

# FAQ Cougar Hockey Club

## March 2025

- How does the Cougar Hockey Club work?
  - The Club oversees ice management, coach management, player rostering and registrations.
  - This includes home ice time reservations/scheduling, monetary collections for ice, governance of such things as safe sport, jersey ordering, team rostering, team store, club fee, and helping to guide player development.
  
- What is included in the annual Club Membership payment?
  - Payments include practice jerseys and/or spring game jerseys for all the house teams
  - Fall home and away jersey and sock sets for all teams
  - Rostering with USA Hockey
  - Cougar Hockey Development Program
    - Additional training
  
- What is included in Ice Fees?
  - Coach stipends
  - Ice times as predicated in the contract.
  - LCAHL team registration (*house teams only*)
  - Referee reimbursement for *house teams only* (as a monthly reimbursement to coach/manager, with a maximum number of home games as recommended below, no prorations)
    - Mite/Mini Mite            NA
    - Squirt House            15 home
    - Pee Wee House        15 home
  - Referee fees for travel teams will need to be budgeted and paid for by each travel team with respect to USA Hockey game count requirements
  
- How is ice time determined?
  - Ice time itself is determined by the age of the player(s), with younger players on the ice first, and those who participated in spring and summer will have preference, as allowable
  - In an effort to help ease the financial burden of families, and accommodate teams looking to skate more than the minimum weekly amounts, teams will share ice.
  - All programs are required to take a minimum of 15 hours in the spring (generally 3/24 - 5/31), NOT including try out week.

- Fall Travel Teams will begin the second to last week in August and skate for 30 weeks. (Aug. 18, 2025 - Mar. 15, 2026)
- Fall House Teams will begin after Labor Day with Draft Skates and skate for 28 weeks. (Sep. 8, 2025 - Mar. 22, 2026)
- Travel teams are encouraged to skate with their teams once weekly during the summer off-season.
- Teams rostered by Cougar Hockey Club will require written permission to skate outside of the 140 Ice Den, precluding games.
- Travel teams must skate at the 140 Ice Den in Spring to be considered for Fall season.
- All programs are required to skate a minimum amount of weekly fall/winter hours as shown in the table below:

House	Age	Weekly Hours Minimum
Mini-Mite/Mite	6u/8u	2 hours (1 hour shared, 1 hour each alone)
Squirt	10u	2.5 hours (1 hr shared, 1.5 hours alone)
Pee Wee	12u	2.5 hours (1 hr shared, 1.5 hours alone)
Bantam	14u	3 hours (1.5 hr shared, 1.5 hours alone)
Midget	16u/18u	4.5 hours (1.5 hr shared, 3 hours alone)

Travel	Age	Weekly Hours Minimum
Squirt	10u	3 hours
Pee Wee	12u	4 hours
Bantam	14u	4.5 hours
Midget	16u/18u	4.5 hours

- How much does ice cost?
  - For the 2025/2026 season the ice rate will be \$340/hr or \$360/hr when shared (\$180/team per hour)
    - Try Out ice
      - Dates will follow established MAHA/USA Hockey guidelines
      - Cougar Hockey Club/140 Ice Den only collects team try out fees up to the cost of their ice
        - EX: collect \$150, your ice time cost \$150: collect \$600, your ice time cost \$340

- What additional fees should a team consider and collect?
  - Tournament Fees (\$1500-1800)
  - Additional Referee Fees based on amount of home games
  - Supplemental training such as goalie, skating, skill, off ice
  - Additional ice sheets
  - Team bonding activities
  - Player and coach swag
  - Meals
  - Training supplements
  
- Cougar Development Program
  - Available throughout the Fall season
  - Skating Instruction, Goalie Instruction, Skill Instruction, Off Ice Health & Wellbeing
  - First Come/First Served
  - Part of the Membership Fee
  - Encouraging players to seek additional training outside of what can be done in a practice
  - Gives players a different way of hearing same information, “a different voice”
  
- Rosters
  - 10u+ House teams will be determined by a “draft skate” as required by USA Hockey/MAHA when a team is able to successfully field two or more teams with a minimum of 12 players each.
  - House teams can maintain a roster size of up to 20 players prior to waitlisting new players for a “draft skate” situation
  - House teams will not be allowed to have players playing up with the exception of the girls tier 3 program.
  - Travel teams will consist of a minimum of 13 players or can apply and be granted a waiver.
  - Parent coaches must coach within their birth year
  
- Items the Club needs from the team:
  - Head coach and assistant coach credentials (USA Hockey #)
  - Manager, who can be rostered and the main point of contact
  - 2+ rostered locker room monitors
  - Proper contact information so a team bank account can be added
  - Prospective tournament dates for spring and fall
  - Potential conflicting days of week (no guarantees)
  - Player roster with names, jersey numbers, USA Hockey numbers

- Players who are “playing up” must have a request into the Club and are only allowed a maximum of 3 players with hopes of zero, a review must be completed and approved by the Club to allow for this exemption.
- Monthly Balance Sheet based on team budget.