

AHA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

HELPING EVERY KID PLAY THE GREATEST GAME ON ICE

Anchorage Hockey Association families,

As the 2025–26 season comes to a close, it is impossible not to feel proud of what this community has accomplished *together*. From our Learn to Skate kiddos taking their first strides to our oldest players competing at the highest levels, this year has been marked by growth, resilience, and a shared love of the game that showed up every single day in Navy and Gold.

A special congratulations goes out to our State Champions: the 14U Tier II North Stars, 16U Tier II North Stars, 12U Major North Stars, and the 14A Comets! These banners represent countless early mornings, late nights, and a full season of buy-in from players, coaches, and families, and they reflect well on every AHA team that pushed them along the way.

As we turn the page from winter to summer, attention naturally shifts from league games and tournaments to what comes next. For those looking to stay on the ice, AHA recommends looking in to the [Anchorage Hockey Academy Summer Camp](#). Whether a family chooses a week of activity at a specialty skills camp, or a short series of local skates, there are options for every age and stage. If you need any help deciding on a camp or activity please feel free to reach out to any of the staff at AHA. We are happy to help point you in the right direction.

AHA strongly believes that the best hockey players are first great overall athletes, and the vast nature of Alaska offers one of the world's best "training grounds" once the warmth and light of the midnight sun comes back to remind us why we live here. Summer is the perfect opportunity for kids to play other sports, camp, fish, hike, bike, and simply explore our trails and outdoor spaces with their families. Stepping away from a full hockey schedule for a couple of months is not falling behind; it is one of the healthiest long-term choices a young athlete can make.

So as you look ahead, keep your gear and stick fresh and ready for whatever you have planned on the ice—but also make sure there is room for unstructured play and time together away from the rink. Enjoy the lakes, rivers, mountains, and long summer evenings that make Alaska such a special place to raise hockey families, knowing that the rink doors will be open again before we know it. Thank you for all you do to support your players and this association, and enjoy a well-earned offseason.

I want to personally thank you for taking this journey with the Anchorage Hockey Association. Our Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers work incredibly hard to continually provide the best opportunity in hockey for our hockey families.

I look forward to seeing you on the trails this summer and to once again welcome you back to the rink this fall for another great season of AHA Hockey.

Best Regards,

Rob Forbes, Executive Director
Anchorage Hockey Association

STRONG IN THE MIDDLE

AHA TEAMS BROUGHT HOME THE GOLD 2025/26 STATE CHAMPIONS

With Championships at the 12 Major, 14A, 14T2 and 16T2 Level, AHA proves that consistency pays off



14A Comets

Head Coach - Brian Gastrock

Asst Coaches - Jerry Whittle, Lance Dickey, Chad Broady

Every State Championship win is special. Three in a row? Now that is a unique accomplishment! Luck has nothing to do with why the 14 Comets take home the gold again this year. The staff, players, and families of this team have committed to doing things the right way for years - and it shows. With the strong growth and development experienced at 14A, many of these players look forward to trying to make the leap to 14T2 next season!



14 Tier 2 North Stars

Head Coach - Dawson Ellingworth

Asst Coaches - Steven Gustafson, Jack Carter

The 14 Tier 2 North Stars left no doubt throughout the season as to who was the favorite to represent Alaska at Nationals. The team delivered the gold and punched their ticket to nationals with resounding wins throughout the state tournament. This group of young athletes and coaches worked hard all year to compete at the highest levels and to succeed against the best competition.



16 Tier 2 North Stars

Head Coach - Scott McIlroy

Asst Coaches - Nathan Rocheleau, Dave O'Donnell

The 16 Tier 2 North Stars were one of the most creative and exciting teams to watch in Alaska in 2025/26. The team overcame adversity and earned victories in close games throughout this years state tournament. A last minute goal on the power play vs. the Valley Thunder ultimately delivered the gold for the team this year - sending them to Nationals!





2025/26 USA HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The AHA North Stars had two teams representing Alaska at Nationals to wrap up the 2025/26 Season



16 Tier 2 North Stars

Head Coach - Scott McIlroy

Asst Coaches - Nathan Rocheleau, Dave O'Donnell

The 16 Tier 2 North Stars traveled to Irvine, CA after winning State and hoped to bring home the gold. After going 2-1 in pool play, the 16's lost in the quarterfinal to the Maine Evolution by a score of 5-4. Maine lost to the eventual Champions, the Jacksonville Jr. Icemen, proving that this North Star team was a step away from nationals glory.



14 Tier 2 North Stars

Head Coach - Dawson Ellingworth

Asst Coaches - Steven Gustafson, Jack Carter

The 14 Tier 2 North Stars traveled to Dallas, TX with ambitions of a National Championship victory. This amazing group of young men and coaches came as close as you can to achieving that goal. The team came up a goal short in overtime in the National Championship Finals.





ANCHORAGE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



ALASKA529
EDUCATION SAVINGS PLAN

AHA TEAM SPOTLIGHT

A TRIP TO SAN JOSE

SUN, FUN, HOCKEY AND FRIENDS...

12U MINOR WIGREN

"This trip was defined by the way the team represented the organization both on and off the ice, while strengthening the team bond. This was a tournament and travel experience that these players will remember for a lifetime. And that is what matters most."

-KC Wigren, HC | 12U Minor North Stars

Head Coach/Highlight Reel Developer | KC Wigren
Asst. Coach/Chief Equipment Officer | Billy Rosseau
Asst. Coach/Sideline Electrolyte Administrator | Bryan Miller

The 12U North Stars - Wigren team traveled to San Jose in February to compete in the inaugural Presidential Power Play Tournament hosted by MYHockey Tournaments.

Prior to tournament play, the team set the tone with an exciting 9-7 scrimmage victory over the California Cougars 12U squad. That early success carried into the weekend, as the North Stars won all four tournament games to secure the championship – their first tournament title of the season. The players demonstrated resilience, teamwork, and steady growth throughout the trip, coming together at the right time to deliver a complete team performance.



Beyond bringing home the championship banner and meeting NHL greats, the trip was defined by the way the team represented the organization both on and off the ice while strengthening its bond. It was a tournament and an experience these players will remember for a lifetime.



While the NHL paused for the Olympics, the team had the opportunity to attend an AHL matchup between the San Jose Barracuda and the Henderson Silver Knights at Tech CU Arena, where the players lined the tunnel and high-fived the players as they took the ice for the third period.

Besides winning the championship, the highlight of the trip was a full tour of the San Jose Sharks practice and training facility. The team met Stanley Cup champion and current assistant captain Tyler Toffoli, head coach Ryan Warsofsky, and Sharks legend Mike Ricci – who even gifted one of the North Stars players his stick! This was an unforgettable experience for the players, coaches, and parents.



This great group of coaches, young athletes and families exemplify what AHA is all about. We are thankful for the foundation built before and look forward to continuing the traditions of Alaskan hockey families long into the future with great leadership and a commitment to excellence.



12U COMET *GIRLS*

SKATE LIKE A GIRL? HECK YEAH!

COMPETE | GROW | DEVELOP

HC | *CASSI CAMPBELL* AC | *AARON SCHUTT*



BUILDING SYSTEMS TO ALLOW GIRLS TO COMPETE, LEARN, GROW AND FLOURISH IN A COMPETITIVE HOCKEY ENVIRONMENT

The 2025/26 Comet 12U Girls team is made up of 19 girls and are coached by Cassi Campbell and Aaron Schutt.

Head coach, Campbell, also serves as AHA's Girls and Goaltending Development Director.

"Coaching this group was one I was really excited about. We had a big number of girls moving up from our strong 10U girls team, then a group that was with our 12U team last year that I really wanted to work with. It's incredibly important that we focus on our program's development plan at this age and know when to start to sprinkle in system foundations and the parts of the game that need to be understood before the speed picks up. The group has been incredibly receptive and so much fun."

This season, this group competed at the 12B level. "We're not opposed to having our girls groups play at the A level, it's just not as common to have them be able to be competitive and still develop at the same pace there. We've been able to do it a few times in the past and evaluate it on a season-by-season basis at the beginning of each season." Campbell explained.

The advantage to having these girls teams be Comets is, although they play at the B level, their season plan mimics a Comet schedule. That means once a week they have a clinic practice, half-sheet practice and outdoor sheet, along with an average of two games a weekend and roughly five tournaments a year.



A special thank you to our gracious team sponsor



12U COMET *GIRLS*

SKATE LIKE A GIRL? HECK YEAH!

COMPETE | GROW | DEVELOP

HC | CASS CAMPBELL AC | AARON SCHUTT



A Commitment On and Off the Ice

Aside from the ice, this team was able to do some great things as a team. They fundraised roughly \$15,000 as a team, keeping costs as low as possible for families. That included being the second highest grossing 50/50 team ever at a Wolverines Game.

“Having our Comet Girls team participate in the Split-The-Pot at the Anchorage Wolverines game was a great experience,” said Coach Schutt, “It is a great way for them to engage with the great hockey community to represent AHA and the Comet Girls Program. The reception was great and they raised a ton of money for the team thanks to the generous support shown by the Wolverines fans.”

A Great Finish to a Great Year

Not only did this team develop right on track, but they won games. A LOT of them. They were knocked out in the semi-finals of Turkey Shootout, then placed second in Winterfest (December) and the Fairbanks Fest (January), then went 3-1 and made it to the quarterfinals of Presidents Day (February).

The Comet 12 Girls had a strong showing in the State 12B Tournament this year with a 3-1 record in pool play. They went on to win a close quarterfinal game against Kenai and then lost a tough game 3-2 in the Semi's to the eventual State Champions, the 12U Kenai Girls!

The team plans to play together one more time as a team at Ponytail in April.



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WELCOME BOARD MEMBERS

THE AHA COMMUNITY ELECTED 5 BOARD MEMBERS TO SERVE A TWO YEAR TERM

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent board election as a candidate or through voting for your preferred candidate. We are excited to introduce you to the five members of the AHA community that recently were elected to serve on the AHA Board of Directors for a new two-year term.



Ana Fisk returns for another two year term with the AHA Board of Directors as a dedicated and professional leader who will help guide our board and organization in a positive direction.

afisk@anchoragehockey.com



Nick Arnold will hang up the whistle (during board meetings at least) and will help add his perspective as a long-time NS parent and coach to an already deep bench on the AHA Board of Directors.

narnold@anchoragehockey.com



Sarah Colliander joins us and brings her wealth of experience as an ASD Teacher and long time Hockey parent in the NS Program on the boys and girls sides of the aisle to the AHA Board.

scolliander@anchoragehockey.com



Aimee Whittle is no stranger to the board and was re-elected this year to serve an additional two year term. She is a dedicated volunteer and hockey parent with deep family ties to AHA.

awhittle@anchoragehockey.com



Graham McManamin remains a mainstay on the AHA Board of Directors and will continue to lead AHA as a parent, coach, and experienced discipline committee chair and comp council rep.

gmcmanamin@anchoragehockey.com

Congratulations

2026-2027 NORTH STAR GIRLS TRYOUTS

14U TII GIRLS

APRIL 29- 5:45-6:45 PM @ UAA

APRIL 30- 5:45-6:45 PM @ UAA

MAY 1- 5:45-6:45 PM @ UAA

16U TII GIRLS

APRIL 29- 7:00-8:00 PM @ UAA

APRIL 30- 7:00-8:00 PM @ UAA

MAY 1- 7:00-8:00 PM @ UAA

19U TII GIRLS

APRIL 29- 5:45-6:45 PM @ UAA

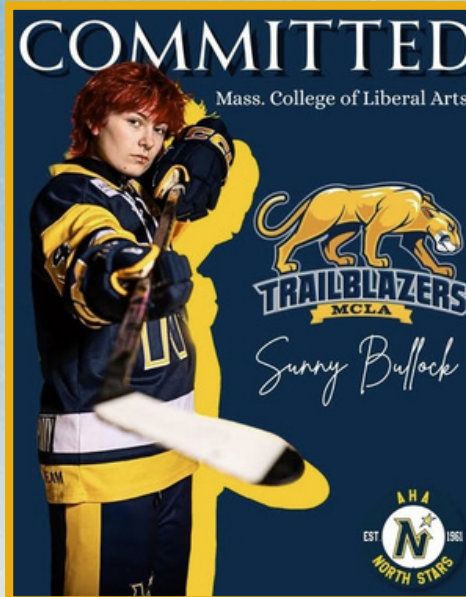
APRIL 30- 5:45-6:45 PM @ UAA

MAY 1- 5:45-6:45 PM @ UAA

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AHAREGISTRATIONS



Sunny Bullock

Congratulations to Sunny Bullock (19U North Star Girls) for her commitment to Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) where she will play NCAA DIII hockey next year.

2026-2027 19U NORTH STAR GIRLS COACHING STAFF

Chris Bullock
Sean Honeman
Asya Stivers
Ray Blackadar (G)

Tryouts

April 29 - May 1
<https://bit.ly/NS2627tryouts>



2026-2027 16U NORTH STAR GIRLS COACHING STAFF

Alli Green
Todd Green
Dani Heitsman
Seth Stetson (G)

Tryouts

April 29 - May 1
<https://bit.ly/NS2627tryouts>



2026-2027 14U NORTH STAR GIRLS COACHING STAFF

Cassi Campbell
Sami Rutherford
Xavier Schlee

Tryouts

April 29 - May 1
<https://bit.ly/NS2627tryouts>



For Questions or Comments please reach out to our NS Girls Development Director,
Cassi Campbell at ccampbell@anchoragehockey.com