



# **Ice Bears Spring 2026 Season Information**

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 mission of the Ice Bears travel hockey program is to be affordable, provide high skill development, and focus on character development. We want to inspire kids to pursue their love of the game and passion for hockey in a fun environment while building skills to help kids be leaders on and off the ice. We want every kid to gain the confidence and develop their mindset to play at a competitive level and enjoy their experience! 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 [Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org](mailto:Emily.Franciszkowicz@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 Dates**

**Returning Ice Bears Families: January 22, 2026, at 8:30AM**

**New Ice Bears Families: Monday, February 2, 2026, at 8:30AM**

**The last day to register is February 22 at 11:59PM**

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

## **Spring Timeline\***

**Evaluations for Team Drafts: March 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> all players must attend at least one hour:**

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

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

**12U (Peewee): 7:00-8:00P**

**14U (Bantam): 8:15-9:15P**

**Mandatory Bantam (14U) Checking Clinics: March 6 8:30-9:30P & March 7 5:00-6:00P**

**Scrimmage Saturday: March 28 or 29- All teams without a scheduled game this weekend will scrimmage for practice on full-ice before their first game**

**Games Begin: March 28**

**Season Ends, League Tournament Begins: End of May**

**Final Ice Bears Practices: After May Playoffs**

**\*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: 8:15-9:15P (12U/14U)**

**Wednesdays: Ice Bears Skills Practice 8U 4:45-5:45P, 10U 7:00-8:00P**

**Friday: 10U 4:00-5:00PM, 12U 5:15-6:15P**

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

### **Potential Weekend Home Game Slots**

**Saturdays: 1:15-2:15P, 2:30-3:30P, 3:45-4:45P, 5:00-6:00P**

**Sundays: 3:00-4:00P, 4:15-5:15P, 5:30-6:30P, 6:45-7:45P**

**Program Contact**

**Emily Franciszkowicz (Hockey Program Supervisor) [Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org](mailto:Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org) and/ or 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): 2018-2019**

**Peewee (12U): 2014-2015**

**Squirt (10U): 2016-2017**

**Bantam (14U): 2012-2013**

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+)**

For spring 2026, our coaches will lead Ice Bears Academy Skills practices on Wednesdays for 8U & 10U+ Ice Bears. This is a skating & skills focused practice designed to help our players develop individualized skills in a smaller, more competitive environment while having a blast on the ice. These practices will be fast paced and fun while ensuring players progress in skating, stickhandling, 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 Emily Franciszkowicz directly at [Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org](mailto:Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org) by March 1, 2026. 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
- 8U/10U 1 practice & 1 Ice Bears Academy Skills practice per week
- 12U/14U 2 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    | \$595     | OR      | \$119         | \$119         | \$119         | \$119          |
| 10U   | \$595     |         | \$119         | \$119         | \$119         | \$119          |
| 10U G | \$300     |         | \$60          | \$60          | \$60          | \$60           |
| 12U   | \$670     |         | \$134         | \$134         | \$134         | \$134          |
| 12U G | \$335     |         | \$67          | \$67          | \$67          | \$67           |
| 14U   | \$720     |         | \$144         | \$144         | \$144         | \$144          |
| 14U G | \$360     |         | \$72          | \$72          | \$72          | \$72           |

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 Contact

Emily Franciszkowicz (Hockey Program Supervisor) [Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org](mailto:Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org) and/ or 708-725-2304



# Pre-Registration Instructions



## Step One: Sign up for an Ice Bears Pre-Evaluation on Amilia

## Step Two: Attend & receive approval from the Hockey Program Supervisor to register for the Ice Bears Spring 2026 Season

*Players who are new to the Ice Bears Program **MUST** be evaluated **PRIOR** to registration. Contact our Hockey Program Supervisor at [Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org](mailto:Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org) for an Ice Bears Pre-Evaluation. Anyone who registers without being evaluated will be removed from the roster and lose their place on the team.*

### **Ice Bears Pre-Evaluation**

Any player who did not play during the Ice Bears 2025-26 or Spring 2025 Season will be required to attend an Ice Bears Pre-Evaluation skate. 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. You **MUST** register by clicking the "Ice Bears Spring 2026" tab and then scroll to the Ice Bears Pre-Evaluation Skate section. Next, register as a drop-in for your preferred date. If you are currently enrolled in Ice Bears Academy you **DO NOT** need to register. Please keep in mind the sooner you receive the evaluation, the sooner you can register for Ice Bears. For further questions and information, please contact our Hockey Program Supervisor at [Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org](mailto:Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org).

**If a new player does not attend a pre-evaluation skate, they will forfeit their spot on the team, and it will be given to the first waitlisted player.**

### **Ice Bears Pre-Evaluation Dates**

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 11:30AM-12:30PM

Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, from 11:30AM-12:30PM

**There will be an Ice Bears New Player Registration Meeting directly after the Ice Bears Pre-Evaluations from 12:45-1:15PM for all dates listed above. This meeting is to help assist you with the registration process.**

### **Level Clarifications and Requirements**

**Pre-Requisites – (8U) Mite:** New Mite (8U) players must have minimally passed Hockey 201 and/or completed 1 session of Ice Bears Academy **PRIOR** to registering. Players who have not met these requirements will be removed from the roster.

**Pre-Requisites – (10U) Squirt:** New Squirt (10U) players must have minimally passed Hockey 201 and/or completed 1 session of Ice Bears Academy **PRIOR** to registering. Players who have not met these requirements will be removed from the roster.

**Pre-Requisites – (12U) Peewee:** New Peewee players must show that they have surpassed the requirements of squirt and their skating and stickhandling is strong enough to safely participate.

**Pre-Requisites – (14U) Bantam:** Checking is introduced and new players transitioning to the Bantam level must be equipped with the proper skills and experience to participate safely. Therefore, all new Bantam players interested in the Bantam Team must be evaluated by the Hockey Program Supervisor by participating in both Checking Clinics in addition to the Ice Bears Pre-Evaluation. **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.**



## 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](http://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.**

## Registration Information Required in Amilia

### Jersey Numbers

If players participated during the Ice Bears Fall 2025-26 Season, you will be using **THE SAME JERSEYS that you were assigned. If you are unsure of your player's number, contact [Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org](mailto:Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org) BEFORE registration. If your player is new to the Ice Bears, you will be assigned a number based on availability and your birth year. 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 (2012, 2014, 2016, 2018) have even jersey numbers.

Players with odd birth years (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019) 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 "6" for the Spring 2026 Season.

Program Contact

Emily Franciszkowicz (Hockey Program Supervisor) [Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org](mailto:Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org) and/ or 708-725-2304



**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.**



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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



# 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 |   |

Bullying needs to be reported to coaches, managers, and the Hockey Program Supervisor as soon as possible. If YOU see something, say something! Bullying will result in a player being benched for a period, suspended, or possibly removed from the program.

## 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 Program Supervisor as appropriate. Upon such report, the Hockey 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 Program Supervisor deem appropriate. The Hockey Program Supervisor reserves 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 the Hockey Program Supervisor, and/or Superintendent of Special Facilities have answered all questions.

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Signature of Oak Park Ice Bears Player

Date

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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 arrive at the rink at least a  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour early. Change in assigned locker rooms rather than the Skate Changing Area
2. Hockey is meant to be fun, so show your support to your child and others by maintaining a positive attitude!
3. Set a good example by treating everyone with respect- officials, coaches, athletes, and managers. Please demonstrate the behavior you wish to see.
4. Support the coaching staff, they are volunteering their time. If you have any problems do not hesitate to speak with the Team Manager or Emily.
5. Winning is important, but not everything. Do not discipline your child for mistakes or losing. Our goal is to focus on your child's growth and development. Losing is a part of the process. Failure is a great lesson to learn and helps truly appreciate winning.

## 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 the Hockey Director as appropriate. Upon such report, the Hockey 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 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.

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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.