



The Edge Newsletter

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Cincinnati Junior Cyclones 19U Girls hockey team reaches national finals!



Photo by: Cincinnati Junior Cyclones

Cyclones Girls at Nationals



By: [Jennifer Ketchmark](#)

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CINCINNATI — The Cincinnati Junior Cyclones 19U girls hockey team made it to nationals for the first time ever, advancing all the way to the championship game and inspiring the next generation of players.

"Legitimately just getting to nationals was the goal, so after that it was playing with house money, the girls did phenomenal, it was so much fun," Head Coach Nevin Bisgaard said.

The team quickly advanced out of pool play. In the quarterfinals, the girls came back from a deficit to keep their championship hopes alive.

"To get a goal at 8.7 seconds left in regulations was bananas," Bisgaard said. The girls put in a goal with just seconds left in regulation and then in overtime team captain Zoey Worsley put in the game-winning goal to send the team to the championship game. Worsley said she had some nerves leading into the tournament.

We were scared and nervous at the same time, but we were excited," Worsley said.

Following the quarterfinal victory, Worsley feels a little different.

"It was amazing, I felt so proud," Worsley said.

The girls advanced to the finals but ultimately fell short of the championship.

"We weren't sad that we lost, I think it was just that the season was over," Bisgaard said.

Despite the loss, the team's success is sending ripple effects through the local hockey community.

"Here at Queen City Sportsplex, there are a bunch of girls who can see what's possible and to see our girls do something special is huge for the program," Bisgaard said.

"It just shows how much we've grown in such a small amount of time — that there's going to be so much to look forward to in the future," center Katie Sparks said.

The team said the experience was about more than just hockey.

"It's a sisterhood and a bond ... it's being able to grow together," Assistant Coach Molly McElhaney said.

The team's success is also paving the way to make the journey easier for future players. Many of these girls played on co-ed teams in their younger years. Many times, locker rooms dedicated to female players didn't exist. So many girls had to get changed in side closets or restrooms.

"We are never getting dressed in a broom closet or a bathroom again," said Worsley.

"Never getting dressed in a closet again, we are going to have our own locker room from now on!" said Sparks.

The players proved their toughness on the ice and showed they belong on the national stage.

"I mean, I argue that they are tougher (than the boys), you make a girl mad and give her a stick, what do you think's going to happen?" McElhaney said. "And here we are a little team from Cincinnati. We are here to show what we got. We are here to compete."

Girls hockey tryouts for the Cincinnati Junior Cyclones are this weekend. Registration numbers continue to grow as the team builds on its national success.



2026 USA Hockey-Long Drink Adult Women's National Championships

21+ Champions



Indy Speed's Championship Victory

Indy Speed secured the championship title in the **21+ Tier 3** division at the **2026 USA Hockey-Long Drink Adult Women's National Championships**. This prestigious event took place from **April 16-19, 2026**, at AdventHealth Center Ice in **Wesley Chapel, Florida**.

Event Overview

- **Location:** AdventHealth Center Ice, Wesley Chapel, Florida
- **Dates:** April 16-19, 2026
- **Participants:** Approximately 900 players across 50 teams in eight divisions

Championship Details

Indy Speed's victory is part of a larger tournament that crowned champions from various divisions. Below is a summary of the champions in the women's categories:

| Division | Champion | State/Province |
|------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 21+ Tier 1 | Carolina Lady Hurricanes A | North Carolina |
| 21+ Tier 2 | LA Lions Women | California |
| 21+ Tier 3 | Indy Speed | Indiana |
| 30+ | Michigan Oilers | Michigan |
| 60+ | Coast-To-Coast | British Columbia |

Indy Speed's achievement highlights their skill and teamwork, contributing to the excitement of the tournament. Many teams, including Indy Speed, are expected to return in 2027 to defend their titles



Columbus Chill Hockey Club

USA HOCKEY NATIONALS



NATIONAL CHAMPIONS 18U YOUTH TIER II 3A COLUMBUS CHILL

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COLUMBUS, Ohio (WCMH) — Columbus is home to another title-winning team following the Columbus Chill's youth national championship win.

The Chill beat the Nashville Jr. Predators in overtime in the final game of the tournament. The winning goal was scored by Ben Spence. One of the parents caught the game-winning goal on camera, and they were so excited that the recording was stopped shortly after the goal was scored.

"I couldn't even explain how I was feeling. It was just a lot of emotions," Spence said.

It was a roller coaster of a game for the 18-and-under club hockey team. They got out to a 2-0 lead and were up two goals going into the third period. But the Jr. Predators sent the game to

overtime 3:19 into OT, Spence's wrist shot found the back of the net.

"When I saw that like hit the twine, it's just a relief. Finally, at least we won this," team center Connor Hagkull said. "Just like skate down to our goalie. Give everyone a big hug. And then I think I went to our coaches and just, so happy, so pumped."

It was a thrilling tournament for the team made up of players from around central Ohio who play together before and after their high school seasons. They also won their quarter-final game in overtime.

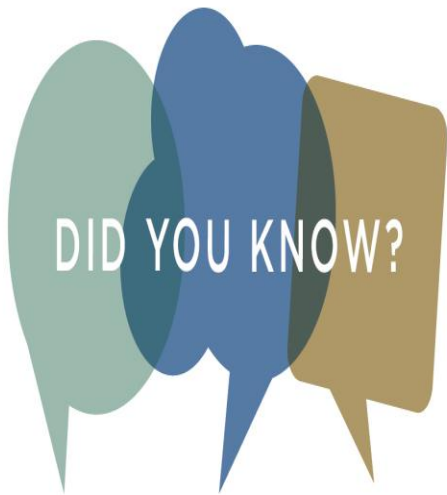
"I couldn't be prouder," Chill coach and former Columbus Blue Jacket RJ Umberger said. "Seriously, these 20 guys, I love them to death."

He said the championship run was full of big plays from all over the roster.

"I remember just coaches all looking at each other jumping up and down, I think we hugged each other and just, we did it, we did it. It's basically what we were saying over and over," Umberger said. "It's a special group; they were amazing all year. The times we spent together, they put everything they have into it. They're so detail-oriented and they deserved this from the start."

After the championship-winning goal, Spence skated to the goalie and the team gathered around. The Youth Tier II 18U 3A Title is the first youth national championship a Columbus hockey team has won.

"It's just electric, to like be able to just kind of like all group up, you're all just like so excited, celebrating like, screaming just like the emotions in that group is insane," Spence said.



As a member association of the Mid Am District did you know that you are required on an annual basis, to fill out required documents? These documents are a requirement and are mandatory to be able to be in good standing with the Mid Am District. You will be receiving instructions on these documents in late June to early July, and we ask that you complete those documents as soon as possible.

Thank you your Assistance!

Mid Am Out Of Boundary Waiver

Waivers are required for the following players and teams as laid out below. The waiver can be found on the MidAm website under Forms:

Pursuit to MidAm Rules and Regulations IV. STATE / DISTRICT / NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BOUND TEAMS

Section C. Tier II Teams (Youth)

Teams registered as Tier II will be allowed to participate in the Tier II State (Youth) tournaments leading to Tier II National Championships. Mid Am recognizes Tier II hockey as “community based” hockey, meaning that teams registered as Tier II shall be composed of players from a **maximum 60-mile geographical distance** from the home address of the player (determined by the address filed on the family’s current Federal Income Tax Return), to the team’s “home ice” arena. Tier II teams cannot have billeted players.

MID-AMERICAN DISTRICT – TIER II GIRLS TEAM QUALIFICATIONS

In order to be eligible to play on a Tier II Girls Team, a player’s legal residence must be **within 75 driving miles of the designated home rink of the Team**. The driving distance is calculated by entering the legal address of the player and the street address of the home rink into any commercially used GPS/mapping application and applying the shortest driving route.

New Affiliate Residency Rule for Tier II and Recreational Hockey Players

1. General Rule:

All players participating in Tier II and Recreational hockey must register and play for the affiliate that corresponds to their primary place of residence. The players residency shall be defined as set forth in Section III.E.(6) above.

2. Exceptions and Appeals Process:

Recognizing that individual circumstances may require flexibility, the following exceptions and processes are available:

A. Proximity to Another Affiliate:

- If a players primary residence is closer to an associate member in a neighboring affiliate, the player may request a Residency/Proximity Waiver Request.

B. Special Circumstances:

- Players facing unique situations, such as family relocation, access to specific educational opportunities, or other exceptional circumstances, may appeal to play outside their home affiliate or district.

C. Existing Written Affiliate Agreements:

- Existing or developed written affiliate agreements amongst neighboring affiliates will take precedence over this policy.

3. Waiver and Appeal Application Process:

A. Submission:

- Players or guardians must submit a Residency/Proximity Waiver Request Form to their home affiliate.
- The application must include:
 - Justification for the request.
 - Supporting documentation (e.g., proof of residence, maps showing proximity, or other relevant materials).

B. Review Process:

- Waiver requests will be reviewed by a Residency Review Committee consisting of representatives from the home affiliate, neighboring affiliate, and Affiliate Presidents Committee, **appointed by their respective Presidents.**

C. Decision Timeline:

- Decisions on waiver requests will be **communicated in writing** within 14 days of submission.

D. Appeals:

- If a waiver request is denied, the applicant may appeal the decision to the Appeal Authority made up of three disinterested individuals assigned by the Presidents Committee **and there shall be no further appeals**. There are no personal appearances on appeals to the Appeal Authority. The issues set out in the appeal are resolved solely on the written submissions of the parties to the appeal.

4. Compliance and Enforcement:

- Players found violating the residency rule without an approved waiver will be deemed ineligible for the season.
- Teams and associations knowingly rostering ineligible players may face penalties, including but not limited to, forfeiture of games, loss of tournament bound status, fines, sanctions, etc.
- All decisions/determinations will fall under USAH Bylaw 10 procedures and policies



Calendar of events

- Long Drink Adult Classic, **March 13-15 Columbus, Ohio**
- April 25, 2026, Roger Sharrer Grow Hockey application due.
- May 8, 9 & 10, 2026 Developmental Camp, **Columbus, Ohio**
- June 3 to Saturday, June 6, at the Denver Marriott Tech Center in Denver, Colo.
- July 24 & 25, 2026, Midam Annual Meeting Pittsburgh, Pa (Revised)
- October 16, 17, 18, 2026 Ohio Pre-Post Tournament Location TBD
- December MidAm Winter Meeting TBD
- 2027 District & State Tournaments March 4, 5, & 6, 2027 Locations TBD



The Mid Am Girls Spring Festival celebrated its 6th year



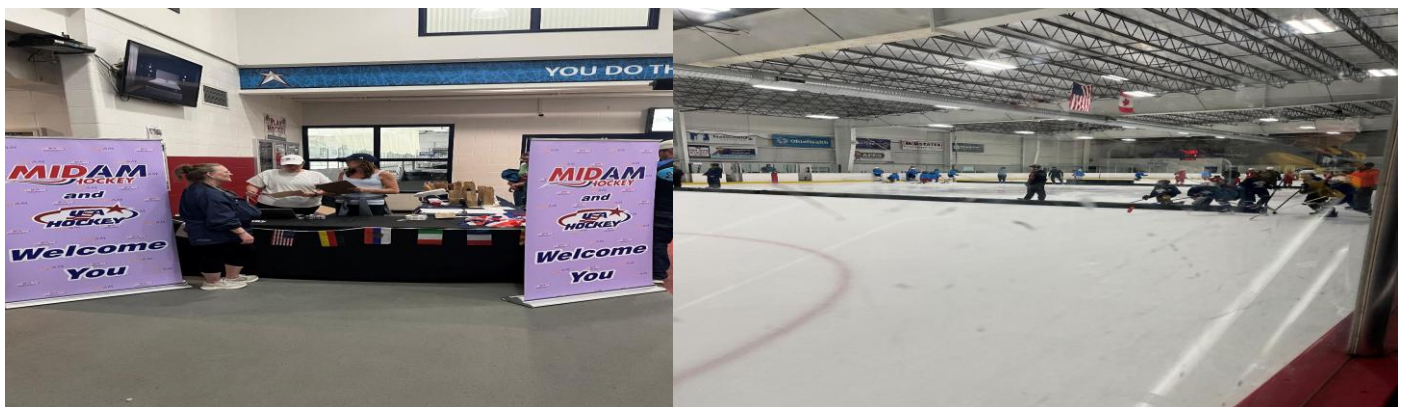
The Mid Am Girls Spring Festival celebrated its 6th year April 24–26, bringing together more than 250 girls from across the district for a weekend of high-energy hockey, learning, and community. Players ages 10–12 were drafted by skill into 16 teams across two divisions, each named after a country to create an exciting Olympic-style atmosphere.

Beyond the fast-paced hockey, the festival gives young athletes the chance to connect with like-minded girls, build friendships, and experience the joy of competing in a supportive environment.

Parents participated in an educational breakout session focused on understanding the next steps in their daughters' hockey journeys.

A highlight of the weekend was the visit from the Ohio State Women's Hockey team, who shared their paths to Division I hockey and spent time taking photos and signing autographs with the girls. Special guest Joy Dunne added to the excitement by bringing her Olympic gold medal, inspiring every athlete in attendance.

This event would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers. A special thank you go to Natalie Darr, Emily Moersdorf, and Leslie Walker for their outstanding support throughout the weekend.



Host Sites Announced For 2027 Chipotle-USA Hockey National Championships

By USA Hockey, 03/17/26, 11:00AM MDT

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Twelve Cities in Seven States Will Crown Champions Nationwide



COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. -- USA Hockey announced today host sites for the **2027 Chipotle-USA Hockey Youth, Girls and High School National Championships**.

Each spring, the best teams from USA Hockey's 12 districts gather at host sites throughout the nation to compete for national championship honors. Next season, 11 cities in seven states will play host to national tournaments, stretching from California to New York.

[USAHockeyTV.com](https://www.usahockeytv.com) is the exclusive home to watch all Chipotle-USA Hockey National Championships. The schedule for the 2026 Chipotle-USA Hockey National Championships is available [here](#).

USA Hockey has conducted the country's ice hockey national championship tournaments since 1938, with teams from across the United States crowned champions at various levels. As part of USA Hockey-Chipotle National Championships, more than 7,500 players compete for American hockey top honors at youth, girls, high school, adult, sled and warrior classifications. Sites and locations for the 2027 adult, sled and warrior national championships will be announced at a later date.

A list of previous USA Hockey National Championship Tournaments dating back to 1938 can be found [here](#).

2027 Nationals Schedule

| DIVISION | DATES | HOST | RINK (LOCATION) |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| High School | March 17-21, 2027 | Amherst, N.Y. | Northtown Center at Amherst (Amherst, N.Y.) |
| Youth Tier I 130 & 14U | March 30-April 4, 2027 | Plymouth & Novi, Mich. | USA Hockey Arena (Plymouth, Mich.) Novi Ice Arena (Novi, Mich.) |
| Youth Tier I 150 & 16U | March 30-April 4, 2027 | Chicago, Ill. | Blackhawks Ice Center (Chicago, Ill.) |
| Youth Tier I 18U | March 30-April 4, 2027 | San Jose, Calif. | Sharks Ice at San Jose (San Jose, Calif.) |
| Youth Tier II 14U | March 30-April 4, 2027 | West Chester, Pa. | Ice Line Quad Rinks (West Chester, Pa.) |
| Youth Tier II 16U | March 30-April 4, 2027 | Perinton, N.Y. | Rochester Ice Center (Perinton, N.Y.) Station 31 Ice Arena (Fairport, N.Y.) |
| Youth Tier II 18U | March 30-April 4, 2027 | Madison, Wis. | Bob Suter's LEGACY20 Arena (Middleton, Wis.) LEGACY20 Arena (DeForest, Wis.) |
| Girls Tier I (14U, 16U, 19U) | March 30-April 4, 2027 | Green Bay, Wis. | Cornerstone Community Center (Ashwaubenon, Wis.) De Pere Ice Arena (De Pere, Wis.) |
| Girls Tier II 14U | March 31-April 4, 2027 | Coral Springs, Fla. | Panthers Ice Den (Coral Springs, Fla.) |
| Girls Tier II 16U | March 31-April 4, 2027 | Pittsburgh, Pa. | UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex (Pittsburgh, Pa.) Baierl Ice Complex (Warrendale, Pa.) |
| Girls Tier II 19U | March 31-April 4, 2027 | Irvine, Calif. | Great Park Ice (Irvine, Calif.) |