

August 4, 2026

Dear Recreation (Formerly House) League Hockey Families

Welcome to the 2026-2027 STHA Hockey season! Registration for the recreation league is now open. The board of directors are excited to be embarking on what we know will be a great new season of hockey! During the registration process, initial payments for team fees will be due. Payment schedule below:

12U teams - \$400.

8U teams - \$300.

Options to pay in full or to set up a payment plan will be available during the registration process. All funds will be due in full by November 30, 2026.

Please note: The above payments are only initial payments and are not to be considered final or full amount due for the season. By making these initial payments, families acknowledge, understand, and agree to the following:

- \$400 or \$300 are not final season totals.
- Additional payment(s) will be required following the mid-season financial review.
- Any “true-up” amount will be communicated, billed and due by early 2027.

Additionally, we thought it would be good to answer some questions received from the membership regarding payments, timing, and payment methods over the last seasons.

Q: Why is the league now labeled “recreation” versus “house”?

A: USA Hockey is looking to make nomenclature for different types of programming more consistent across all programs and states. The “house” designation is used for any non-tournament bound travel team and due to that fact leagues which compete solely within a youth hockey organization are deemed as “recreation” leagues.

Q: Why the change in first payment amount?

A: A larger upfront payment allows the organization to enter the season in better position to deal with upfront costs of securing ice, ordering uniforms, coordinating officials, etc. We also are doing our best to communicate early enough for families to plan and know the magnitude of the cost.

Q: How many more payments will there be?

A: We plan to issue one further payment that will be due early in 2027. (Late January / Early February)

Q: Will there be any payments due in December?

A: No, as part of the feedback from members, we are purposefully avoiding payments due around the holiday season.

Q: Do you know what the future payment amount will be?

A: Currently we do not. Final ice rental numbers from all the arenas are not currently available and participation numbers in the house leagues are also only estimated currently. Once those factors are finalized and incorporated, a final season cost will be calculated.

Q: Do we have to pay through Sports Engine?

A: The immediate answer is “yes” and we confirmed that the Sports Engine fees are a flat percentage of the amount due. Our current understanding is that Sports Engine requires ALL registrants to use their system for payment processing as part of the contract for using the Sports Engine application. We are looking into this for clarity and possible update.

Q: When can we expect to know final cost and possible other payment methods?

A: We have set a goal to get this finalized before start of the season and will be working through the summer to ensure we meet that goal. Stay tuned for more information.

Q: Will there be a Selects program and do you know the cost?

A: Yes, we currently plan to have Selects teams rostered for 12U, 10U, and 8U. Please indicate your interest in Selects during the registration process. Each Selects team will get an additional weekly practice and a slate of games, with some of those games anticipated to be home games. Each head coach will have direct input on those schedules and games. Costs will be determined based on those schedules and additional ice requirements. Payments for the Selects team may initiate once teams are rostered (anticipated in October) but will more likely be required in early 2027.

Tournament costs will be handled outside of the Selects payment and decided upon by the respective coaches.

We plan to also give more details about the upcoming season prior to the evaluation skate in late September. Additionally, a new approach to the development program and updates to STHA policies will be coming. Please feel free to contact either Jerid Jones (12U) jeridjones@live.com or Autumn Kay (8U) autumn.coon@gmail.com with any questions.

Enjoy what remains of your summer, and your board team is excited for what we expect to be a fantastic 2026-2027 season!

Sincerely,

Your STHA Board of Directors