

Rec Hockey - FAQ

What is the Rec League philosophy?

The Minnesota Rec Hockey League is an affordable alternative to other hockey organizations which can be commitment, skill and cost prohibitive to some families. The Rec League is inclusive of all players, regardless of skill or experience. Our goal is to give kids the opportunity to play hockey in a fun and competitive environment without the pressures of try-outs or team rankings.

How are teams formed?

Within each age level:

- 1) Players are grouped by preferred geographical region
- 2) If specified, players are moved to honor Friend Requests
- 3) We try to ensure each team has a goalie and at least one volunteer coach

Do you form teams for competitive balance?

- 1) The Board discusses this every year and have never arrived at a workable solution as geography and friend requests are the two driving factors for team make-up.
- 2) Without doing evaluations we don't have a reliable method to assess skills
- 3) Coaches are encouraged to make game time adjustments to promote balanced games, when necessary.

Why don't you do player evaluations?

It's not feasible for Rec League to do player evaluations.

- 1) The Board is not staffed to: establish criteria, secure evaluators and coordinate 500+ players across 5 age levels and numerous geography locations..
- 2) A very small percentage of registrations occur in Dec. and Jan., after evaluations would have taken place.
- 3) After placing players on teams based on location, there are typically limited remaining spots available to create roster balance.
- 4) We do use the registration questions (years of experience, skill level, last association team/level, etc.) to categorize players and use this information to adjust rosters where possible.
- 5) Many parents top priority is geography. Having a truly balanced league would mean shifting kids all around the metro area based on skill levels. A family in Blaine likely won't want to be playing on a team based in Minnetonka or St. Paul.

Why isn't there any ice at my local arena?

Supply and demand: if there is no ice at your local arena, it means there was NO ice offered to Rec League by that arena. The Rec League starts purchasing ice in June and continues through mid December.

Why does the Festival happen during my Spring break?

- 1) The Festival is intended to be the last Rec Hockey event of the season, if we go into April it starts conflicts with Spring sports.
- 2) Late March is the earliest time we can get multiple ice sheets on a single weekend day.
- 3) Rec League encompasses many school districts so we can't accommodate every calendar

Why am I unable to request a specific coach this year?

To streamline the registration process, the Rec League eliminated coach requests. Friend requests are still available as an option and can accomplish the same goal.

What days of the week will there be games or practices?

- 1) Specific dates aren't know until all ice is purchased.
- 2) Due to ice availability it can be assumed that most ice times will be on Saturday, Sunday and Friday..
- 3) We aim to avoid days / times where in the past attendance has been sparse.

Are pre-season skills clinics mandatory?

None of the Rec League events are mandatory. However, we do encourage clinic attendance because they offer an opportunity to get ice time and build on skills to get ready for the season. If your skater is unable to make their assigned clinic they may attend any other one available in their age group.

When will the season schedule be released?

- 1) The clinic schedule is set to be released in late November.
- 2) Initial season schedule to be released in late December with the balance of the schedule in late-January. This is done as our ice times are not firmed up until these dates.

Am I able to sign my skater up for an alternate level?

Yes, any player may play one level up or down depending on their experience level. The league discourages players looking to play a level down in an effort to dominate play. Players doing this will be asked to move up once it becomes evident.

Is it possible to try playing goalie?

YES! - Go to the Board page and reach out to the Goalie Director, they will get you started.

How do I get trained on running the clock during a game?

- 1) Every arena has instructions and/or a cheat sheet near the clock.
- 2) Ask coaches or Refs, chances are they can help
- 3) Arrive early and practice, especially adding penalty time
- 4) Don't worry! You'll make mistakes and so will the players, refs and coaches

How do I get involved with the board?

Go to the Board page on the Rec Hockey website and reach out to the President. We'd love to have you involved!