

Junior Warriors Hockey Club

2018-19 Program Information



The Junior Warriors Hockey Club provides hockey programs for Mite-aged players (born in years 2010-2011) and Minor Mite-aged players (born in years 2012-2013) in the communities of Winnetka, Northfield, Glencoe, and Kenilworth. We offer a comprehensive program of House League (recreational), Travel (competitive) and Girls programs. Our program is affiliated with the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and our travel teams are a founding member of the Chicago United Hockey League (CUHL). Our House League teams play all their activities at either the Winnetka Ice Arena, North Shore Ice Arena, Watts Ice Center, and occasionally at Jet Ice in Glenview.

ABOUT YOUTH HOCKEY

Children as young as five years old can play hockey. It is fast paced and keeps children active during the winter months. They learn how to participate in a team sport and meet new friends from all the communities we serve. Parents will also enjoy the camaraderie as well. Along with the Winnetka Hockey Club, we are respected both locally and nationally for our focus on community based hockey while offering a wide array of programs to meet the needs of all our skaters.

OUR MISSION

The Junior Warriors Hockey Club's mission is to introduce children ages 5-8 of our area communities to the great game of ice hockey, such that every child, through their participation in the program, can enjoy a positive, character building sports experience while creating a passion for the game. ***And above all else... "It's always about the kids"***

HOUSE LEAGUE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

We believe that any child who wishes to play this great game should be able to do so. The Jr. Warriors Hockey Club is able to offer financial assistance to those who wish to participate in the House League. Those who would like to be considered for financial assistance are asked to contact Tom Gullen, Administrative Director of the Winnetka Hockey Club, at tom@winnetkahockey.com.

IMPORTANT DATES

- August 14-22:** Preseason Travel Clinics begin
- August 23-25:** Mite 1 Travel Tryouts begin
- August 26-27:** Mite 2-4 Travel Team Tryouts begin
- September 8** FREE EVENTS: Come Try Hockey & Girls Rule!
- September 15** Minor Mite & Mite House Clinics begin (optional)
- September 30:** Minor Mite & Mite House Evaluations (all participants)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who are these FAQs intended for?

The FAQs on this page are intended for parents of new players that are interested in getting started in hockey. These FAQs are intended to address some of the common questions we get about kids and parents that want to give it a try.

Does my child have to know how to skate to play hockey?

It is important to have a basic level of skating skills (in hockey skates, not just figure skates) which will make your child's introduction into hockey more enjoyable. Skating is the foundation of hockey. While our House League is a beginning level that is intended to teach our younger players the basic skills needed to succeed and to introduce them to the basics of hockey, it is important that your child have a basic level of skating skills (in hockey skates) prior to participating in the House League.

Where can my child learn to skate?

The Winnetka Park District (winpark.org) runs a comprehensive Learn to Skate/Learn to Play program for hockey players. Classes are offered from September through May either during the day or after school. Generally, children are prepared to do our House League after a season of lessons. Lessons are also available at the Watts Ice Center in Glencoe).

What is the difference between Junior Warriors Hockey and Winnetka Hockey?

In 2014, the majority of youth hockey programs in the Chicago area separated their Mite programs from the governing body of USA Hockey. As a result, we created a new club now called The Junior Warriors Hockey Club that is managed in an identical manner as Winnetka Hockey. Same program, different name.

How do I know what level my child should play?

We have two levels of House League: **Minor Mite House League** is designed for children born in 2012 & 2013. **The Mite House League** is designed for children born in 2010 & 2011. We do allow children born in 2011 that are 1st graders to play at Minor Mites if they choose to.

How many days a week will my child have hockey and when?

Our House League typically skates twice per week on the weekends throughout the season.

- **Minor Mites:** Play games Sunday between 11:15am-1:15pm at Winnetka. Practices are Saturday mornings at either the NSIA or Gullen's Pond at Winnetka.
- **Mites:** Play games Saturday mornings at Winnetka. Practices are Sunday late morning or early afternoon at either NSIA or the outdoor Gullen's Pond (Pond opens in late November).

How are the girls and boys divided up?

The Minor Mite and Mite House League programs are co-ed. We do try to put multiple girls together on one team. We will offer an all-girls travel team that plays surrounding communities.

What equipment is needed for the House League?

Children wear full protective gear for the House League that includes the following: • shin pads • hockey pants • hockey gloves • protective cup • elbow pads • shoulder pads • helmet with mask • hockey socks & jersey

Note: The Winnetka Park District has a loaner equipment package that allows children in the House League or skating programs to use protective equipment at no charge for the season. Parents can save money by borrowing required gear before investing in equipment. All required gear is included in the package (except for cup, socks and jersey).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (continued)

How are teams selected?

During the evaluations the coaches rate the participants on a variety of skills. Following the evaluation the coaches and the Commissioner draft what we hope will be equally skilled teams. We allow players one "friend request" that we TRY to accommodate.

What is a typical season?

For **Minor Mites** and **Mites**: The season begins in early October with evaluations. Following evaluations each team spends a few weeks practicing. Games begin at the beginning of November. The regular season usually concludes around March 1st and playoffs conclude the week prior to Spring Vacation.

Does everyone play equally?

Yes, our House League is designed for all children to play equally. Additionally, we have a unique parity system that ensures that children play with and against children of similar skill.

What about soccer and other fall sports?

There is a short 2-3 week window where there is an overlap. We encourage children to participate in other activities and we understand that children may miss during this period.

Are scores kept during games?

We do run the scoreboard in order that we can conduct designated line changes. We do keep score, but there are no standings kept until the playoffs.

What if we want more ice time?

We offer "developmental" travel programs for those that would like additional ice time and want to give travel hockey a try on a modified basis. These are called Minor Mite Development Program (MMDP) for Minor Mites, and House Plus for Mites. These programs begin around December 1st and give an additional two ice times per week. These programs allow our participants to see if they wish to pursue travel hockey or continue in House League while playing neighboring programs.

What about Travel Hockey?

Travel Hockey is designed for children and families that desire a greater commitment in terms of travel, ice time, and skill development. Our travel teams play in the **Chicago United Hockey League (CUHL)** with 25 other programs. Travel teams typically skate 4-5 times weekly and have a more extensive game and practice schedule.

Who do I contact if I am interested in coaching or helping out?

When registering there is an opportunity to indicate if you would like to volunteer as a coach.

What if I have further questions?

Please contact our Hockey Office at 847-446-9004 or email Tom Gullen, Administrative Director, at tom@winnetkahockey.com.

HOUSE LEAGUE HOCKEY

Jack Farley, House League Director - jpfarley@winnetkahockey.com

The House League is the foundation of the Junior Warriors program. The goals are:

1. Teach the fundamental skills of the game.
2. Teach sportsmanship, fair play and team work.
3. Equal Playing Time for all children
4. Develop a love of the game that can be enjoyed throughout life.
5. Have FUN!

We encourage all participants to learn to skate prior to participation in the house league. The Winnetka Park District and Glencoe Park District offer excellent learn to skate programs. Please consult the Park District brochures for further information on these programs.

The House League season begins in early October. There is minimal conflict with the soccer season. For those desiring additional instruction, there is also an optional pre-season clinic in September. After an evaluation, children are placed onto equally divided teams that play and practice together. The season concludes in mid-March prior to spring vacation. All House League activities are at either the Winnetka Ice Arena, the Watts Rink in Glencoe, the North Shore Ice Arena (NSIA), or Jet Ice at The Glen.

VOLUNTEER COACHES

We rely on those who generously give their time to coach all House League teams. If you wish to volunteer as a coach, please check the appropriate box on your child's registration form.

LEVELS OF HOUSE LEAGUE

Minor Mites: Children born in 2012 or 2013, or 1st graders born in 2011 who request to play with their school peers.

Mites: Children born in 2010 or 2011.

When do House League Teams Skate? Teams will begin skating after the evaluations. The first four weeks will be dedicated to skill development with games beginning in early November.

Minor Mites: Saturday morning practices at NSIA, Jet Ice or Gullen's Pond in Winnetka; Sunday early afternoon games at Winnetka 11:15am-1:15pm.

Mites: Saturday morning games at Winnetka/Sunday afternoon practices at NSIA or The Pond

Season Fee: \$695 for Minor Mites & Mites. This includes 21 weeks October to mid-March. All skaters must register with the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) for \$17. **Non-resident Season Fee:** Additional \$110 (for those who do not reside in Winnetka, Glencoe, Northfield or Kenilworth). House League fees are 100% refundable until October 1. After October 1 until October 15 there is a \$50 processing fee. There are no refunds after October 15.

WHAT IS ACCOMPLISHED AT EACH LEVEL?

At the **Minor Mite level**, skating and hockey fundamentals are emphasized. The Minor Mites will play all games on half-ice at Winnetka in a 5 on 5 format. Minor Mites will have a low-key season ending tournament.

At the **Mite level**, players transition to some full ice “five on five” hockey. We will play a combination of full ice and half ice games with a full ice season ending tournament. The emphasis still remains on skating, along with team play. Games are played with an automatic line change every two and a half minutes. Mites will play a post season tournament.

HOUSE LEAGUE CLINIC

The Junior Warriors Hockey Club offers a pre-season clinic for House League skaters. These clinics will focus on skill development, such as skating, puck-handling and shooting. Each group will meet for three-one hour sessions. All sessions are at the Winnetka Ice Arena. The fee is \$100.

GROUP	DAY	DATE	TIME
Minor Mites Last Names A-J	Saturday	9/15	11:30am
	Sunday	9/16	11:30am
	Sunday	9/23	11:30am
Minor Mites Last Names K-Z	Saturday	9/15	12:30pm
	Sunday	9/16	12:30pm
	Sunday	9/23	12:30pm
Mites Last Names A-J	Saturday	9/15	1:40pm
	Sunday	9/16	1:40pm
	Sunday	9/23	1:40pm
Mites Last Names K-Z	Saturday	9/15	2:40pm
	Sunday	9/16	2:40pm
	Sunday	9/23	2:40pm

HOUSE LEAGUE EVALUATIONS

In order to properly balance our teams, participation in the evaluation is extremely important. Please make every effort to attend.

GROUP	DAY	DATE	TIME
Minor Mites Last Names A-J	Sunday	9/30	11:30a
Minor Mites K-Z	Sunday	9/30	12:40p
Mites A-J	Sunday	9/30	1:40p
Mites K-Z	Sunday	9/30	2:40p

FREE! GET ACQUAINTED CLINIC FOR BEGINNERS

Did you ever want to try hockey or just learn to hockey skate? Come out and receive professional instruction on the fundamentals of skating and hockey in this fun, one-day clinic. Just bring your skates (rental skates available), bike or hockey helmet, and gloves or mittens. Free rental skates and helmets are also available. We provide a free hockey stick for all participants. This is a great opportunity for those who have limited skating experience to improve their skills. Our expert coaches will teach skating, shooting, and puck handling.

Date: Saturday, September 8th
Time: 3:30-4:30p
Location: Winnetka Ice Arena

To ensure proper staffing, please pre-register by 9/7 by calling the Hockey Office at 847-446-9004.

GIRLS RULE!! FREE CLINIC JUST FOR THE GIRLS!

Ok Girls, this one is just for you! Our mini-clinic will help guide participants through the fundamentals of hockey: skating, puck handling, and shooting. This is a great opportunity for the participant with limited experience or those converting from figure skating. Skaters should have a helmet (bike helmets are acceptable), gloves or mittens, and hockey skates. Free rental skates and helmets are also available. Participants will be given a stick.

Date: Saturday, September 8th
Time: 4:30-5:30p
Location: Winnetka Ice Arena

To ensure proper staffing, please pre-register by 9/7 by calling the Hockey Office at 847-446-9004

NEED EQUIPMENT?

The Ice Arena has loaner sets available at NO CHARGE. This includes all of the protective equipment needed for the program. Stop by the front desk to pick up at set.

MITE TRAVEL HOCKEY



The Jr. Warriors Hockey Club plans on offering four Mite Travel teams that will participate in the Chicago United Hockey League. Travel hockey is designed for the child and family that desires a more intensive hockey experience.

Teams typically skate 4-5 times per week with practices, skill sessions, games, and tournament play. All children trying out must register for the preseason clinic and tryouts beginning in mid-August. After teams are selected in late August teams will begin practicing. Each team practices twice per week during the week and also participate in skills training every other week. Games begin in mid-September and the season concludes in early March.

Our teams are coached by highly trained, professional coaches who specialize in training children in this age category.

The estimated cost is \$3,500 - \$4,500 based on which team your child is on. Please refer to the website for the preseason clinics and tryout schedule.

JUNIOR WARRIORS CONTACTS



NAME	TITLE	EMAIL	PHONE
Tom Gullen	Administrative Director	tom@winnetkahockey.com	847.446-9004
Matt Passen	President	mpassen@passenlaw.com	
D.J. LaVarre	Director of Hockey	hockeygolf@msn.com	
Sean Cunningham	Treasurer	sean.cunningham@gtcr.com	
Jack Farley	House League Director	jpfarley@winnetkahockey.com	
Todd Southwell	Travel Director	Todd.Southwell@klgates.com	