

August 1st, 2025



# NORTHERN HILLS CHINOOK

## WELCOME PARENT PACKET

2025-2026 SEASON

NHAHA (NORTHERN HILLS AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION)

PO BOX 532

SPEARFISH, SD 57783

For families who are entering your first season, and what we all hope is the beginning of your skater's long-lasting love of hockey, **Welcome! *The Northern Hills Chinook*** is solely owned by NHAHA and operated by volunteers of our organization and the Board of Directors.

At the Chinook, we strive to provide your children with the best hockey development and the most ice time we can offer each season. We use the USA Hockey ADM (American Development Model <http://www.admkids.com>) system. This system is and has been the foundation for our growth of NHAHA and provides your children a love of the game that they can carry and play well into their adulthood. Many core values such as hard work, persistence, teamwork, and individual success all come from playing hockey.

For those returning families, welcome back! We are always trying to make NHAHA better and hope you will continue to do your part in the daily operations and foster the love of the game for your children. We look forward to another great season at the Chinook! As always, please use and read the website as much as possible to keep up to date on all the happenings with the Chinook Youth Hockey.

Thank You,  
Dennis Servaty, Northern Hills Chinook President

### **Keep informed using the following sources:**

Chinook Website: [www.chinookhockey.com](http://www.chinookhockey.com) Chinook Facebook: [Northern Hills Chinook](#)

## **Fees/Registration:**

6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U are the different levels of skater depending on the age from USA Hockey. Registration is done online through the Chinook website. Registration with USA Hockey (\$40 for skaters age 7 and older) is also required prior to Chinook registration, and the link for USA Hockey is provided on the website during registration. We also have a \$150 fee for Mites and \$175 fee for players Squirts and above.

Each family will pay a \$100 refundable volunteering fee (see below) when registering, this will be held by the board during the season that gives the skater the opportunity to earn this amount back by participating in required 5 DIBS hours during any of our events throughout the year.

## **Girl's Play Hockey Too!**

Know any girls who want to play or have expressed interest in hockey? This year is a great year to give it a try. All of our levels are co-ed and we welcome all girls who wish to play with our boys. This is a great opportunity to work on skills on the ice and great exercise!

## **Equipment Rental:**

All skaters have the option of borrowing our equipment for a flat fee of \$25. There are usually several opportunities at the beginning of the season to rent your skater's gear and is available on a first come, first serve basis. Dates are posted to the Chinook website and our Facebook page.

Depending on sizes and availability, The Chinook club offers your skater the option of renting all the needed equipment, except for: mouth guard, neck guard, jack/jill cup, and socks.

Undergarment - Typically called mesh/or compression Jill or Jock shorts with a pad for girls and a cup for boys. Shorts usually have Velcro on legs for socks to adhere to.

Socks - These are the legwarmer looking socks that go over the shin guards. (No feet)

Your skater might be more comfortable if they also have a dry wicking shirt/long john style pants and socks to wear with their skates. These items can be purchased at local stores, including Scheels, Play It Again Sports, Target/Walmart (limited supply) and online retailers.

## **Volunteer Hours and Deposit:**

Chinook Hockey runs entirely by volunteers. It is for such reasons that we have implemented the volunteer policy. Each family will write a deposit check for \$100 that is not cashed unless that family does not fulfill their volunteer requirements. 5 hours are required by the family, not per skater. These deposit checks are to be turned into the Board Coordinators at one of the first practices. Volunteer Opportunities are outlined in the "DIBS" section found on the Chinook Website. If you have an older player in the Chinook program volunteer hours for that family are reported with the oldest skater. Please let the Coaches or Board Member know if you are reporting for a higher level child.

Volunteer Hours Deposit Checks are written to NHAHA and post-dated 5/1/26 with the skater/skater's name on the memo line and are in the amount of:

\$100 per family and given during the first practice

Sign-up for many of these volunteer opportunities will be on the Chinook Website under the Dibs Tab and our private Facebook Group and sent out using SportsEngine.

## Iron Creek Tournament:

Keeping the Iron Creek Tournament is an ongoing task! Each skater will be assigned at least one task outside of our normal DIBS to help. This is our largest fundraiser and takes a tribe to pull off. Last year it raised us a lot of money and each year it grows. There is a lot of work to be done and the bulk of the work is done the weeks leading up to the tournament and our Board and Coaches put in a lot of work to put on the best Tournament for the Area-the View can't be beaten and the more we can get help with, the smoother the entire weekend can go which turns into more teams we can have and the more money going towards our own rink.

## Locker Rooms at the Roosevelt:

**Please dress your skater in a locker room.** We get assigned our locker rooms and split our boys and girls. It gets quite crowded in the entry area and area around the rink. By utilizing the locker rooms or benches that line the locker room hallway, we can reduce the traffic jams that can occur if skaters are trying to get undressed in these common areas. Also, please do not dress/undress skaters in the warm room area, as this is a high traffic area. Please supervise your child and help them get dressed/undressed in an orderly fashion. If you have questions on how equipment is put on, just ask! There are plenty of other parents and coaches there to help you out.

## Practices/Games/Open Hockey:

All practices, games, and open hockey times for all levels are posted on the Chinook website under the Calendar tab. Please check there regularly for the most up-to-date postings.

In general, your skater will have practice one to two nights a week. These are usually held at the Roosevelt Ice Rink in Rapid City during our Fall sessions and at the Madison Ice Rink and our Chinook Rink outside in Spearfish once the ice is frozen (and built!).

There will also be Open Hockey times scheduled and dryland practices at the Spearfish Rec Center as much as we can do.

***Your skater must be in full gear and registered with the Chinook and USA Hockey to participate in any Open Hockey, Practices and Games but you are welcome to come watch our skaters before deciding to join, just contact one of our Board Members. We also are hosting a Try Hockey for Free event on September 13th in Rapid City which does not require signing up for Chinook, but does require a registration on [TRYHOCKEYFORFREE.COM](http://TRYHOCKEYFORFREE.COM) (you will need to enter 57701 as the zip code to see our event at the Roosevelt Park Arena).***

## Weather Cancellations:

Weather cancellations for games and practices are at the discretion of the coaching staff. Please check the Chinook webpage, Facebook, SportsEngine and watch for emails for any cancellations and of course, **if you feel it is unsafe to drive in, then by no means risk your family's safety.**

## Temperature of Rinks:

This may seem like common sense, but the spectator area (bleachers) tends to be on the cold side in the Roosevelt and outdoors at Spearfish it is typically colder than in town. We recommend keeping blankets, hats, gloves and coats handy to make your viewing time more enjoyable! Of course, hot cocoa or coffee is usually available at our awesome concession stand as well!

## Tournaments:

We plan on participating in at least two tournaments during the season and any others we can depending on the number and ages of skaters.

**Tyler Wilcox:** This usually falls at the end of January and is in Pierre, SD. We participated for our first time in 2024 and we were welcomed with open arms. This is primarily a 14U and under tournament, with most teams being PeeWee (12U) or below. This is a non-competition type format that is to honor the late Tyler Wilcox and his memory.

**Mites Jamboree** (A weekend End of Feb or Early March): This is a real tournament where out-of-town mite leagues can attend in Rapid City at the Thunderdome! Again, more info will be shared as it gets closer, but mark your calendars because you won't want to miss this!

### **Professional Pictures and Media:**

We do take semi-professional sports pictures every season. We will try to coordinate with a photographer who will have packages available to purchase. Please make every attempt to be there, as there are no make-ups for this event. Once we have dates set, we will have them listed on our Facebook and the Chinook website. Our games are streamed and recorded and will be posted to our YouTube. We also will be shooting a recruitment video this fall with Destyn Humann from 605 Media, this will be a big benefit for recruiting new players to our program. If you wish to not have your child recorded, please let the coaches or board know in advance.

### **End of the Year Banquet:**

We were able to have our first end of the year banquet at the BHSU Joy Center in Spearfish this year and was very well received. This will be a continual tradition after our season is over where we gather for a potluck and review our previous season along with awards given to our players.

### **Northern Hills Amateur Hockey Association Board of Directors:**

**President:** Dennis Servaty

**Vice-President:** Rob Zinke

**Treasurer:** Aleisha Huppler

**Secretary:** Jamie Danko

**Past President:** Brandy Purcell-Hartman

Melissa Rodgers

Blake Dunfee

Taylor Guthmiller-Martin

Gregg Fullerton

Derek Lund

Dr. Chris Gasbarre

Ted Bergan

Dr. Helen Kuehlman

## **Chinook Hockey Coaches:**

Mini Mites/Mites: Blake Aghbashian, Jacob Kerras, Amy Karras, Chris Schuh, Matt Stevens

Squirts: Chris Gasbarre, Ted Bergan, Andrew Koistinen

PeeWees: Dan Hartman, Derek Lund, Melissa Rodgers, Matthew Maag

Bantams: Zac Pennepacker, Rob Zinke, Kyle Druse, Matt Klein

## **Chinook Hockey Team Coordinators**

If you haven't spoken to your child's team coordinator yet, the following are for each age level. Please reach out to them so they have your contact information and make sure to be looking for emails from SportsEngine and have the app installed on a device to get chat updates:

- McKaela Aghbashian (307) 660-6231 Mites/Minis
- Talia Gasbarre (605) 645-9498 Squirts
- Brandy Hartman (605) 639-3029 PeeWees
- Jamie Danko (970) 390-1978 Bantams
- Ted Bergan (605) 641-3449 Coaching Director