provide additional opportunities for the younger HS players in the region. We intend to focus on player development as outlined in the USA Hockey development model.*

Fall evaluations and team placement will carry to successive seasons for the 2019-20 hockey year (i.e. - if a player makes the “Fall Season” team, they are automatically on the “Winter Season” team). If players leave after the fall season to play for the HS program, an additional evaluation may be conducted by the coaching staff to fill vacant spots on the U16 Midget roster should the program decide to field a winter season.

FAQ's

- **Who will we play?**
 - Currently 13 midget teams in Wisconsin (1-2 new adding this year)
 - Participate officially as U16 team but may play in WI league with U18 teams.
 - Ample in Chicago and Minneapolis
- **Do numbers support a U16 Team**
 - Numbers do support the average U16 team and numbers are growing. Having high numbers at High School means the ice time per player becomes reduced and development lessons. Our goal of the program is to support the High School programs with another development option.
- **Will players from other districts /associations be on the team?**
 - Yes, any player eligible under WAHA rules can try out for the team.
- **Should we play for the HS or club?**
 - This will be a personal choice – each family should weigh the options individually and should speak openly with the HS and the club.

- **Can we just play fall season?**
 - Yes – for planning purposes you will be asked if you would be willing to commit to a full season team.
- **Can we try out for HS and then decide?**
 - Yes, at the conclusion of the fall season, WIAA begins. If you decide to play HS you will be rostered on a WIAA roster for HS and be ineligible for WAHA. WIAA rules are listed below should you decide to leave your HS after tryouts.
 - If a U16 winter team is established, clear expectations will be communicated on how to execute your commitment to the U16 Midget team and timing for when your spot on the roster will be released.
 - Clear communication will be provided on any additional evaluations deemed necessary by the coaching staff.
- **Will this take the place of the JV team(s)?**
 - No, this team will be an alternative to the JV team. The U16 team will have a longer season than JV, participate in more games and practices. It will include more weekend travel and will cost more. The U16 team will allow players to continue to develop under the USA Hockey American Development Model.
- **When will this team roll out – what is the timing of decisions?**
 - The team will hold evaluations on 9/9 and 9/11 for fall - full time roster spots. Practice/alternate players and multiple teams may be considered based on talent and registration.
 - We will listen to our players & members to gather interest in a winter program and will communicate by Oct 20th whether a winter season will be conducted.
 - If a winter season is conducted AND if roster spots open with players moving to WIAA an additional evaluation will be posted and held. Timing TBD.

- **If the team is under Fox Valley – will there be additional fundraising and volunteer credits required?**
 - Not at this time, as a pilot program for the 2019-20 season the parents of this new team will be doing all of the work surrounding the formation of a new U16 team setting the foundation for years to come. The team and parents will be invited to all FVYHA events and welcome to participate in all fundraising if desired.

CURRENT STATE RULE CLARIFICATIONS:

FROM BECKY UNTERRIKER, (WAHA Region 3 Director)

FVYHA is a member of WAHA and USA Hockey following the established rules.

- USA hockey insurance is required.
- There is a state tournament, March 27 & 28 in Hudson.
- MIDGET 16 & UNDER. Restricted to any youth whose parents' residence is the State of Wisconsin and limited to amateurs who are 16 years of age and under on or before Dec. 31 of the hockey season in which they wish to play
- No WIAA players are eligible for state tournament play. Rosters are due 12/31 of the current playing year at that time no WAHA rostered player may be on a WIAA roster.
 - Only 2004 & 2003 Birth Years - Any WI player that does not have a local U16 program are eligible to participate

FROM TOM SHAFRANSKI (WIAA)

Can a high school student attend tryouts for their high school team (either Neenah, Fox Cities or Appleton) and then choose to play for the Midget 16U team after tryouts?

1. *High school student athletes get two non-school competitions to participate in during the regular season with the approval of their school administration and without involvement of their high school coaches.*
2. *A student cut from the squad, during the regular season (this includes tryouts but not the WIAA tournament series) for reasons of skill, is allowed to join a Midget 16U team after tryouts and then, later on during the regular season, rejoin the high school team if asked and if they wish to do so.*
3. *A player who makes a high school team and then leaves/quits a high school team to play for any non-school team following completion of his/her participation in two non-school competitions does become ineligible for high school competitions for the remainder of the season for not receiving school approval beforehand and/or upon participation in more than two non-school games, meets, or contests.*
4. *If they have not completed their two non-school competitions, local school administrators and coaches are able to determine whether or not to maintain them as members of the high school team.*

If a player participates in a Midget pre-season program from Sept. 9 - Nov. 10, does that jeopardize his eligibility for his high school team?

1. *High school student athletes are able to participate in pre-season programs prior to the start of their high school seasons without jeopardizing their eligibility. They do need to cease and desist from non-school participation and report to their high school teams on November 11, 2019.*