



Ice Bears

Fall 2026-27 Registration Packet



Program Contact
Emily Franciszkowicz (Hockey Program Supervisor) Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org and (708) 725-2304



Ice Bears Program 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. We want every kid to gain the confidence and develop their mindset to play at a competitive level and enjoy their experience!

Level Clarifications and Requirements

Players will be required to play at their appropriate age level. Generally, there are two teams at each level, however, a team may not be offered at all levels pending registration outcomes

Pre-Requisites – (8U) Mite, 2018-2019: 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 2016-2017: 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 2014-2015: New Peewee players must show that they have surpassed the requirements of squirt, and their skating and stickhandling is strong enough to safely participate.

Weekly Schedule

Each team has two practices a week, plus one skills day lead by PDOP and Ice Bears coaches on Wednesday evenings. In addition, the Goalie Clinic and Shooting Clinic on Sunday mornings is included. All 10U and 12U players will have off-ice training once a week. All times and days are tentative.

Practice Times

Mondays: 4:45-5:45P, 6:00-7:00P, 7:15-8:15P

Tuesdays: 8:15-9:15P

Wednesdays: 4:45-5:30P, 6:30-7:15P, 7:30-8:15P*

Thursdays: 6:45-7:45P

Fridays: 4:00-5:00P, 5:15-6:15P

Sundays:

- Goalie Clinic: 10:30-11:15A
- Shooting Clinic: 10:30-11:15A

Off-Ice Times

Monday: 10U 7:30-8:30P

Wednesday: 12U 8:40-9:40P

Thursday: 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

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Ice Bears “Academy” Practices*

PDOP Hockey Instructors, Ice Bears Coaches, and Jr. Coaches will lead Ice Bears Academy Skills practices each Wednesday. These practices and small-area games are 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.

10U & 12U Off-Ice Workouts

For the 2026-27 season, we will have off-ice workouts for 10U and 12U teams. These high energy workouts will focus on balance, strength, agility, explosiveness, conditioning, and flexibility! Times and dates for Ice Bears off-ice workouts will be announced soon.

Uniform Orders

The uniform package will be included in the fee for players & goalies. The uniform package will include a reversible game jersey (home & away), game socks (home & away), reversible practice jersey, & pants shell. The game jerseys will include the player’s last name.

Uniforms will be manufactured by JOG and different distributor than years past. The deadline to get your size and number in for order is July 18th. **Order your uniform package here: [Ice Bears Uniform Store](#).** We strongly recommend attending one of the **Uniform Fitting Days** listed below:

Monday, July 13th 8U/10U 6:00-7:00P, 12U 7:00-8:00P
Saturday, July 18th 8U 2:00-3:00P, 10U 3:00-4:00P, 12U 4:00-5:00P

Mandatory Draft Dates

Player evaluations are used to determine equal teams in each age division. Each player must attend at least one evaluation day, **July 18th and August 1st:**

8U (Mites): 3:00-4:00P 10U (Squirts): 4:00-5:00P 12U (Peewees): 5:15-6:15P

Ice Bears Fall 2026-2027 Calendar

All dates for uniform fitting and drafts will be held at Ridgeland Common Recreation Center.

Volunteer Meeting: July 9th, at 6:30P

New Player Pre-Evaluation & Meeting: July 12th

1st Fitting Day: July 13th

1st Draft Day: July 18th

2nd Fitting Day: July 18th

Uniform Sizing Deadline: July 18th (8-week production schedule)

Registration Deadline: July 31st, 2026

2nd Draft Day: August 1st

Full Season Schedule: September – March

Practices: Start September 9th

Ice Bears Parent & Player Meeting: September 14th

PRE-Tier Game Schedule: Sat & Sun, September- December

Girls Hockey Weekend: October 17th

3v3 Turkey Tourney: November 25th & 27th

POST-Tier Games Begin: Early December

Holiday Party: December 16th

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Mite Jamboree: December 20th

Ice Bears Oakie Classic: December 23rd & 30th

Final Ice Bears Practices: March 5th

Playoffs Begins: Last week in February

Season Conclusion/Championships: Mid-March

Ice Bears Banquet: March 16th Nineteenth Century, 178 Forest Avenue Oak Park, IL 60301

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

The Ice Bears program is run on the generosity of our volunteer coaches, locker room monitors, and managers. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Emily Franciskowicz directly at Emily.Franciskowicz@pdop.org. There will be a Volunteer Meeting on July 9th from 6:30-7:30P at the Ridgeland Recreation Complex in the Medium Multipurpose Room.

Registration

Registration Opens: July 8th, 2026, at 8:30A

Registration Deadline: July 31st, 2026

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
- Ice Bears Academy Skills Practices
- Ice Bears Special Events
- 10U & 12U Off-Ice Workouts
- Weekly Goalie and Shooting Clinics
- Ice Bears Uniform Package

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

Age	Full Cost		Deposit	Aug 1 Payment	Sep 1 Payment	Oct 1 Payment	Nov 1 Payment	Dec 1 Payment
Mite (8U): 2018-2019	\$1288	O R	\$288	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
Squirt (10U): 2016-2017	\$1663		\$303	\$272	\$272	\$272	\$272	\$272
10U Squirt Goalie	\$595		\$100	\$99	\$99	\$99	\$99	\$99
Peewee (12U): 2014-2015	\$1663		\$303	\$272	\$272	\$272	\$272	\$272
12U Peewee Goalie	\$595		\$100	\$99	\$99	\$99	\$99	\$99

All players in Mite 8U will play goalie. Goalie for 10U/12U is a different fee. 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 cancelled by the Park District of Oak Park.**

Pre-Registration Instructions for New Ice Bears

Pre-Evaluation Date: Sunday, July 12th from 11:30A-12:30P & Meeting at 12:45P

Any player who did not play during the Ice Bears Fall 2025-2026 or Spring 2026 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**

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MUST register by clicking the “Ice Bears Fall 2026-2027” tab and registering for the Ice Bears Pre-Evaluation Skate. If you are currently enrolled in Ice Bears Academy you **DO NOT** need to register. **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. For further questions and information, please contact our Hockey Program Supervisor at Emily.Franciszkowicz@pdop.org.**

USA Hockey Registration

In addition to registration, **ALL players, coaches, & managers** 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.

Registration Information Required in Amilia

Jersey Numbers

If players participated during the Ice Bears Fall 2026-2027 or Spring 2026 Season, you will be using **THE SAME number that you were assigned. If you are unsure of your player’s number, contact 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 will be confirmed during the uniform fittings days to ensure we do not have duplicate numbers.**

*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 (2014, 2016, 2018, 2020) have even jersey numbers.

Players with odd birth years (2015, 2017, 2019, 2021) 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 “7” for the 2026-27 Season.



Ice Bears Special Events



Girls Hockey Weekend Saturday, October 17th from 2:45-6:15P

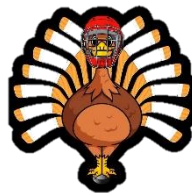
Girl's Try Hockey for Free 2:45-3:45P
Girl's Hockey Scrimmage 4:00-5:00P
Girl's & Women's Skate 5:15-6:15P

The International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) designated October 16th-18th as Girls Ice Hockey Weekend, and the PDOP is joining that celebration by hosting special events. Coaches and players are welcome to help coach during an exclusive Girl's Try Hockey for Free event, cheer on the girls during their scrimmage, and stay for the Girl's & Women's Skate. Don't forget about the pre-game & intermission activities.



Trunk or Treat Friday, October 23rd from 4:00-6:30P

Ice Bears will be able to decorate a PDOP truck with spooky elements and represent the Hockey Program at the same time! Ice Bears should wear their jerseys and hand out candy to kids. Kids and coaches are welcome to help with the "Hockey Shooting Challenge" activity where participants will get candy for hitting certain areas in the net. Every participant will receive a piece of candy for trying.



3v3 Turkey Tourney Wednesday, November 25th 8U/ 10U 4:45-5:45P, 12U 6:00-7:00P Friday, November 27th All Ages 4:45-6:15P

Gobble, gobble, it's time for hockey! Spend the day before and after Thanksgiving at the Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex for a fun 3v3 tournament. This action-packed tourney lasts two days with the ice split



for 8U/10U and 12U on Wednesday and a cross-ice format on Friday. All are welcome to attend and register for one or both dates.



Ice Bears Mite Jamboree
Sunday, December 20th from 8:00A-12:15P

All 8U players should come prepared for a day full of cross-ice games, a skills competition, and of course the much-anticipated breakaway challenge. Remember, judges will be giving scores based on goals, dangles, costumes, and theatrics! Kids will receive more puck touches, passing, shots, and puck battles in cross-ice games. Try new things, compete, and most importantly have fun.



Ice Bears Oakie Classic
Wednesday, December 23rd & December 30th
8U 4:45-5:45P, 10U 6:00-7:00P, 12U 7:15-8:15P

Hit the ice and get more practice time with full ice scrimmages. Join Team Oakie or Team Parker in this battle of the best mascot! May the best mascot win and remember there are two dates, so feel free to register for one or both. All scrimmages will be split up by age groups in hour-long sessions.