



*Ice Dogs* **TRAVEL HOCKEY PROGRAM**  
2023/2024

Ice Dogs Families,

Thank you for choosing the Ice Dogs for your Fall 2023/2024 hockey season. Based on the overwhelming success of the Northern Illinois Hockey League (NIHL) Premier Select League (PSL) the past couple of seasons, our club will be placing teams in PSL at the Bantam, Pee Wee, and Squirt "Major" years of 2009, 2011, and 2013, respectively. Additionally, we will roster appropriate teams at the traditional NIHL levels, including Elite, Gold, Silver and Bronze.

This season, we continue our successful partnership with **Justin Nelson** from **Above and Beyond Hockey**, as well as **Ryan Honik and David Heflin** of **GDI Goaltending**, to lead our skills sessions for skaters and goaltenders for continued development of high-level skills.

The Ice Dogs Hockey Association (IDHA) is here for our players and parents and appreciate the continued support.  
Good luck to all our players this coming season!

Go Dogs!



Zac Adams

President, Ice Dogs Hockey Association



# ICE DOGS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



The Ice Dogs Hockey Association (IDHA) is a non-profit organization, registered in the State of Illinois. The mission of the IDHA is to provide a premier youth hockey program in Vernon Hills, and surrounding communities, ensuring a fun and exciting experience for skaters and their families. The Board of the IDHA facilitates an environment that promotes competition, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

Our program is structured to teach the four basic hockey skills of skating, stick-handling, passing and shooting, which facilitate the development of motor skills, hand/eye coordination, and quickness and endurance.

We are family focused and community minded and strive to instill family values through the game of ice hockey, while having a positive impact upon the development of the participants as hockey players, individuals, and members of the community.

IDHA is a proud member of the Northern Illinois Hockey League (NIHL). Our participation in NIHL allows IDHA to participate in a highly competitive youth hockey league in the geographic area of Northern Illinois and to encourage a continuing drive for the highest standards of excellence and sportsmanship in hockey play among our players.



**ZAC ADAMS - PRESIDENT**  
**ERIC SCHNEIDER - VICE PRESIDENT**

**ANETA ANICHINI - TREASURER**

**JIM MICHALAK - SECRETARY**

**SCOTT STERES - NIHL REP/TOURNAMENTS**

**BOBBY SCOTT - GENERAL BOARD**

**VALERIE STERES - FUNDRAISING CHAIRPERSON**

**IDHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

# EXPECTED TEAMS



**PSL = NIHL PREMIER SELECT LEAGUE**

**Squirt (2013/2014) – 4 teams:**

2013 PSL, A1, A2, A3

**Pee Wee (2011/2012) – 4 teams:**

2011 PSL, A1, A2, A3

**Bantam (2009/2010) – 4 teams:**

2009 PSL, A1, A2, A3



**Mite (2015-2018) – 4 teams:**

Mite 1, Mite 2, Mite 3, Mite 4

# Ice Dogs

**SQUIRT**

2013/2014

Ralph Menotti

**PEE WEE**

2011/2012

Jeff McPherren

**BANTAM**

2009/2010

Libor Ustrnul

**2023-2024 LEVEL DIRECTORS**

<b>2009 PSL</b>	<p><b>LIBOR USTRNUL,</b> Head Coach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Played minor hockey in Czech Republic</li> <li>• Major Junior A hockey with Plymouth OHL</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> round NHL draft choice – 10 years professional</li> <li>• Ice Dogs coach for 12 seasons</li> </ul>
<b>NIHL POOL</b>	<p><b>ROB KENNEDY,</b> Head Coach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grew up in Chicago area, winning 2 AAA Illinois state titles</li> <li>• College hockey at Robert Morris</li> <li>• Several Junior league teams in U.S. and Canada</li> <li>• Most recently Ice Dogs and Carmel assistant coach</li> </ul>
<b>NIHL POOL</b>	<p><b>RALPH MENOTTI,</b> Head Coach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AAA and Junior A hockey in Illinois</li> <li>• Won multiple state championships at AAA and High School</li> </ul>
<b>NIHL POOL</b>	<p><b>CHRIS MERRITT,</b> Head Coach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grew up in Northbrook, playing for Bluehawks and Glenbrook North</li> <li>• Coached Bluehawks at Pee Wee and Bantam level for 4 years</li> <li>• Most recently coached Junior Varisty IceCats</li> </ul>

# BANTAM 2009/2010

Coaching staff subject to updates and revisions, as necessary



<div>2011 PSL</div> <div>JEFF McPHERREN, Head Coach</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College hockey at Fredonia State University</li> <li>• Junior hockey at MJHL and NAHL</li> </ul>	<div>NIHL POOL</div> <div>JOHN HARRIS, Head Coach</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represented Central District at the U.S. Olympic Training Camp</li> <li>• Has coached every level from Beginners through High School, including several teams to Top 4 in State.</li> </ul>	<div>NIHL POOL</div> <div>ERIC SKALESKI, Head Coach</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Born in Green Bay</li> <li>• USA Hockey Coaching Level 4</li> <li>• Won Wisconsin State Championship 2021</li> <li>• Assistant Bantam PSL Ice Dogs Coach 2022</li> <li>• Summer coaching with Above and Beyond and Train Hard at Glacier</li> </ul>	<div>NIHL POOL</div> <div>JOE TOWNSEND, Head Coach</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Played minor hockey at Chicago Hawks and Chicago Young Americans</li> <li>• College hockey at Northern Illinois University</li> <li>• Former Varsity coach at Libertyville High School</li> <li>• 21 years coaching</li> </ul>
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# PEE WEE 2011/2012

Coaching staff subject to updates and revisions, as necessary



**2013 PSL**

**RALPH MENOTTI,  
Head Coach**

- AAA and Junior A hockey in Illinois
- Won multiple state championships at AAA and High School



**NIHL POOL**

**ANDREW FENTON,  
Head Coach**

- Minor hockey in Canada, where began instructional work
- 3 years Junior hockey before college play at UW Stout and Lake Forest College
- Joined Ice Dogs in 2008
- Middle school principal



**NIHL POOL**

**BOBBY SCOTT,  
Head Coach**

- Played minor hockey in Chicago area
- College hockey at University of Illinois – Chicago
- United States Hockey League – Waterloo Blackhawks
- Coached youth hockey for over 30 years



**NIHL POOL**

**STAN STIOPKIN,  
Head Coach**

- 40 years of coaching in Europe and U.S.A.
- Known for high level skill and creativity training
- National champion coach with Chicago Young Americans
- Skills instructor to many NHL/NCAA players

# SQUIRT 2013/2014

Coaching staff subject to updates and revisions, as necessary

EXPECTED 2023-2024 MITE COACHING STAFF

P.J. EBERHARDT

CHAD HIMLEY

BRETT JENDRA

JOE TOWNSEND

**MITE FEE SCHEDULE FOR 2023/2024**

Pre-Season Clinics & Tryouts: \$180

PAYMENT DATE	PLAYER	GOALIE
September 1	\$800.00	\$552.50
October 1	\$800.00	\$552.50
November 1	\$800.00	\$552.50
December 1	\$800.00	\$552.50
SEASON FEE	\$3,200.00	\$2,210.00

**MITE 2015-2018**

Coaching staff subject to updates and revisions, as necessary



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

	2023/2024 Fees	Tryout Fee	Registration	October 1	November 1	December 1
SQUIRT 2013/2014	NIHL: \$5,100.00	\$250.00	\$1,275.00	\$1,275.00	\$1,275.00	\$1,275.00
	PSL: \$5,600.00	\$250.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
PEE WEE 2011/2012	NIHL: \$5,450.00	\$250.00	\$1,362.50	\$1,362.50	\$1,362.50	\$1,362.50
	PSL: \$5,950.00	\$250.00	\$1,487.50	\$1,487.50	\$1,487.50	\$1,487.50
BANTAM 2009/2010	NIHL: \$5,500.00	\$250.00	\$1,375.00	\$1,375.00	\$1,375.00	\$1,375.00
	PSL: \$6,000.00	\$250.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00

- Fees include non-refundable tryout fee, as well as \$200.00 Big Dog Bash raffle ticket costs.
- Four equal payments comprise the season fees, including tryout fees. The first payment is due at the time of registration. For those players trying out for PSL not offered a position, the difference between NIHL and PSL fees will be refunded for the last quarterly payment.
- A player who begins tryouts and is offered a position on an Ice Dogs travel team will forfeit first payment for non-acceptance of this position.
- Registered goalies receive a 25% discount off published fees.
- For families with three or more registered IDHA (squirt and above) players, a \$500.00 discount is available to the total costs.

# *Ice Dogs* **UNIFORMS**



The Ice Dogs Hockey Association includes ALL uniform costs in player fees. This consists of set of 2 jerseys (home and away), pant shell, socks, warm-up suit, and equipment bag (bag for new travel players only).

As part of the uniform code, players are required to utilize NAVY BLUE equipment, including helmet and gloves. Because pant shells are provided, navy blue pants are preferred, but not required.

