

It is that time of year again to register for the upcoming 2018-2019 season. All players, coaches, assistant coaches, managers and volunteers must register with USA Hockey. You will want to do this before registering with GAHA. All players, coaches and assistants must also register with GAHA through the website. Ice fees are due in full prior to taking the ice. Installments are allowed. Listed below are the ice fees for each team.

**2018-2019 Ice Fees**

Beginners Session 1 \$125

Session 2 \$125.00

Beginners Session 1&2 (Combo) \$200.00 sign-up for both initially

Mites \$600

Squirt Empire \$1220

Squirt WNY \$1290

Pee Wee Empire \$1260

Pee Wee WNY \$1310

Bantam Empire \$1300

Bantam WNY \$1340

Midget Empire \$1320

Midget 16U \$1050

Midget 18U \$1050

Goalies at all levels from the Squirt Empire and up - 1/2 price ice fees for their appropriate level.

Families with 3 or more players receive a discount at the 3rd player mark.

Many will notice an increase from the 2017-2018 season. This is simply due to an increase in the fees that the rink is charging GAHA for ice time. In previous seasons, we have dipped into reserve GAHA funds to aid in keeping the passing of ice fee increases along to our families or at least keeping them to a minimum. Unfortunately we are not able to do this for the upcoming season and maintain a modest healthy reserve fund. A modestly healthy reserve allows GAHA to have available funds in the event of emergency, special opportunity or a situation that occurs that will directly impact GAHA positively or negatively. The reserve has been generated through several past seasons

dating back 20 plus years through a pattern of player growth, however this pattern has not continued the last few seasons.

Please keep in mind that GAHA is a small organization with NO paid positions, all those who serve the players from coaches to board members are volunteers. There is no mandatory organizational fundraising. Our players get a large amount of ice time for practicing. The ice schedule is set for a month at a time for practices and they are always at 1 ice rink, there is no bouncing from rink to rink. Our players are not required to purchase organizational equipment like specific helmets, new jerseys every season, warm-ups, etc. For most, the commute to the rink is short. These are not common occurrences for many organizations. Our ice fees are proportional to the amount of ice a team receives and falls in line with area organizations.

We all love hockey, but along with that love comes the expense, you know the one that every friend who doesn't play hockey exclaims, "Oh hockey, its SO expensive!" And as players move up in age the expense grows. For those players that go on to play at the AAA or Junior Level, it increases even more drastically. This is not to discourage anyone from the joys of hockey, but it is a reality that each hockey family must face and budget for accordingly. The Board and the Budget Committee do not take increases in fees lightly. We truly understand the implications of an increase, but at the same time expenses must be covered for our players to be able to play the game we all love!