

Hershey Jr Bears 2023-2024 Travel Hockey Program

A New Era of Hershey Jr Bears Hockey Is Here!



Now Is The Time For YOU to Be A Bear!!!

Travel hockey for 2005-2018 Birth Years

Welcome Hershey Jr. Bear Families!

Welcome to the start of the 2023 - 2024 hockey season! Whether your child is interested in learning to play ice hockey for the first time or is a returning travel or house league player, we have a spot for you! The Jr. Bears welcome and invite you to “*Be A Bear!*”

Our Youth Hockey Program is registered with USA Hockey and the Delaware Valley Hockey League (DVHL) as well as the Eastern Junior Elite Prospects League (EJEPL). We offer programs for a wide variety of ages and playing levels, both boys and girls! We offer levels to compete from entry level through TIER II AA hockey, including:

- Learn-to-Play and Learn-to-Skate/ Bear Bites (Ages 4-5 years old)
- Mite (5-8 years old)
- Squirt (9-10 years old)
- Pee Wee (11-12 years old)
- Bantam (13-14 years old)
- Midget (15-18 years old)

This brochure provides valuable information regarding the different Travel levels, including respective cost, number of games & practices, added-value amenities and other key details. Please visit our website www.hersheyjrbears.org for registration information, updates and more details. Information on Bear Bites and House League programs will be available in June. In order to be part of the Jr Bears program, ALL players, coaches & managers are required to:

1.Register with USA Hockey at www.usahockey.com to obtain a USA Hockey number

2.Register with Hershey Jr. Bears at www.hersheyjrbears.org for your desired program

The HJB Board of Directors would like to give special thanks to all the volunteers who help make our hockey program a success year after year. Without their support it would be impossible to experience the outstanding achievements we have as teams and an organization.

Ice Hockey is an exciting sport, and our program strives to play the game with confidence and sportsmanship!

Let's Go Bears!

Yours in hockey,

Seth Mullen, President
Hershey Jr. Bears



TIER II Travel Evaluations

Mites Half Ice (2015-2018)

1 Evaluation @ Hersheypark Arena March 22nd- 5:30

- There will be a \$50 non-refundable Evaluation Fee which will be billed at the time of Registration
- Registration must be completed online, and payment made by credit card or check payable to the Hershey Jr. Bears
- Players will be required to sign a DVHL Player Agreement when arriving at Evaluation night
- The first of 7 payments toward Seasonal Dues will be billed on June 1st)
- Your Credit Card will automatically be charged on the 1st of each subsequent month for the 6 additional Dues payments

Squirts (2013 &2014)

2 Evaluations @ Hersheypark Arena March 22nd- 6:45 March 27th- 6:00

- There will be a \$50 non-refundable Evaluation Fee which will be billed at the time of Registration
- Registration must be completed online, and payment made by credit card or check payable to the Hershey Jr. Bears
- Players will be required to sign a DVHL Player Agreement when arriving at Evaluation night
- The first of 7 payments toward Seasonal Dues will be billed on June 1st)
- Your Credit Card will automatically be charged on the 1st of each subsequent month for the 6 additional Dues payments

What to Bring to Evaluations:

1) 2023-2024 USA Hockey Registration – signup at www.usahockey.com

2) Copy of birth certificate* (only if new to the Hershey Jr. Bears Organization)

Be 1 hour early for first night of evaluations

Pee Wee (2011 & 2012)

2 Evaluations @ Hersheypark Arena

March 22nd - 8:00

March 27th - 7:15

- There will be a \$50 non-refundable Evaluation Fee which will be billed at the time of Registration
- Registration must be completed online, and payment made by credit card or check payable to the Hershey Jr. Bears
- Players will be required to sign a DVHL Player Agreement when arriving at Evaluation night
- The first of 7 payments toward Seasonal Dues will be billed on June 1st)
- Your Credit Card will automatically be charged on the 1st of each subsequent month for the 6 additional Dues payments

Bantam (2009 & 2010)

2 Evaluations @ Hersheypark Arena

April 10th - 6:00

April 12th - 6:00

- There will be a \$50 non-refundable Evaluation Fee which will be billed at the time of Registration
- Registration must be completed online, and payment made by credit card or check payable to the Hershey Jr. Bears
- Players selected to a team will have 24 hours to accept the spot and sign the DVHL Player Agreement.
- The first of 7 payments toward Seasonal Dues will be billed on June 1st)
- Your Credit Card will automatically be charged on the 1st of each subsequent month for the 6 additional Dues payments

What to Bring to Evaluations:

1) 2023-2024 USA Hockey Registration – signup at www.usahockey.com

2) Copy of birth certificate* (only if new to the Hershey Jr. Bears Organization)

Be 1 hour early for first night of evaluations

Midget 16 (2007 & 2008)

2 Evaluations @ Hersheypark Arena

April 10th - 7:15

April 12th - 7:15

There will be a \$50 non-refundable Evaluation Fee which will be billed at the time of Registration

Registration must be completed online, and payment made by credit card or check payable to the Hershey Jr. Bears

Players selected to a team will have 24 hours to accept the spot and sign the DVHL Player Agreement.

The first of 7 payments toward Seasonal Dues will be billed on June 1st)

Your Credit Card will automatically be charged on the 1st of each subsequent month for the 6 additional Dues payments

Midget 18 (2005 & 2006)

2 Evaluations @ Hersheypark Arena

April 10th - 7:15

April 12th - 7:15

There will be a \$50 non-refundable Evaluation Fee which will be billed at the time of Registration

Registration must be completed online, and payment made by credit card or check payable to the Hershey Jr. Bears

Players selected to a team will have 24 hours to accept the spot and sign the DVHL Player Agreement.

The first of 7 payments toward Seasonal Dues will be billed on June 1st)

Your Credit Card will automatically be charged on the 1st of each subsequent month for the 6 additional Dues payments

What to Bring to Evaluations:

1) 2023-2024 USA Hockey Registration – signup at www.usahockey.com

2) Copy of birth certificate* (only if new to the Hershey Jr. Bears Organization)

Be 1 hour early for first night of evaluations

2023-2024 Hershey Jr Bears Travel Program Pricing

Level (Birth Years Eligible)

<u>Mite (2015-2018) A/B/C</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skaters \$975 • Goalies \$550 	<u>Squirt (2013-2014) AA/A/B</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skaters \$2198 • Goalies \$1260
<u>Pee Wee A/B (2011-2012)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skaters \$2198 • Goalies \$1260 	<u>Pee Wee AA (2011-2012)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skaters \$2498 • Goalies \$1560
<u>Bantam A/B (2009-2010)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skaters \$2198 • Goalies \$1260 	<u>Bantam AA (2009-2010)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skaters \$2498 • Goalies \$1560
<u>Midget 16A (2007-2008)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skaters \$2198 • Goalies \$1260 	<u>Midget 16 AA (2007-2008)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skaters \$2498 • Goalies \$1560
<u>Midget 18A (2005-2006)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skaters \$2198 • Goalies \$1260 	<u>Midget 18 AA (2005-2006)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skaters \$2498 • Goalies \$1560

(Please see the pages that follow for more information on what is included with your dues)

What to Bring to Evaluations:

1) 2023-2024 USA Hockey Registration – signup at www.usahockey.com

2) Copy of birth certificate* (only if new to the Hershey Jr. Bears Organization)

Be 1 hour early for first night of evaluations

Tier II Mites

Mite 6U/8U A/B/C

2015 - 2018 Birth

Year \$975 Includes:

Game Jersey and shell or Track suit
Game Socks
Practice Jersey
7 Summer Practices
44 Practices (approx.)
10 Home Games
2 Travel Champs Tournaments (location
-teams choice)

1 Jamboree

Tier II Pee Wees

Pee Wee AA

2011 - 2012 Birth

Year \$2,498 Includes:

Game Jersey and Shell or Track suit
Game Socks
Practice Jersey
7 Summer Practices + minicamp
52 Practices (approx.)
DVHL + EJEPL Home Games
2 EJEPL Showcases
2 Travel Champs Tournaments
(location – team's choice)
+ 3 away tournaments
Projection: 40 Games between DVHL/EJEPL
+ 5 Tournaments
Approximately – 60 games
1 Jamboree May 19-21 2023

Tier II Squirts

Squirt AA, A, B

20123- 2014 Birth Year

\$2,198 Includes:

Game Jersey and shell or Tracksuit
Game Socks
Practice Jersey
7 Summer Practices + minicamp
52 Practices (approx.)
DVHL + EJEPL Home Games
2 EJEPL Showcases
2 Travel Champs Tournaments
(location – team's choice)
+ 1 away tournament
Projection: 36 Games between DVHL/EJEPL
+ 3 Tournaments
Approximately – 48 Games
1 Jamboree May 19-21 2023

Pee Wee A, B

2011 - 2012 Birth Year

\$2,198 Includes:

Game Jersey and Shell or Track suit
Game Socks
Practice Jersey
7 Summer Practices + mini camp
52 Practices (approx.)
DVHL + EJEPL Home Games
2 EJEPL Showcases
2 Travel Champs Tournaments
(location – teams choice)
+ 1 away tournament
Projection: 40 Games between DVHL/EJEPL
+ 3 Tournaments
Approximately – 52 games
1 Jamboree May 19-21 2023

Tier II Bantams

Bantam AA Team

(2009 - 2010 Birth Year)

\$2,498 Includes:

Game Jersey and shell or Tracksuit
Game Socks
Practice Jersey
7 Summer Practices + minicamp
52 Practices (approx.)
DVHL + EJEPL Home Games
2 EJEPL Showcases
2 Travel Champs Tournaments
(location – team's choice)
+ 3 away tournament
Projection: 36 Games between DVHL/EJEPL
+ 5 Tournaments
Approximately – 56 Games

Tier II Midgets

Midget AA Teams (16/18)

(2007 - 2008 / 2005 - 2006)

\$2,498 Includes:

Game Jersey and Shell or Track Suit
Game Socks
Practice Jersey
7 Summer Practices + mini camp
52 Practices (approx.)
DVHL Home Games
2 Travel Champs Tournaments
(location – team's choice)
+ 4 away tournament
Projection: 21 DVHL Games
+ 6 Tournaments
Approximately – 45 games

Bantam A, B

(2009 - 2010 Birth Year)

\$2,098 Includes:

Game Jersey and shell or Tracksuit
Game Socks
Practice Jersey
7 Summer Practices + minicamp
52 Practices (approx.)
DVHL + EJEPL Home Games
2 EJEPL Showcases
2 Travel Champs Tournaments
(location – team's choice)
+ 1 away tournament
Projection: 36 Games between DVHL/EJEPL
+ 3 Tournaments
Approximately – 48 Games

Midget16 A / 18A

(2007 - 2008 / 2005 - 2006)

\$2,098 Includes:

Game Jersey and Shell or Track Suit
Game Socks
Practice Jersey
7 Summer Practices + mini camp
40 Practices (approx.)
DVHL Home Games
2 Travel Champs Tournaments
(location – team's choice)
+ 2 away tournament
Projection: 21 DVHL Games
+ 4 Tournaments
Approximately – 37 games

Discount on Multiple Siblings

The Hershey Jr. Bears provide a 20% discount on the 3rd and/or subsequent child/children. Discount will be applied to the lowest dues first.

Discount does not apply if you are registering for the J. Bruce McKinney Scholarship Fund.

Equipment Package

We are currently working on an equipment package and will have more information out shortly on that. Items will be available for sizing and ordering at the time of evaluations.

Items in the equipment package are not required

Eurostar Hockey

This year we have partnered with Eurostar Hockey for our pre evaluation clinics. They will be run at Hersheypark Arena and the Giant Center in the weeks leading up to tryouts. Eurostar is run by current NCAA division III hockey players. They will run off ice, power skating, goalie, and other skills a couple nights a week for your child to prepare for the coming season. The coaches have a vast amount of knowledge with the game of hockey and how to get the best out of your body. They will continue to help our teams throughout the summer and during the season. The coaches hope to offer clinics and private lessons through out the year as well to sharpen your skills in season. Please register for clinics at eurostarhockey.org or contact Artem Mikhaylov, his contact is listed below.

Euro Star Hockey



Artem Mikhaylov

Artem was born and raised in Moscow, Russia. He started playing at the age of 5 and moved to North America at the age of 15. He is also a graduate of the "Soviet Wings" hockey school in Moscow, Russia, and continues his career in the NCAA league for Lebanon Valley College, USA.

📞 704-345-7484



amikhaylov@eurostarhockey.org

J. Bruce McKinney Scholarship Fund

Through the kindness of J. Bruce McKinney and other donors, the Hershey Jr. Bears Organization is able to offer limited financial assistance to families who are experiencing financial difficulty. Scholarships are awarded solely on the basis of financial need. The identity and the financial information of all applicants will be strictly protected. Application forms may be accessed on our website. Please note: ALL Scholarship Fund applications must be received by August 31, 2023. No applications will be accepted after August 31st. Applications are available by emailing HJB board member Jake Thomas at coachjakethomas@gmail.com



Hershey Jr. Bears 2023 - 2024 Tournaments

The Hershey Jr. Bears tournaments are an important source of revenue for the organization. The money earned in these tournaments helps reduce the costs of players' annual fees. These tournaments are the largest fundraising programs within our organization. Our Pre-Season and Post-Season Tournaments have become one of the largest on the East Coast and attract teams from many states to the Hershey area. Our organization is proud to have engaged the services of Travel Champs to run such well-respected tournaments that continue to grow every year!

Hershey Jr. Bears teams are welcome to choose any 2 Travel Champs Tournaments to play in.

Visit the Travel Champs tournament page website at www.travelchamps.com for a complete listing of tournaments and availability.



WHAT DOES THE EJEPL MEAN FOR ME?

What is the EJ?

The Eastern Junior Elite Prospect League (“EJEPL”/“EJ”) is a well-established supplemental league that many DVHL teams have a history participating in. It is currently in its 11th year of competition. It is essential to understand that the EJEPL began because clubs were looking for more quality competition outside the localized leagues.

What does the EJEPL offer my family?

This question is multi-faceted. It offers clubs dedicated to staying in the DVHL an opportunity to play other competitive games vs. non DVHL teams.

What teams play in the EJ?

There are numerous teams from the DVHL currently playing in the EJEPL. Along with members from multiple states: New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Virginia — these states offer over 50 clubs at various levels of play within the league. They also have teams in North Carolina, Florida, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, Georgia, South Carolina, and Maryland.

What are they offering the DVHL?

The EJ is offering many benefits to our league.

- Both Showcases and 'Loose league games' will be provided to the DVHL teams that chose to play in the EJ.
- Loose league games are not at showcase but count towards EJ standings and playoffs. These are non-league games for the DVHL and will be played at home and away from our rinks.
- These games will be scheduled in a geographically friendly area and have teams come to us. Allowing our organizations an opportunity to play these games closer to home and to keep travel costs down
- Expanded competition for our teams, meaning playing teams that we would not regularly have access to in a league-style format
- Having an opportunity to play high-quality competition at the various levels will help our clubs to recruit and retain players that want to play higher levels.
- There is an additional cost per team, but DVHL Leadership has negotiated a discounted rate based on USA Hockey T1 rosters.

Do all teams and all levels have to participate?

NO. The EJ is a supplemental offering to our clubs and our regular DVHL schedule. Clubs can choose to participate at the team level. Meaning each club will decide for THEMSELVES which teams will play in the EJ — they are not required to play.

What level and divisions do they offer?

With the expanded number of clubs (of various sizes), the league supports all age levels 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U 14U, 15U 16U & 18U at the Diamond level (this is comparable to our traditional AA and strong A National). In the "Futures" level, the ages are more traditional 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U. The divisions are named GOLD and SILVER; these divisions provide more meaningful and consistent competition.

So for comparison, GOLD 1 is similar to the A National division, and there may be a few weaker AA teams; GOLD 2 may have some weaker A National teams and stronger A American teams. The SILVER is split similarly with weaker A American and the B National and B American teams.

One big difference between the DVHL and the EJEPL is team placement for league play. The onus is on the Clubs to place teams in the division they feel is appropriate for each team. Yes, this sounds similar, but it is different – meaning if a team is required to petition “down” in the DVHL – that same team can be placed at a level in the EJEPL, and it can be placed and still be playoff eligible.

Will we play teams in the DVHL at showcases?

No – the DVHL team will not play against other DVHL teams during their season except in the EJ Playoffs if they need to. There is no championship at showcases, just a weekend of a minimum of 4 games.

One showcase will be in late August, one in the fall, and a 3rd TBD.

Where will we play?

The EJ has had showcases at Ice Works (Aston PA – Home of the Delco Phantoms), Klick Lewis (Palmyra/Annville PA), and we are currently working with other rinks within our league footprint for next year.

Will we travel at all?

Sure, while most of the showcases are within our league's footprint, there may be showcase weekends outside of our area; New York, Virginia, or Connecticut. Additional travel will also happen with loose games played at the opponent's rink.

What will this partnership offer our younger-aged teams?

We are working on an exciting event with the EJ to have a unique showcase for our 14U Diamond All-Stars. This special showcase will be in Connecticut or Massachusetts. This event will put our kids in front of the coaching staff of many of these schools. For ages under the 14U level, it will also offer diversity in game-play and scheduling partners.

What do they offer our older players?

The EJ is known for its commitment to competitive play. For divisions at the older levels where current divisions may be smaller, our teams can play additional games at comparable levels.

The league does evaluate the competition at the first league showcase between teams. After the first showcase, teams have/and will move to different levels to make sure the kids are getting the best experience available. The EJ has established a good name in junior and college programs at all levels. By having their distinction of being a well-run and organized league, the scouts for these clubs and associations often attend the showcases.

THE EJEPL MEANS STABILITY AND ADDITIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE DVHL AT ALL LEVELS OF PLAY AND OUR FAMILIES.

Eastern Junior Elite Prospects League (EJEPL) & Hershey Jr. Bears

What the partnership between EJEPL and DVHL means for the Hershey Jr. Bears.

As we move toward next season, the Hershey Jr Bears will be a member of the Eastern Junior Elite Prospects League (EJEPL). What does being a member mean for HJB?

Here is the rundown:

EJEPL consist of two showcase events for 14U and below, and three Showcase events for 16U and 18U. The showcase events are weekend events where each team plays 4 teams in their EJEPL division. The first showcase is late August with the remaining scheduled at various times based on their age group. The showcases are held at Klick Lewis Arena, Aston Ice Works, and a third location that is determined at a later date. In addition to the showcases, each team will be scheduled to play 8 additional games, with the restriction that these games will not be against DVHL teams. Four of the games will be home games and four will be away games. These games will be scheduled by our HJB scheduler and will be held during the season as long as they are completed by the EJEPL cut-off date in late January. The majority of travel for EJEPL is expected to be within the radius of Southern New Jersey and Northern Maryland.

EJ's includes a playoff for those who qualify. EJEPL uses a KRACH rating system to determine who makes the playoffs. Playoffs are held in early February. <https://www.ejepl.net/KRACH>

EJ has several levels of play. The Diamond division are top level birth year teams, with minimal flexibly to have players outside of the birth year for that division. Futures Gold and Silver are more like the DVHL setting, with 18U, 16U, 14U, 10U and an 8U division. Placement for the teams is chosen by the organization and coaches. After the first showcase, teams that out matched opponents, or got out matched are encouraged to move up or down based on their performance. In the 2021-22 EJ season, 30 teams moved divisions after the first showcase.

The EJEPL's main goal is to provide an avenue for the kids to play fun and competitive hockey. The cost for EPEPL will be included within the fee schedule for the HJB 2022-2023 season.

The organization feels with the departure of programs leaving the DVHL, that this will definitely keep our teams around the current number of games if not more than what you have experienced this past season. Our expectations are that our pricing will be at or around the same.

We are excited for this new opportunity to grow.



Terms and Conditions

In addition to the Hershey Jr. Bears online registration process, participants are required to:

- Enter into a PLAYER/PARENT AGREEMENT with the Delaware Valley Hockey League (DVHL)
- Players and parents hereby agree to a financial obligation to The Hershey Jr. Bears for the 2023-2024 season

You must understand that you may not leave The Hershey Jr. Bears to go to another organization without payment in full and a release from The Hershey Jr. Bears.

Also understand that failure to pay the player fee according to the payment guidelines set forth will result in loss of practice and/or game ice time for your son/daughter and subject the player to be added to the AAHA Financial Debt List.

Player Sponsorship

The Hershey Jr. Bears allow its participants the opportunity to solicit sponsors willing to donate a tax-deductible contribution to the organization on your behalf in which you receive 70% of the NET proceeds to reduce your fee. For more information and to download the Player Sponsorship brochure, please visit our website www.hersheyjrbears.org

The Hershey Jr. Bears are also seeking corporate sponsors for the 2023 – 2024 season. Donations are tax deductible, as HJB is a 501 (c) 3 organization. For more information on how your company can increase awareness for your business and help support youth hockey in the region, please contact Collin Stough @ collin.stough@hersheyjrbears.org



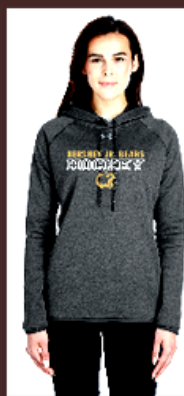
HJB LOGO Apparel

A wide range of Hershey Jr. Bears apparel & logo merchandise is available for purchase online at:
https://store.travelchamps.com/hershey_jr_bears_online_store/shop/home



Apparel

We have a wide range of Hershey Jr. Bears apparel & logo merchandise available for purchase online.



https://store.travelchamps.com/hershey_jr_bears_online_store/shop/home

USA Hockey Registration

ALL HJB participants are required to register with USA Hockey.

Online registration for the 2023-2024 season will be available starting April 6, 2022.

All participants must bring a copy of their USA Hockey Registration to evaluations.

A Step-by-Step guide to Online Registration:

1. Go to www.usahockey.com and click on the “register online” button.
2. Choose member type Ice Player/Coach.
3. You must be 18 years of age to process a registration. Check the box that acknowledges that YOU are 18 or older.
4. Select the correct season: 2023 - 2024.
5. Follow the prompts, fill in all data correctly.
6. Process payment: Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express (credit or debit card). A Visa gift card will also work.
7. You may print your Confirmation page at this time. It will also be emailed to you immediately after the registration process is completed.
8. Once you have received your confirmation email, please forward it to Collin Stough at: collin.stough@hersheyjrbears.org



HJB Registration

This season, you will only need to register online ONE time through the HJB website.

The Squirrt through Midget level payment plan is based off a fee of \$2,148.

If your son/daughter is chosen for a Pee Wee AA, Bantam AA or Midget AA team, the additional \$300 AA fee will need to be paid by July 1, 2023

Uniforms & Jersey Information



Returning players are encouraged to keep their current number from last season.

New players and returning players wishing to change jersey numbers will have their requests determined after evaluations. The goal is to give each player the opportunity to choose their number that will stick with them throughout their Hershey Jr. Bears career.

