



TROY-ALBANY JR. ENGINEERS PROGRAM

2018-2019

Troy-Albany Jr. Engineers Mission:

The mission of the Troy Albany Hockey Association (TAHA) Jr. Engineers Program is to provide the best opportunities for the progressive development of all young hockey players in New York's Capital Region and surrounding areas. Programs focus on overall player development, providing the opportunity for each child to enhance his or her skills in a positive environment creating an enjoyable experience for the entire family. Teams are selected with players' ability, skills, and potential for growth in mind.

Troy-Albany Jr. Engineers Description & Locations:

TAHA is a Tier I USA Hockey "Tournament Bound" youth organization, and is the first association of this type in the Capital Region. We provide complete instructional programs for boys and girls ages 3 to 19 years old with several levels of competitive play to accommodate a wide range of skills and commitment levels. The Junior Engineers program develops players from their first time on skates up through the high school level.

The official home of TAHA is Frear Park Ice Arena in Troy, New York which is operated and maintained by TAHA through an agreement with the City of Troy. Other rinks in the area are also used to meet the demand of the association, including the Albany County Hockey Facility in Albany, the Knickerbacker Arena in Troy, and Hudson Valley Community College's Conley Ice Arena in Troy.

THE PROGRAM

Learn to Skate (LTS) ages 3-8:

Learn to Skate is the first step in a player's development and is for children (ages 3-8) who have never skated before, or who have limited skating experience. It focuses on basic skating skills and is designed to be fun and build confidence on the ice to provide the fundamentals to transition into the Learn to Play program.

- One session per week for 16 weeks, beginning in mid-October.
- *EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:* Hockey helmet with face cage or shield (no bike helmets), hockey elbow pads, hockey shin guards, hockey gloves, and hockey skates.

Learn to Play (LTP) ages 5-8:

The Learn to Play program is designed for young players who are looking to improve their skating and learn more about the game of hockey. Learn to Play focuses on skating and basic hockey skills.

- Designed for players with some skating experience.
- Cross-ice, mini-game format sanctioned by USA Hockey that offers the optimum level of instruction.
- Each session focuses on skating, puck skills, hockey fundamentals and exciting, mini-games in the cross-ice format.
- 16 week season, beginning in mid-October.
 - Players can choose once or twice per week programs.
- Reversible jersey is included in registration fee.
- *Full protective hockey gear is required.*

8U Advanced Cross Ice Mites (ACIM) Program Highlights

The Advanced Cross Ice Mites (ACIM) program is for players 8 years old and under that have solid skating skills and are ready for more advanced skating and hockey skills. The focus is on advancing age appropriate skill development with the goal of preparing players for full ice games in the 10U programs.

- Designed for players ages 5-8 years old with some skating and hockey experience.
- Focuses on skating skills, stick handling, passing, shooting and cross-ice game play.
- 20 week season, beginning in early October.
- Three weekly sessions, including two weeknight sessions and one weekend session.
 - Two weeknight practices utilizing USA Hockey sanctioned ADM cross-ice skill stations format to be taught by team coaches and professional, local instructors.
 - One weekend session of full hour cross-ice games.
- Reversible jersey is included in registration fee.
- *Full protective hockey gear is required.*

10U Squirt A/B/C Program Highlights

- 26 week season: Practices begin in mid-September run through the end of February.
- Season Games: 15 home games
- Two weekly one hour practice sessions (2 half sheets). Practice ice will be at various association rinks including Frear Park, Knickerbacker, ACHF or HVCC.
- 20 weeks of team specific skills to be taught by professional, local instructors.
- Referee fees are not included in program registration and can be fundraised by individuals and/or team
- New players will need to purchase customized home and away jerseys and socks.
- Participation in the Tech Valley Hockey League.

12U PeeWee A/B/C Program Highlights

- Practices begin in mid-September run through the end of February.
- Season Games: 22 home games.

- Two weekly one hour practice sessions (1 full sheet and one shared/half sheet). Practice ice will be at various association rinks including Frear Park, Knickerbacker, ACHF or HVCC.
- 13 weeks of team specific skills to be taught by professional, local instructors.
- Referee fees are not included in program registration and can be fundraised by individuals and/or team.
- New players will need to purchase customized home and away jerseys and socks.
- Participation in the Tech Valley Hockey League.

14U Bantam A/B Program Highlights

- Practices begin in early September and run through the end of February.
- Season Games: 24 home games.
- Two weekly one hour practice sessions (1 full sheet and one shared/half sheet). Practice ice will be at various association rinks including Frear Park, Knickerbacker, ACHF or HVCC.
- 13 weeks of team specific skills to be taught by professional, local instructors.
- Referee fees are not included in program registration and can be fundraised by individuals and/or team.
- New players will need to purchase customized home and away jerseys and socks.
- Participation in the Tech Valley Hockey League.

18U Midget A/B Program Highlights

- Practices begin in early September and run through the end of February.
- Season Games: 24 home games.
- Two weekly one hour practice sessions (1 full sheet and one shared/half sheet). Practice ice will be at various association rinks including Frear Park, Knickerbacker, ACHF or HVCC.
- 13 weeks of team specific skills to be taught by professional, local instructors.
- Referee fees are not included in program registration and can be fundraised by individuals and/or team.
- New players will need to purchase customized home and away jerseys and socks.
- Participation in the Tech Valley Hockey League.

Player Assessments (Squirt through Midget):

Not included is an anticipated team assessment in the range of \$400 to \$600 per player. The assessment can be paid through team fundraising efforts or direct payment by players. Assessment covers: Tournament entry fees, referee fees, apparel and other expenses determined by team and coach. The Troy-Albany Youth Hockey Association is a not-for-profit entity and contributions made to our program through team fundraising are tax deductible. Contact the TAHA Treasurer or Vice President of Fundraising for more information.

TRYOUTS AND REGISTRATION (SQUIRT THROUGH MIDGET LEVELS):

Tryout Fee:

The cost for Jr. Engineer team tryouts will be determined based on the ice allocations needed for each level and will be posted in advance of tryouts. Each player is required to pay a fee prior to starting tryouts.

Tryout Dates & Locations:

Tryouts will be held in the Spring 2018, check the website frequently for posted dates.

Tryout Process:

1. Mandatory participation in all tryouts is REQUIRED*. Email info@troyalbanyyouthhockey.com or speak to the designated coach if you are unable to attend tryout(s) for any reason.
2. The head coach will select the team, and may, at his discretion, consult with the assistant coaches and/or the head coaches of the teams a year ahead and/or year behind.
3. The tryouts will provide for a wide variety of skills and game situation observations.
4. All players' registration paperwork, \$250 deposit and commitments will be REQUIRED at the end of the last night to secure a spot on the team. Failure to do so WILL result in the roster spot being filled with another player.
5. Player selections will be posted after the last tryout at the rink. Only players with signed commitment forms and completed registrations will appear on the official team roster.
6. The coach will hold a parent meeting immediately following team selection.
7. **Please note: If a player leaves after the final tryout without signing a commitment form, they are NOT on the team.**

* We recognize that in some cases a player may not be able to attend tryouts due to sickness, vacation and for players moving to the area after TAHA tryouts. The following policy will allow those players to still be considered for particular teams. If a player is unable to attend tryouts for any of the reasons listed above or other unforeseen circumstances, the player/family will make a written request to the Director of Player Development prior to the tryout. In conjunction with the President, Coaching Coordinator and the coach of the affected team, TAHA will decide if an evaluation for that player will be provided. If the player is provided the opportunity to try-out after the team has been selected, he or she will be evaluated with the team they wish to be placed on. The evaluation of the player must result in the player being ranked in the top 50% of the skill level of that team to be offered a spot. This "supplemental tryout" will be overseen by the Director of Player Development, a coach from the level above or below of the team. If it is agreed that the player does fit into the top 50% of the skill level of the team it will be presented to the BOD for approval, and if approved he/she will be offered a spot based on availability. If they do not rank in the top 50% of the team they will be offered a spot on the next lower team—pending approval from the coach of that team. No spots will be held for any player(s) during the regular tryout process, however if a written request has been made prior to the regular tryouts the coach will be advised. In order to complete the process in a timely manner, if the team a player is looking to be placed on is not planning to be on the ice in the near future the player may be observed at skill sessions and or hockey camps on the ice with players of like ability to the team they are seeking to be placed on, if that is the case the player will be evaluated no less than 3 times.

****If you were not a member of Troy-Albany Youth Hockey last season you must present a signed Player Release Form from your former hockey association before you will be allowed to participate at Tryouts****

New York State Amateur Hockey Association Player Financial Release Form:

Players coming from another New York State organization in the prior season must provide a signed New York State Amateur Hockey Association Player Financial Release Form to attend tryouts and register at TAHA. The form is to

be completed by the Association President where the player is currently registered, or most recently registered. **RELEASE FORM must be given to TAHA Registrar prior to skating at tryouts, practices or games for TAHA.** Release form can be found on the Forms/Handouts tab of our website.

Registration:

Once your player is assigned to a TAHA team you will be requested to complete a player commitment form. You will return your completed form to YOUR COACH during the brief coaches meeting immediately following the last night of tryouts. In the 48hrs following the team selections you will be required to register and make your initial deposit online. If you do not complete these parts of the process your player may be replaced by the next player in line for the team. Remaining payments will be collected via the credit card entered into the system, in 5 equal installments starting in July.

Fee Schedule:

The fees for each of the teams can be found on the TAHA website.

Sibling Discount:

Families with more than one child enrolled in full season programs Squirt-Midget at TAHA will receive a \$100/discount for each additional sibling (LTS/LTP/ACIM, Midget Wrap teams are not eligible for this discount, also, players registering as goalie are not eligible).

Goalie Discount:

As an incentive to offset personal goalie expenses (i.e. equipment, training), TAHA will discount Player Registration for goalies on full season Squirt-Midget teams. Please see Fee Schedule for goalie fees. In order to qualify for this discount, Coach must designate goalie as one of his two team goalies and player cannot regularly skate out when not in goal.

The TAHA board reserves the right to adjust fees for the following reasons:

- Reduce fees in order to help recruitment to ensure that a team remains viable for the season. Fees can be discounted to a maximum of 50% of the registration fee for each respective level.
- Increase fees based on the number of part time players on a team to prevent a team from significantly running in the red.
- Prorate fees based on individual joining a team while the season is in progress. These players must have a release if they are joining after playing in another organization.