

January 30 - February 1, 2026



**Sponsored by the Department of Minnesota
Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Hosted By Moorhead
VFW Post 1223**

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**71st Annual Minnesota VFW State
Invitational Bantam A/AA Tournament
Moorhead Post 1223
January 30 - February 1, 2026**

Dear Coach or Manager,

Congratulations to your team for being accepted into the State VFW Invitational Hockey Tournament. We are sure you all are excited for the tournament.

Moorhead VFW Post 1223 and the Moorhead Community are honored to host the 71st State VFW Hockey Tournament. The tournament committee welcomes players, coaches, parents and fans to Moorhead January 30 - February 1, 2026. We hope your time in Moorhead will be enjoyable, rewarding and memorable.

We need to know your team name, the VFW Post you will be representing, and contact information for either your parent coordinator or head coach.

Please read through the enclosed information packet carefully and respond accordingly. It is important that you **fill out and return the Enclosure Papers as soon as possible**. This will ensure a smooth running and enjoyable tournament for everyone. If you prefer to fill out the information electronically, email me at myha@moorheadyouthhockey.com and I will be happy to send it to you in Microsoft Word document.

Thank you for your assistance and please call if you have any questions. **GOOD LUCK** to your team at the tournament.

Sincerely,

Amanda Kutter,
VFW State Hockey Tournament Chairman 2026

Email: myha@moorheadyouthhockey.com

Office phone: (218) 233-5021



71st Annual Minnesota State VFW Bantam Hockey Team Information Request A

Please fill out the following Team Information and send it back to the enclosed address **January 9, 2026.**

Team Information

Team Name: _____

Team Colors: _____

Team Record: _____ W _____ L _____ T _____

Sponsoring VFW Post Name: _____ Post # _____

Team Head Coach: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Team Asst. Coach: _____

Team Asst. Coach: _____

Team Asst. Coach: _____

Team Manager: _____

Number of Rostered Players: _____

Team Manager or Contact Person for Team

Team Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip Code: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please Return To: State VFW Hockey Tournament Chairman

Amanda Kutter

707 SE Main Ave, Moorhead, MN 56560

Or email to: myha@moorheadyouthhockey.com

**71st Annual Minnesota State VFW Bantam Hockey
Team Information Request B**

Please fill out the enclosed information and return by *January 9, 2026*.

We need a photo of your Team for the Program Book. If you would prefer to send an electronic copy of the picture please make sure it is 5x7 in size and a high quality, print ready image.

If you have questions regarding the size please contact the VFW State Hockey Tournament Chairperson at (218) 233-5021.

Please provide a Team Summary and Accomplishments for the 2025-2026 season and please list the names of the Players and Coaches on the Team photo. Front row to back row and left to right.

Please Return To:

State VFW Hockey Tournament Chairman

Amanda Kutter

707 SE Main Ave

Moorhead, MN 56506

or email to: myha@moorheadyouthhockey.com

71st Annual Minnesota State VFW Bantam Hockey
Hotel Information

MYHA Tournament Lodging-All MYHA Tournaments are
STAY-TO-PLAY

The tournament committee has worked with the Fargo-Moorhead CVB to contract great rates and reserve hotel room blocks for our visiting teams.

In order to keep registration fees low, we will require all traveling teams to reserve rooms via the FMCVB Housing Bureau.

All room reservations must be made through the FMCVB Online Housing System – tournament rates will not be available for reservations made directly with the hotels and those reservations will not count toward the team's commitment.

Team Managers/Coordinators: Moorhead Youth Hockey and the Fargo-Moorhead CVB will be using EventConnect for our hotel lodging this season. Once you are registered, you will receive an email from EventConnect with instructions on how to set up your hotel. Please also make sure you read and understand the terms of the hotel contract at which you are staying, such as cancellation notices. MYHA is not responsible for hotel contracts as you must abide by the hotel's terms and conditions. Please pass this information to your team so there are no surprises.

We will need the following information from EACH team before you will receive a link to EventConnect

1. Team Name
2. Team Contact Name
3. Team Contact Phone Number
4. Team Contact Email
5. Team's Zip Code

2026 State VFW Hockey Tournament

Merchandise Order Form

Moorhead VFW Post 1223 is working in partnership with Range Printing to provide clothing options for the 2026 State VFW Hockey Tournament. We would like to get all teams advance order clothing, so that it can be available when you arrive for the tournament. Please submit order by January 9, 2026. The link to order clothing is on our tournament website.

Please call for further details: (218) 233-5021 or myha@moorheadyouthhockey.com

Please make checks payable to:

Moorhead Youth Hockey

Thank You,
The 2026 State Hockey Tournament Committee

71st Annual Minnesota State VFW Bantam Special Activities

The State Tournament Committee has planned some special activities for the players and coaches. We look forward to seeing you at the events to support your team.

Team Dinner – January 29th – 6:30 PM at The Armory Event Center.

On Thursday January 29, 2026, there will be a Team Dinner at The Armory Event Center located in at **904 Center Ave, Moorhead** from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.

This Dinner will be \$35 per person

Each Team Coach will be asked to tell everyone a little about their Team and introduce their Players.

PLEASE GIVE US AN ESTIMATED NUMBER THAT MAY BE ATTENDING

Please email to: myha@moorheadyouthhockey.com

TEAM: _____

Players: _____ **Coaches:** _____ **Total:** _____

Meal / Drink Specials at Midtown Tavern throughout the weekend.

For more information contact Amanda: (218) 233-5021.

71st Annual Minnesota State VFW Bantam 2026 Tournament Rules

- ◆ **Tournament Dates:** Friday, Saturday, Sunday, January 30 - February 1, 2026
- ◆ **Tournament Site:** Cullen Hockey Center, 707 SE Main Ave, Moorhead, MN 56560
Moorhead Sports Center, 2400 4th Ave S, Moorhead, MN 56560
- ◆ **Invitational Banquet Site:** The Armory Event Center, 904 Center Ave, Moorhead, MN 56560
- ◆ **Tournament Host:** Department of Minnesota VFW and Moorhead VFW Post 1223

Photos and Rosters

Pictures and rosters for the tournament program need to be received before **January 9, 2026**.
(See Enclosures A, B, and C)

State Tournament Format

1. The format will consist of eight (8) teams in a championship double elimination with a consolation division.
2. The Tournament will be made up of two Divisions (A & AA) eight (8) Teams each.
3. There will be games to determine consolation, third place and State Champion. **Teams in the top bracket will be the home team.**

Playing Time

Games will consist of three, 15-minute periods of actual playing time.

With a six (6) or more goal differential in the third period, the game will be played running time. The clock will only be stopped for injuries or rink problems and only at the discretion of the referee.

Overtime Procedure

In case of a tie at the end of regulation playing time, the teams shall not change goals and sudden victory overtime play will ensue using the following format:

Two (2) minute rest

First overtime period--ten (10) minutes--five on five

Resurface the ice

Second overtime period--ten (10) minutes—four on four

Two (2) minute rest

Remaining overtime periods – will be in accordance with Minnesota Hockey Rules.

Uniforms

- Every member of each team must be in proper uniform with a number and at least a three (3) inch V.F.W. Patch or proper identification that this is a VFW Team.
- Teams should have one set of white or light colored jerseys and one set of dark colored jerseys available during the scheduled game times. Arrangements should be made **BEFORE** the tournament starts to have two sets of different colored jerseys available in case of conflicts.
- (VFW Patches can be acquired through your VFW Sponsor or by calling VFW State Headquarters at 651-291-1757. Tell them to send the patches to your Team and charge your VFW Sponsor.)

Ice Resurfacing

The ice shall be resurfaced after the second (2) period and end of each game.

During the Championship game , the ice will be resurfaced between each period.

In the event of Overtime, resurfacing shall occur at the end of the first overtime period and at the end of every three overtime periods thereafter.

Medical Attention

There will be an Emergency Medical Technician present at each game.

Referees

Will be used in accordance with Minnesota Hockey Rules using a 'Two Man' Referee system. If your Team objects to this system, you **MUST** notify Dennis Bushy and the Tournament Director by email at: bushy@moorheadyouthhockey.com and myha@moorheadyouthhockey.com

Team Registration

- * An official Certified team roster.
- * If you are electronically registered with USA Hockey, you do not need IMR forms.
- * The VFW should have received your OFFICIAL Certified USA Hockey Roster and your VFW Tournament Roster by the start of the Tournament. Only the Players listed on the VFW Tournament Roster will be allowed to participate in the Tournament.

Players Equipment

Limited equipment such as **mouth guards, stick tape, skate laces** are available at the rink. All players and coaches must have and wear the appropriate equipment per Minnesota and USA Hockey rules.

71st Annual Minnesota State VFW Bantam

Game Instructions

ARENA CHECK-IN

Each team must check in at least one (1) hour prior to the scheduled starting time of each game.
(There will be a Registration table in the Lobby.)

STARTING LINE-UP

Must be completed 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time of each game and be presented to the off-ice officials at the registration table in the lobby **or to the timekeeper/scorer's table at the start of the five (5) minute warm-up.**

Locker Rooms, Pregame Warm-ups, Introduction and National Anthem

- Please help keep the locker rooms clean. A locker room monitor for each team must be present.
- A locker room will be assigned to your Team upon your arrival. Please check the Board or Screen for your assigned Locker room. The coach will be offered a locker room key with the turn in of their car keys and will be responsible for securing the locker room.
- Moorhead Youth Hockey is NOT responsible for any items stolen from any unlocked locker rooms.
- The ice will be resurfaced after each 2nd period and end of each game.
- All players will be introduced during their first game of the Tournament, the Consolation, Third Place and Championship Games.
- Starting line-ups only will be introduced in the other tournament games.
- Home Team will go onto the ice first from the locker room and they will leave the ice first when resurfacing. Visiting team will follow.
- Losing team will leave the ice first after the game, with winning team to follow.
- The National Anthem will be played prior to each first round game and the Consolation, Third Place and Championship Game.
- Teams listed on the top bracket will be the HOME team and wear their WHITE or Light colored jerseys. Trophies and medals will be presented for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Consolation place teams. The 4th, 5th and 6th place teams will receive a team plaque or a team trophy.

71st Annual Minnesota State VFW Bantam Starting Lineup Card

*** COACHES PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR STARTING LINEUPS FOR EACH GAME 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE START OF YOUR GAME. PLEASE BRING IT TO THE TEAM CHECKIN-IN TABLE IN THE LOBBY OR TO THE TIMEKEEPER/SCORER AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR 5 MINUTE WARM-UPS.

TEAM NAME: _____

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>PLAYER NAME</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
DEFENSEMAN		
DEFENSEMAN		
FORWARD		
FORWARD		
FORWARD		
GOALIE		

The Student Athlete's Code of Sportsmanship

We would like to ask all competitors to abide by

"The Student Athlete's Code of Sportsmanship" which is:

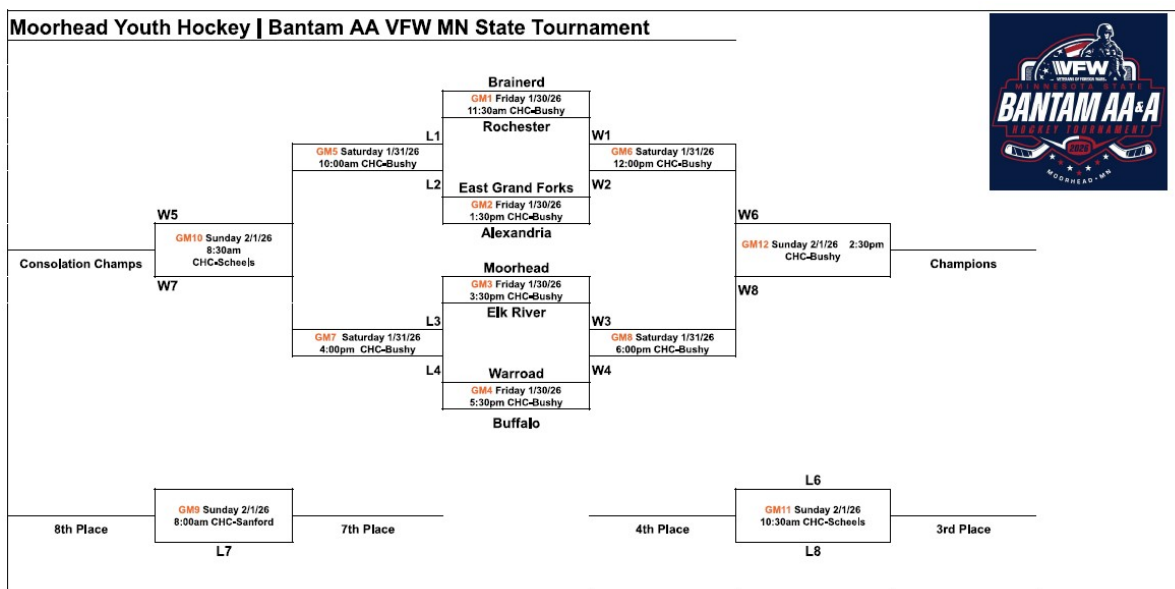
- We will respect all aspects of the game: ourselves, all coaches all officials, teammates, opponents, fans, and the rules; regardless of the behavior of others.
- We will support our teammates and be team players.
- We will recognize who and what we are representing.
- We will show no bias, no prejudice, or preferential treatment on or off the ice.
- We will take responsibility for our own behavior.
- We will be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

71st Annual Minnesota State VFW AA Bantam Tournament Brackets

This will be the schedule for the 2026 VFW State Invitational Bantam AA Hockey Tournament. All games in the 1st bracket will be played as shown. The times of the games, the first day, has been determined by the State VFW Hockey Chairman.

Pairings and Times will be done by the VFW State Hockey Chairman.

NOTE: THESE ARE THE FINAL PAIRINGS. AGAIN, THEY MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



2026 V.F.W. STATE INVITATIONAL “AA” BANTAM HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Moorhead, MN - January 30-February

71st Annual Minnesota State VFW A Bantam Tournament Brackets

This will be the schedule for the 2026 VFW State Invitational Bantam A Hockey Tournament. All games in the 1st bracket will be played as shown. The times of the games, the first day, has been determined by the State VFW Hockey Chairman.

Final Pairings and Times will be done by the VFW State Hockey Chairman.

NOTE: THESE ARE THE FINAL PAIRINGS. AGAIN, THEY MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Moorhead Youth Hockey Bantam A VFW MN State Tournament												
Red Division	Blue Division			White Division								
Moorhead	Fergus Falls			Detroit Lakes								
Austin	Dodge County			Thief River Falls								
Hastings	Elk River			Minnesota River								
Andover	Waseca			Forest Lake								
Pool Play Schedule												
	Date	Location	Time	Home Team	Away Team		Red Division	GM1	GM2	GM3	Points	Seed #
Friday	GM1	30-Jan	11:00 AM	Moorhead	v Austin							
	GM2	30-Jan	1:00 PM	Fergus Falls	v Dodge County							
	GM3	30-Jan	3:00 PM	Detroit Lakes	v Thief River Falls							
	GM4	30-Jan	5:00 PM	Hastings	v Andover							
	GM5	30-Jan	7:00 PM	Elk River	v Waseca							
	GM6	30-Jan	7:30 PM	Minnesota River	v Forest Lake							
Saturday	GM7	31-Jan	8:00 AM	Austin	v Hastings							
	GM8	31-Jan	8:30 AM	Andover	v Moorhead							
	GM9	31-Jan	10:30 AM	Dodge County	v Elk River							
	GM10	31-Jan	12:30 PM	Waseca	v Fergus Falls							
	GM11	31-Jan	2:00 PM	Thief River Falls	v Minnesota River							
	GM12	31-Jan	2:00 PM	Forest Lake	v Detroit Lakes							
	GM13	31-Jan	2:30 PM	Moorhead	v Hastings							
	GM14	31-Jan	4:00 PM	Austin	v Andover							
	GM15	31-Jan	4:30 PM	Fergus Falls	v Elk River							
	GM16	31-Jan	6:30 PM	Dodge County	v Waseca							
	GM17	31-Jan	8:00 PM	Detroit Lakes	v Minnesota River							
	GM18	31-Jan	8:30 PM	Thief River Falls	v Forest Lake							
Tournament Schedule												
	Date	Location	Time	Home Team	Away Team							
Sunday	GM19	1-Feb	7:00AM	Red Div Seed 1	v Wild Card in any Div with most points in 2nd place		Semi Final		Winner Advance – Loser Done			
	GM20	1-Feb	7:00AM	Blue Div Seed 1	v White Div Seed 1		Semi Final		Winner Advance – Loser Done			
	GM21	1-Feb	12:30 PM	Winner Game 19	v Winner Game 20		Championship					

2026 V.F.W. STATE INVITATIONAL “A” BANTAM HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Moorhead, MN - January 30-February

VFW Tournament History

<u>Year</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>State Champions</u>	<u>District</u>
1956	St Paul Winter Carnival	Post #8663 Roseau	9 th District
1957	St Paul Winter Carnival	Post #6845 St Paul	4 th District
1958	St Paul Winter Carnival	Post # 1296 Bloomington	7 th District
1959	St Paul Winter Carnival	Post #8663 Roseau	9 th District
1960	St Paul Winter Carnival	Post #8663 Roseau	9 th District
1961	Post #8663 Roseau	Post #8663 Roseau	9 th District
1962	Post #8663 Roseau	Post #2948 Intl Falls	8 th District
1963	Post# 2793 Thief River Falls	Post 8663 Roseau	9 th District
1964	Post #8663 Roseau	Post #8663 Roseau	9 th District
1965	Post #1215 Rochester	Post#1149 Minneapolis	7 th District
1966	Post #8663 Roseau	Post#425 Hopkins	7 th District
1967	Post#1215 Rochester	Gopher Pup Tent #2 MPLS	7 th District
1968	Post#1720 Grand Rapids	Post#1720 Grand Rapids	8 th District
1969	Post# 2793 Thief River Falls	Post#1720 Grand Rapids	8 th District
1970	Post#2948 Intl Falls	Post# 494 Crystal	7 th District
1971	Post#1215 Rochester	Post#1720 Grand Rapids	8 th District
1972	Post #8663 Roseau	Post#1296 Bloomington	7 th District
1973	Post #1720 Grand Rapids	Post #8663 Roseau	9 th District
1974	Post #2948 Intl Falls	Post#1172 Eveleth	8 th District
1975	Post#612 Fergus Falls	Post#1215 Rochester	1 st District
1976	Post#2818 Litchfield	Post#1296 Bloomington	7 th District
1977	Post#3877 St Paul	Post#3979 Cloquet	8 th District
1978	Post#1296 Bloomington	Post#1215 Rochester	1 st District
1979	Post#4847 St Cloud	Post#1296 Bloomington	7 th District
1980	Post#8663 Roseau	Post#6690 Mendota	4 th District
1981	Post#4450 St Paul Park	Post #137 Duluth	8 th District
1982	Post #1215 Rochester	Post#4450 St Paul Park	4 th District
1983	Post#4846 St Cloud	Post#1260 Bemidji	9 th District
1984	Post#612 Fergus Falls	Post#1782 White Bear Lake	4 th District
1985	Post#1210 Hastings	Post#1215 Rochester	1 st District
1986	Post#8663 Roseau	Post#5555 Richfield	7 th District
1987	Post#6587 Spring Lk Park	Post#8663 Roseau	9 th District
1988	Post#295 So St Paul	Post#1782 White Bear Lake	4 th District
1989	Post#612 Fergus Falls	Post#1635 St Paul	4 th District
1990	Post#1635 St Paul	Post#2793 Thief River Falls	9 th District
1991	Post#1223 Moorhead	Post#1043 Anoka	7 th District
1992	Post#137 Duluth	Post#1223 Moorhead	9 th District
1993	Post#1223 Moorhead	Post#936 Alexandria	5 th District
1994	Post#1782 White Bear Lake	Post# 1043 Anoka	7 th District
1995	Post#8663 Roseau	Post# 1043 Anoka	7 th District
1996	Post#1223 Moorhead	Post#8510 Hibbing	8 th District
1997	Post#1720 Grand Rapids	Post#1215 Rochester	1 st District
1998	Post#3817 E Grand Forks	Post#1215 Rochester	1 st District
1999	Post#8510 Hibbing	Post#1223 Moorhead	9 th District
2000	Post#3979 Cloquet	Post#1260 Bemidji	9 th District
2001	Post#1222 Fairmount	Post#1791 Chaska	2 nd District
2002	Post#5518 Elk River	Post#6583 Lino Lakes	7 th District
2003	Post#4930 Warroad	Post#6583 Lino Lakes	7 th District
2004	Post#1223 Moorhead	Post#1223 Moorhead	9 th District
2005	Post#1782 White Bear Lake	Post#9434 Rosemount	2 nd District

2006	Post#2793 Thief River Falls	Post#1782 White Bear Lake	4 th District
2007	Post#1223 Moorhead	Post#6320 Duluth East	8 th District
2008	Post#1782 Moorhead	Post#6320 Duluth East	8 th District
2009	Post#1172 Eveleth	Post#210 Lakeville	2 nd District
2010	Post#2793 Thief River Falls	Post#137 Duluth East	8 th District
2011	Post#1223 Dilworth/Moorhead	Post #8663 Roseau	9 th District
2012	Post #5518 Elk River-Rogers	Post 137 Duluth East	8 th District
2013	Post #1782 White Bear Lake	Post 5518 Elk River	7 th District
2014	Post #612 Fergus Falls	Post 137 Duluth East	8 th District
2015	Post #1223 Dilworth/Moorhead	Post 6587 Centennial	7 th District
2016	Post #1223 Dilworth/Moorhead	Post 1223 Moorhead	9 th District
2017	Post #1782 White Bear Lake	Post 1215 Rochester	1 st District
2018	Post #1223 Dilworth/Moorhead	Post 6587 Centennial	7 th District
2019	Post 2793 Thief River Falls	Post 6587 Centennial (AA)	7 th District
	Post 2793 Thief River Falls	Post 4930 Warroad (A)	9 th District
2020	Post 2793 Thief River Falls	CANCELLED – COVID 19	
2021	Post 1223 Moorhead	CANCELLED – COVID 19	
2022	Post 5518 Elk River	Post 246 St. Louis Park (AA)	7 th District
	Post 5518 Elk River	Post 4930 Warroad (A)	9 th District
2023	Post 5518 Elk River	Post 5518 Elk River (AA)	7 th District
		Post 8731 Monticello (A)	6 th District
2024	Post 936 Alexandria	Post 6992 Sauk Rapids (AA)	6 th District
	Post 5518 Elk River	Post 1803 LeCenter (A)	2 nd District
		Post 936 Alexandria (U15A)	5 th District
2025	Post 936 Alexandria (Bantams)	Post 1215 Rochester (AA)	1 st District
		Post 936 Alexandria (A)	5 th District
	Post 936 Alexandria (U15A)	Post 936 Alexandria (U15A)	5 th District