



Ice Bears Spring 2025 Season Information



PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK

The Ice Bears program competes in the Northwest Hockey League. This league focuses on competitive hockey while emphasizing balanced ice time for all players. The Oak Park Ice Bears program is based on the three pillars of developing a love for the game of hockey, a dedication to skating & skill development, and being a model organization in terms of sportsmanship. Players who are interested in participating must have previous playing experience.

*Players who are new to the Ice Bears Program **MUST** be evaluated **PRIOR** to registration. Contact hockey@pdop.org to set up an evaluation. Anyone who registers without being evaluated will be removed from the roster and lose their place on the team.*

*Also, **NWHL** rules prohibit players who previously played in Central States, NIHL Elite, NIHL Premier Select, or AAA.*

Registration Dates	
RETURNING RESIDENT ICE BEARS (Spring 2024 or Fall 2024)	Friday, Jan 31, 8:30am
OAK PARK RESIDENTS	Saturday, Feb 1, 8:30am
RETURNING NON-RESIDENT ICE BEARS (Spring 2024 or Fall 2024)	Friday, Feb 7, 8:30am
OPEN REGISTRATION	Saturday, Feb 8, 8:30am
PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION CLOSES	Sunday, March 16, 11:59pm

The program reserves the right to add players based on circumstance.

Spring Timeline*

Evaluations for Team Drafts: March 17th and 19th all players must attend at least one hour:

8U (Mites): 4:30-5:30P

10U (Squirts): 5:45-6:45P

Mandatory Bantam (14U) Checking Clinics: March 20 6:30-7:45P & March 21 5:15-6:15P

ORDER JERSEYS THROUGH SQUADLOCKER: BY AUGUST 18

Scrimmage Saturday: March 22- All teams will scrimmage for practice playing full-ice before games begin

Games Begin: April 4

Season Ends, League Tournament Begins: May 30

Final Ice Bears Practices: End of May

Season Conclusion/Championships: Early June

*Timeline may be subject to change.

Weekly Schedule

Each team will have two practices a week.

Potential Practice Times**

Mondays: 8U 4:45-5:45P, 10U 6:00-7:00P, 12U/14U

7:15-8:15P

Tuesdays: 8:30-9:30P (12U/14U)

Wednesdays: Ice Bears Academy 8U 5:30-6:30P,

10U 6:45-7:45

Potential Weekend Home Game Slots

Saturdays: 2:45-3:45P, 4:00-5:00P, 5:15-6:15P

Sundays: 3:00-4:00P, 4:15-5:15P

***Subject to Change Based on Registration Numbers. The practice schedule will be decided based on registration.*

Program Contacts

Jason Henington (Ice Programs Supervisor)/Emily Franciszkowicz (Hockey Coordinator) Hockey@pdop.org/708-725-2304



Ice Bears Program Information

Age Levels by Birth Year

Players will be required to play at their appropriate age level.

Mite (8U): 2017-2018

Peewee (12U): 2013-2014

Squirt (10U): 2015-2016

Bantam (14U): 2011-2012

Generally, there are teams at each level, however, a team may not be offered at all levels pending registration outcomes.

Ice Bears Academy Skills (8U & 10U)

New for spring 2025, our coaches will lead Ice Bears Academy, a skating & skills focused practice designed to help our players develop as holistic hockey players while having a blast on the ice. These practices will be fast paced and fun while ensuring players progress in the areas of skating, stick-handling, passing, shooting, and hockey IQ.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

The Ice Bears program is run on the generosity of our volunteer coaches and managers. If you are interested in volunteering to coach or manage a team, please reach out to Jason Henington directly at jason.henington@pdop.org by March 10, 2025. The Park District requires all volunteers to submit to a background check as well as remain compliant with all USA Hockey volunteer requirements.

Ice Bears Pricing & Registration

The cost for this program includes:

- League and NWHL Tournament fees
- Scheduler and officials' fees.
- Two Practices per week

Registrants may pay the Full Cost at registration or sign up for the payment plan as outlined below:

Age	Full Cost		Deposit	Mar 1 Payment	Apr 1 Payment	May 1 Payment	June 1 Payment
8U	\$575	OR	\$115	\$115	\$115	\$115	\$115
10U	\$575		\$115	\$115	\$115	\$115	\$115
12U	\$650		\$130	\$130	\$130	\$130	\$130
14U	\$700		\$140	\$140	\$140	\$140	\$140

Financial assistance is available, for more information, please visit <https://pdop.org/financial-assistance/>

****Any deposits and payments made prior to withdrawing from the program at any point are non-refundable unless the program is canceled by the Park District of Oak Park.****

Program Contacts

Jason Henington (Ice Programs Supervisor)/Emily Franciszkowicz (Hockey Coordinator) Hockey@pdop.org/708-725-2304



Pre-Registration Instructions

Level Clarifications and Requirements

*Players who are new to the Ice Bears Program **MUST** be evaluated **PRIOR** to registration. Contact our Hockey Coordinator at hockey@pdop.org to set up an evaluation. Anyone who registers without being evaluated will be removed from the roster and lose their place on the team*

Pre-Requisites – Mite New Mite (8U) players must have minimally passed Mighty Cub 4 and completed 2 sessions of Ice Bear Prep League PRIOR to registering. Players who have not met these requirements will be removed from the roster.

Pre-Requisites – Squirt New Squirt (10U) players must have minimally passed Mighty Cub 4 and completed 2 sessions of Ice Bears Prep League PRIOR to registering. Players who have not met these requirements will be removed from the roster.

Pre-Requisites – Pee wee Pee wees must show that they have surpassed the requirements of squirt and their skating and stick handling is strong enough to safely participate.

Pre-Requisites – Bantam Checking is introduced and players transitioning to the Bantam level must be equipped with the proper skills and experience to participate safely. Therefore, all players interested in the Bantam Team must be evaluated by the Hockey Coordinator to enroll. Evaluation will take place during Ice Bears Pee wee practice the previous season. **Prior years of play DO NOT guarantee Bantam level eligibility.**

All Bantam-level players must participate in two checking clinics before participating in league games. All checking clinics are included in Bantam Registration.

If You Have NEVER Participated in Ice Bears

Any player who has NEVER played a Fall or Spring Ice Bears season before, will be required to attend a Pre-Evaluation Skate, please contact our Hockey Coordinator at hockey@pdop.org to set up your players evaluation. In the interest of setting players up for success, the coaching staff will be putting players through drills to assess if they are ready for travel-level play. **If a new player does not attend a pre-evaluation, they will forfeit their spot on the team and it will be given to the first waitlisted player.**

USA Hockey Registration

In addition to completing the Park District of Oak Park In-House Travel Hockey registration, ALL players and coaches must register for USA Hockey ONLINE for the upcoming season.

Step 1: Complete the online registration process

1. Go to www.usahockeyregistration.com
2. Click on the 'Ice Players & Coaches' button
3. Select the correct season and follow the prompts to register
4. Process payment using- Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express (credit or debit card)
5. Print out your confirmation page. Make sure you do this as you will need to turn it in with your registration packet.



Step 2: Submit your USA Hockey Confirmation Number as part of your online Amilia registration.

Without completing this step, your skater cannot be added to any USA Hockey Roster and will NOT be able to participate in the program.



Ice Bears Registration



Additional Registration Questions in Amilia

Jersey Number: If Players were on the Ice Bears previously, they *MUST use the number that they have been assigned. If you are unsure of your player's number, contact jason.henington@pdop.org BEFORE registration. If your player is new to the Ice Bears, please choose three numbers* your player would like to have. **Number selection during registration does NOT guarantee that number for your player during the season.*** If there is an issue with the number selected, PDOP staff will reach out prior to the start of practices.

*The Park District attempts to keep players' numbers consistent throughout their Ice Bears career, to do this please ensure your players' number matches the parity of their birth year:

Players with even birth years (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018) have even jersey numbers.

Players with odd birth years (2011, 2013, 2015, 2017) have odd jersey numbers.

USA Hockey Number: All players must register with USA Hockey every year. Please follow the USA Hockey Registration instructions on page 4 and provide the players USA Confirmation Hockey number which is a combination of 9 numbers and 4 letters located in the PDF confirmation emailed to you after registering with USA Hockey. The fourth number must be "5" for the Spring 2025 Season



**THE FOLLOWING FORMS
ARE TO ASSIST WITH
ONLINE REGISTRATION.
THEY WILL NOT BE
COLLECTED.**

**USA Hockey Numbers must be
submitted for ALL PLAYERS or
they will not be allowed on the
ice.**



Waiver Required! For insurance purposes, Park District programs and activities require signed waiver.
Please sign the waiver section below.

RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

Please read this form carefully and be aware that in signing up and participating in this program (s), you will be waiving and releasing all claims for injuries you might sustain arising out of this program (including transportation services, when provide).

As a participant in the program(s), I recognize and acknowledge that there are certain risks of physical injury and I agree to assume the full risk of injuries, damages or loss which I may sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities with or associated with such program(s).

I agree to waive and relinquish all claims I may have as a result of participating in the program(s) against the Park District of Oak Park and its officers, agents, servants, and employees. I do hereby release and discharge the Park District of Oak Park and its officers, agents, servants, and employees from any and all claims from injuries, damage or loss which I may have or which may accrue to me on account of my participating in the program(s).

I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless and defend the Park District of Oak Park and its officers, agents, servants, and employees from any and all claims resulting from injuries, damages, and losses sustained by me and arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated with the activities of the program (s)

I have read and fully understand the above Program Details and Waiver Release Claims. Waivers MUST be signed by participant(s)' legal guardian. Facsimile signatures will be considered as original by the District.

Signature(s) : _____ Date: _____



Player Code of Conduct Policy

Park District of Oak Park



Player's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

With the interest in providing the best hockey experience for everyone, we have adopted the following Player Code of Conduct Policy. Each player is required to read the information below and sign the bottom of this form, acknowledging that you understand and are willing to abide by the policies set forth.

Player Responsibilities

1. I will place the emotional and physical well being of my teammates ahead of my personal desire to win.
2. I will set an example by demonstrating fair play and good sportsmanship to all players, coaches, officials and staff.
3. I will consider it a privilege to participate in the Ice Bears Hockey Program and will act respectfully toward others, before, after, and during each practice or game.
4. I agree to accept the direction of my coach and fellow teammates when delivered in a constructive and positive manner.
5. I will treat with utmost respect every ice arena's facilities and property. I will leave all locker rooms in the best possible condition.

INFRACTIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND MISBEHAVIOR MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| *Unsportsmanlike conduct | *Refusing to shake hands after the game |
| *Fighting | *Excessive game penalties |
| *Offensive language | *Bullying |
| *Repeated delay of practice or game | |

Player Code of Conduct

Any player's behavior, occurring in or about any ice arena during a game or practice, that brings discredit on Ridgeland Common, Ice Bears Hockey Program or any of its players, parents, or coaches, shall immediately be reported to the Hockey Coordinator, Program Supervisor as appropriate. Upon such report, the Hockey Coordinator and/or Program Supervisor shall take whatever steps necessary to investigate the incident. If such investigation reveals the incident occurred, the offending player shall be barred from further games and/or practices for such a period as the Hockey Coordinator and/or Program Supervisor deem appropriate. The Hockey Coordinator and/or Program Supervisor reserve the right to extend and/or supplement any penalties or game suspensions imposed by any official of the *Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois* or any of its affiliates.

REFUNDS WILL NOT BE GIVEN TO ANY PLAYER.

I have read, understand, and agree to follow the above Code of Conduct. My coach and/or Hockey Coordinator, Program Supervisor, and/or Aquatic and Rink Manager have answered all questions.

Signature of Oak Park Ice Bears Player

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date



Parental Code of Conduct Policy

Park District of Oak Park



Player's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

With the interest in providing the best hockey experience for your child, we have adopted the following Parental Code of Conduct Policy. Each parent is required to read the information below and sign the bottom of this form, acknowledging that you understand and are willing to abide by the policies set forth. Thank you for your support on this issue.

Parental Responsibilities:

1. Have your child at the arena, allowing enough time to get ready (minimum ½ hour). Lockers rooms are available and should be used at all times, rather than changing in the upper or lower lobby.
2. Always show support towards your child and the other children out on the ice. Don't forget that they are only children. Your support means a lot to them.
3. Set a good example by treating the officials, coaches, athletes, and fans with respect and dignity. *Remember, hockey is a game and a game should be FUN!* It is your responsibility to demonstrate the same type of behavior we wish to see in our children.
4. Support the coaches. Remember, they are *volunteering* their time. If you have a problem or suggestion, please discuss it with the Team Manager.
5. Never discipline your child for making mistakes or losing. Winning is not the main objective of the Ice Bears Hockey Program. Your child's growth and development as people is our main objective.
6. Coaches will attempt to provide *fair* ice time for all players, no matter their ability.

Parental Code of Conduct

Any parent's behavior, occurring in or about any ice arena during a game or practice, that brings discredit on Ridgeland Common, Ice Bears Hockey Program or any of its players, parents, or coaches, shall immediately be reported to a Coordinator and the Hockey Director as appropriate. Upon such report, the Hockey Coordinator and/or Program Supervisor shall take whatever steps necessary to investigate the incident. If such investigation reveals that the incident occurred, the offending parent shall be barred from further games and/or practices for such period as the Hockey Coordinator and/or Program Supervisor deems appropriate. If the behavior is reported by an official to the *Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois*, a minimum suspension of three games will follow. If such parent who is suspended appears at any game or practice from which the parent has been banned, the child of the parent shall be benched for such period of time as that parent remains in violation.

I have read, understand, and will abide by the Parental Code of Conduct as outlined above. By signing below, I am committing my entire family to abiding by this policy.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date



USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy

Park District of Oak Park



In an effort to make ice hockey a more rewarding experience for all participants, AHAI has instructed the Officiating Program to adhere to certain points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship. This campaign is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, team officials, administrators, and parents/spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during, and after all USA Hockey sanctioned games. Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all On-Ice Referees and Linesmen.

Players

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision made by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
3. Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision.

Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such actions.

Coaches

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision made by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to any one at any time.
3. Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision, including standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of inciting the officials, players, or spectators.

Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such actions.

Officials

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial, and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited. On-ice officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with responsibility in mind.

Parents/spectators

The game will be stopped by on ice officials when the parents/spectators are displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior, interfere with other spectators, or interfere with the game. The on-ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing the parents/spectators from the viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replayed and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

1. Using obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
2. Taunting players, coaches, officials, or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of violence, or physical violence itself.
3. Throwing any object in the spectator's viewing area, players bench, penalty box, or on the ice surface, directed in any manner to create a safety hazard.

Equal Opportunity Policy

USA Hockey shall provide an equal opportunity to armature athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate.