



Ice Bears Fall 2025-26 Season Information



The Ice Bears program competes in the Northwest Hockey League. This league focuses on competitive hockey while still allowing for 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 skill development, and being a model organization in terms of sportsmanship. Players who are interested in participating must have previous playing experience. The season begins in early September and runs through the beginning of March.

*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*

Registration Opens Friday, July 11, 2025 at 8:30AM for all Returning and New Ice Bears Families.

The last day to register for the Fall 2025 season is August 8, 2025.

Fall Timeline*

Evaluations for Team Drafts: August 9th and 16th all players must attend at least one hour:
8U (Mites): 1:15-2:15P 10U (Squirts): 2:30-3:30P 12U (Pewees): 3:45-4:45P

Bantam (14U) Checking Clinics: August 9th and 16th – 5:00-6:00P

ORDER UNIFORM PACKAGE THROUGH SQUADLOCKER: BY AUGUST 1

Pre-Tier Game Scheduling: TBD – Your head coach or team manager will communicate when possible. Games are usually on the weekends. Potential home game times are listed below “Weekly Schedule”

Pre-Tier Games Begin: Late September or early October

Pre-Tier Games End and Re-Tier Scheduling Occurs: Near Thanksgiving

Regular Games Begin: Early December

Holiday Party: December 17th (6:00-7:30P, Ridgeland Common)

Season Ends, League Tournament Begins: Early March

Final Ice Bears Practices: March 6th

Season Conclusion/Championships: Mid-March

*Timeline may be subject to change.

Weekly Schedule

Each team will typically have 3 one-hour practices a week (One 8U & 10U practice/week will be a skills practice with Ice Bears Academy)

Potential Practice Times**

Mondays: 8U: 4:45-5:45P, 10U 6:00-7:00P,
12U/14U 7:15-8:15P

Tuesdays: 12U/14U: 8:10-9:10P

Wednesdays: 8U Skills: 4:45-5:45P, 10U Skills 7:00-8:00P

Thursdays: 12U/14U 7:25-8:25P

Fridays: 8U: 4:00-5:00P, 10U: 5:15-6:15P

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, 5:30-6:30P, 6:45-7:45P, 8:00-9:00P

****Subject to Change Based on Registration Numbers. The practice schedule will be decided based on registration by August 2025**

Program Contacts

Jason Henington (Program Supervisor) and Emily Franciskowicz (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)

Our coaches will lead Ice Bears Academy Skills Practices on Wednesdays for 8U & 10U Ice Bears. This multi-station skating & skills focused practice is 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.

12U/14U Off-Ice Workouts

For the 2025/26 season, PDOP hockey & fitness coaches will lead our off-ice workouts for our 12U & 14U teams. These high energy workouts will focus on balance, strength, agility, explosiveness, conditioning, flexibility and fun! Times and dates for Ice Bears off-ice workouts will be announced soon.

UNIFORM ORDERS

New for Fall 2025 The uniform package will be included in the fee for players & goalies. The uniform package will include Game Jerseys (Home & Away), Game Socks (Home & Away), & a reversible practice jersey. The game jerseys will also include the player's last name. Warm up suits and other merchandise will be available separately for purchase from the store.

The Ice Bears online store will be available in the next few weeks to order your player's uniform package. More information will be coming soon.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

The Ice Bears program is run on the generosity of our parent volunteer coaches and managers. If parents are interested in volunteering to coach or manage a team, they should reach out to the Program Supervisor at hockey@pdop.org by August 8th, 2025. The Park District requires all volunteers to submit to a background check as well as remain compliant with all USA Hockey volunteer requirements.

If you're interested in volunteering as a coach, team manager, or locker room monitor, please complete the following:

PDOP Volunteer Application: <https://pdop.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Volunteer-App-and-Waiver-updated-1.25.pdf>

PDOP Background Screening: <https://opportunities.averity.com/opportunity/12518>

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Pre-Registration Instructions

Level Clarifications and Requirements

Pre-Requisites – Mite New Mite (8U) players must have minimally passed Ice Bears Academy and be approved by the Hockey Coordinator 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 or Ice Bears Academy and be approved by the Hockey Coordinator PRIOR to registering. Players who have not met these requirements will be removed from the roster.

Pre-Requisites – Peewee Peewees must show that they have met the requirements of Squirt hockey 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. Therefore, all players interested in the Bantam Team must be evaluated by the Hockey Coordinator in order to enroll.

All Bantam-level players must participate in a checking clinic 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 and handing in 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 can not be added to any USA Hockey Roster and will NOT be able to participate in the program.



Ice Bears Pricing & Registration

The fees for this program include:

- All ice time associated with weekly games and practices
- League and NWHL Tournament fees
- Scheduler and officials' fees.
- 8U & 10U Skills Practices
- 12U & 14U Off-Ice Workouts
- Weekly Goalie Clinic for Registered Goalies (Sundays)
- Ice Bears Uniform Package (Game Jerseys [2], Reversible Practice Jersey, Game Socks [2])

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

Age	Full Cost	OR	Deposit	Aug 1 Payment	Sep 1 Payment	Oct 1 Payment	Nov 1 Payment	Dec 1 Payment
8U	\$1250		\$250	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
10U	\$1615		\$315	\$260	\$260	\$260	\$260	\$260
10UG	\$595		\$100	\$99	\$99	\$99	\$99	\$99
12U	\$1615		\$315	\$260	\$260	\$260	\$260	\$260
12UG	\$595		\$100	\$99	\$99	\$99	\$99	\$99
14U	\$1725		\$350	\$275	\$275	\$275	\$275	\$275
14UG	\$645		\$150	\$99	\$99	\$99	\$99	\$99

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.****

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 hockey@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 to parents 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 (2012, 2014, 2016) 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 3 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 Fall 2025 Season

Program Contacts

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



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 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.