



TROY-ALBANY TITANS AAA PROGRAM

2018-2019

Troy-Albany Titans AAA Mission:

The mission of the Troy-Albany Titans AAA Program is to provide age-appropriate skill development, competitive play and character development for youth hockey players. The Titans AAA program is aligned with the USA Hockey American Development Model (ADM) that emphasizes hockey skills and proper development with a high level of commitment.

Hockey Philosophy:

The Titans AAA program seeks players and families that are interested in a professional and experienced coaching staff, on-ice skill development through hockey progression, and learning game concepts and sportsmanship at the highest level.

- **Experienced Coaches:** Coaches in the Titans AAA program are certified through the USA Hockey Coaching Certification Program. Additionally, coaches in the program have prior playing and coaching experience at various levels. Coaches have been selected and trained to support player development, to educate players on the various aspects of the sport and ultimately, to make the experience enjoyable for players and their families.
- **Skill Development Focus:** Participants will receive high quality training, at an age appropriate progression. Physical skills such as skating, stick handling, passing and shooting will be developed through regular practice sessions. Training will also include the development of a “hockey sense” through the use of small area games, high intensity drills and repetition of basic game movement patterns to facilitate the thinking of the game at AAA level.
- **Sportsmanship and Team Building:** Through team building opportunities on and off the ice, regular practices and game play, coaches will emphasize the importance of sportsmanship, working as a team and striving towards a common goal. We seek to develop players into decision makers and problem solvers.

Troy-Albany Titans AAA Commitment:

The commitment level expected of players, parents and coaches is very high. The Titans program seeks players looking to take their game to the next level. The practices are two nights a week and are mandatory unless excused by the Head Coach. Coaches at this level are paid and are given broad control over almost all aspects of the team.

THE PROGRAM

Teams at all levels will be “independent” AAA teams. This distinction allows for more competitive play. League games are required regardless of opponent’s ability or fit. Our independent teams will schedule competitive games with other independent teams and teams from multiple Northeast leagues. When called upon for travel, we will participate in games and tournaments that challenge and grow the love of the game in our youth hockey players.

Squirt Program Highlights (10U):

- 26 week season: Practices begin at the end of August and will end in early March
- 2 summer skills sessions
- Season Games: Minimum of 20 home game ice slots + approximately 24 away games = 44 games.
- Team will be guaranteed 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 AAA Coaches and 16 sessions of core strength and off-ice conditioning.
- Professional goalie instruction bi-weekly.
- New players will need to purchase customized home and away jerseys and socks.

PeeWee Program Highlights (12U):

- 26 week season: Practices begin at the end of August and will end in early March
- 2 summer skills sessions
- Season Games: Minimum of 26 home game ice slots + approximately 24 away games = 50 games.
 - PeeWee Major team will have 2 Sectional games + 4 State Tournament games, if team qualifies.
- Each team will be guaranteed two weekly one hour practice sessions (1 full sheet and 1 half sheet). Practice ice will be at various association rinks including Frear Park, Knickerbacker, ACHF or HVCC.
- 16 weeks of team specific skills to be taught by AAA Coaches and 16 sessions of Core strength and off-ice conditioning.
- Professional goalie instruction bi-weekly.
- New players will need to purchase customized home and away jerseys and socks.

Bantam Program Highlights (14U):

- 26 week season: Practices begin at the end of August and will end in early March
- 2 summer skills sessions
- Season Games: Minimum of 26 home game ice slots + approximately 24 away games = 50 games.
 - Bantam Major team will have 2 Sectional games + 4 State Tournament games, if team qualifies.
- Each team will be guaranteed two weekly one hour practice sessions (1 full sheet and 1 half sheet). Practice ice will be at various association rinks including Frear Park, Knickerbacker, ACHF or HVCC.
- 16 weeks of team specific skills to be taught by AAA Coaches and 16 sessions of Core strength and off-ice conditioning.
- Professional goalie instruction bi-weekly.
- New players will need to purchase customized home and away jerseys and socks.

Midget Wrap Team Program Highlights (15Y, 16U, 18U):

The objective of wrap teams is to provide midget aged players an enhanced hockey opportunity in a competitive environment in conjunction with their development as members of their High School Programs. 100% High School friendly with focus on player development. The Wrap Teams include the following:

- 12 week season: 24 practices (2 per week)
- 15 home games (+/- 30 game schedule)
- 2 tournaments plus NYS Championship Tournament
- Targeted game scheduling vs. Tier 1 USA Hockey Teams
- Jersey and Socks
- Referee fees for home games

Player Assessments (Wrap Teams Excluded):

There will be an anticipated assessment for all teams. This assessment covers tournament entry fees, referee fees, apparel and other expenses as determined by team and coach. The assessment can be paid through team fundraising efforts or direct payment by players. 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.

Troy-Albany Titans AAA Tryouts and Registration Information:

The cost for AAA team tryouts is will be determined based on the ice allocations needed for each level and will be posted in advance of tryouts.

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 and making a deposit, 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****

Tryout Fee:

The cost for Titans 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.

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.

Season 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.