



## Madison Dragons Girls Hockey - FAQ

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### Who are the Madison Dragons?

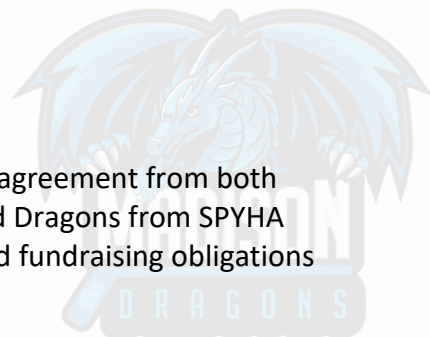
The Madison Dragons are girls only hockey teams located on the East side of Madison. Established in 2023 and hosted under the Patriots Youth Hockey Association (PYHA).

### Who can play for the Dragons?

Any girl from the PYHA organization or another association that does not offer an all-girls option with a couple caveats based on WAHA rules. Girls from associations adjacent to the PYHA who do not offer an all-girls option can join the Dragons without needing a release from their home association as long as they have not played for another all-girls team before. If they have played for another all-girls team previously, the first all-girls team they played for is considered their home association and would need to release them to join the Dragons.

### Are the Dragons part of a co-op?

The Dragons are not part of a formal co-op with any other association at this time. PYHA has an informal partnership with the Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association to collectively offer an opportunity for a sustainable and competitive all-girls option on the east side of



Dane County. The partnership is subject to annual review and agreement from both PYHA and SPYHA. If an agreement is not reached, all registered Dragons from SPYHA would be required to follow all PYHA volunteer/concession and fundraising obligations found in the PYHA handbook.

By not forming a formal co-op, girls from multiple associations may be eligible to play for the Dragons.

## How did you get the Dragons name?

Legend and folklore from various cultures around the world depict dragons as powerful and fearsome creatures, symbolizing strength, wisdom, and good fortune. During the spring and summer of 2023, a naming contest was held open to all girls interested in playing for the Dragons. There were several submissions that were reviewed by the girls committee as well as a collaborative committee including Sun Prairie representatives and narrowed down to five options. The PYHA Board narrowed down the list to three options and a public vote was held including participants at the Girls Try Hockey for Free event.

## What about the jerseys?

Dragons players will be able to purchase their own jerseys for the 2025-2026 season. Once registration closes, you will be contacted with a link to place your order. There will be an option to borrow jerseys and return at the end of the season if you choose. Sizes and number choices of borrowed jerseys may be limited. Socks would be the individual player's responsibility, the same as youth (co-ed) teams. These will be sold at Suter's Gold Medal Sports.

## What is the cost to play for the Dragons?

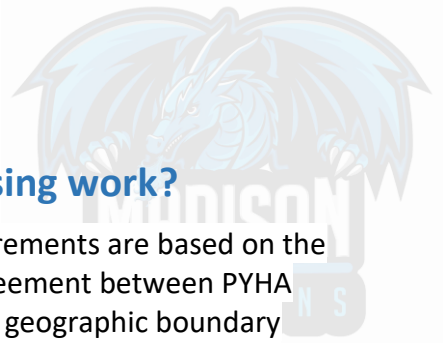
The cost is the same as the youth travel teams for PYHA for the 2025-2026 season. Prices and fees include approximately two practices per week, up to approximately 35 games including three tournaments. There is an additional \$200 fee if desiring a weekly skills session with other players at your age level. These prices are as follows:

- 10U - \$1,400\* / \$1,600
- 12U - \$1,600\* / \$1,800
- 14U - \$1,700\* / \$1,900

\* Skaters are eligible for Early Bird Discount if registered before July 27, 2025.

## Which association would I play for?

The Madison Patriots Youth Hockey Association is hosting the Madison Dragons teams. Registration is through the PYHA website at [www.patriotshockey.org](http://www.patriotshockey.org) and once in the registration link, you will choose whether you are registering as a Patriot or as a Dragon.



## How does volunteer/concession hours and fundraising work?

For Sun Prairie families, volunteer hours and concession requirements are based on the player's home geographic association and the partnership agreement between PYHA and SPYHA. This means families residing within the Sun Prairie geographic boundary would fulfill SPYHA volunteer and concession requirements in accordance with their association's policies. This would include buyout options. In essence, this is a reciprocity agreement between associations within the partnership agreement. **Players must be in good standing with respect to completing concession and volunteer hours with their home geographic association in order to play for the Dragons.**

Fundraising for those families that reside within geographical boundaries of Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association will be done through SPYHA and those families will NOT need to participate in a separate Patriots/Dragons fundraiser. Per the partnership agreement, SPYHA will pay an administrative fee per skater which will be applied directly to the cost of ice for the Dragons.

Volunteer/concession and fundraising for players from Patriots geographic boundaries and all other associations other than Sun Prairie, will be subject to Patriots volunteer/concession and fundraising criteria as outlined in the PYHA handbook based on level of play.

## Will each association have their girls be part of their own co-ed U8 program?

The Dragons program is currently only for 10U, 12U and 14U age levels. PYHA will have all 8U players divided by like-ability on co-ed teams. In addition, PYHA girls at this level will automatically be placed on separate girl teams for the purpose of girls' jamborees and tournaments. Other associations are free to manage how they register their girls with girls only 8U teams or youth (co-ed) 8U teams.

## How will cross-rostering work?

The WAHA definition of cross-rostering is: "... a female player is registered on one (1) youth team and one (1) girls team at the same age level. NOTE: This will be identified as "cross-roster." An association who wishes to cross-roster MUST complete the on-line Cross-Rostering Form. ...). p. 45, WAHA Guidebook Note: This form is completed by the Hockey Director.

Although cross-rostering is an option, it will ONLY be utilized on a team-by-team basis and only if roster sizes are less than 14 full time Dragons players on a team.

The cost to cross-roster is \$150 which pays for the additional ice time. Cross-roster players are allowed to participate in one practice per week with the cross-rostered team. They play games only at the request of the cross-rostered coach. Girls from outside the PYHA are eligible to be cross-rostered with the Dragons at the same \$150 price as long



as they are not playing on another all-girls team.

Cross-rostering is treated like double-rostering to ensure enough players are available for each game to avoid players needing to double-shift, which creates a safety concern. Cross-rostering is slightly different than double-rostering as it is also an opportunity for girls to experience all-girls hockey compared to youth (co-ed) hockey. Cross-rostered players are expected to honor the commitment to their primary team in the event there is a conflict for games. Both cross-rostering and double-rostering are driven by the requesting coach and are not a guarantee for players who desire to play on a second team.

After placements are complete and teams are selected, coaches may wish to cross-roster players to fill up a roster of 14 players. The selection process will include consultation between the cross-rostering coach, the primary coach, and the Hockey Director. Once confirmed, the Hockey Director will submit the cross-rostering form to WAHA on behalf of the player.

To maintain state tournament eligibility, the roster size for a team with cross-rostered players cannot exceed 14 players including goalkeepers per WAHA rules. Cross-rostered girls must participate in at least 5 games prior to playdowns to be eligible for WAHA playdowns and state tournaments.

Girls who designate playing on an all-girls team as their primary team may be eligible to cross-roster to a youth (co-ed) team in their home association based on their home association policy.

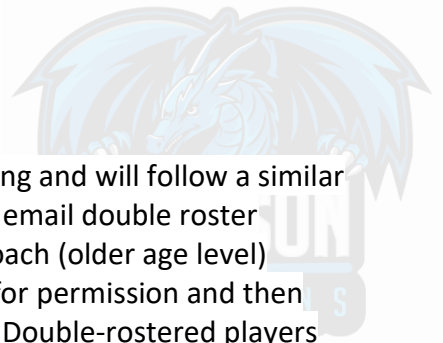
Additional rules apply to cross-rostering that can be found in the WAHA guidebook.

The goal of the Dragons program is to have a minimum of ten players and one goalie on each all-girls team rostered with that team as their primary team. Cross-rostering and double-rostering are not intended to be a significant portion of each team and there is no guarantee that cross or double rostering will be utilized.

## How will double rostering work?

The WAHA definition for double-rostering is: "...Any player can, however, as long as the player meets age classification, be registered with more than one team in a different age classification within the same association. NOTE: this will be identified as "double-roster"." p. 46, WAHA Guidebook

PYHA girls are eligible to double-roster the same as boys. Girls from outside PYHA playing on a youth (co-ed) team as their primary team with that association would not be eligible to double-roster onto a Dragons girls only team per WAHA policy defined above. They could cross-roster at the same age level as noted in the previous FAQ answer. Girls who register for their primary team with the Dragons are considered Patriot players and would be eligible to double roster within the Patriots (for either another girl's team or youth (co-ed) team regardless of their home address.



The cost for double-rostering is the same \$150 as cross-rostering and will follow a similar process as cross-rostering. Coaches (not parents or guardians) email double roster requests to the DOH by November 15. The double-rostering coach (older age level) would then approach the coach of the younger player's team for permission and then ask the younger player if she is interested in double-rostering. Double-rostered players must participate in a minimum of 5 games before December 31st to be eligible on the team's roster for WAHA playdowns and state tournament.

Both cross-rostering and double-rostering are driven by the requesting coach and are not a guarantee for players who desire to play on a second team.

Double-rostering rules are the same for girls as they are for boys. More information on double-rostering can be found in the PYHA Handbook.

### **Can players play up to join a 10U Dragons team?**

For the 2025-2026 season, girls born in 2017 may be eligible to play-up to the 10U team IF more players are needed to complete a roster at 10U. This will not be known until registration closes and we have all the registrations in. The process includes the Patriots Hockey Director completing a formal request through WAHA and submitting the form through your WAHA Region Director. Girls requesting to play up will only be eligible for the lowest level 10U team to fill a roster. Approval needs to be granted by WAHA prior to the player skating with the team. The form will not be available until September 1, 2025 and must be submitted prior to November 15, 2025. Players choosing this option would be playing up on the 10U team in lieu of playing at the 8U level.

### **How will team tryouts occur?**

The Dragons have a tryout process where players are evaluated on a selective team formation process. The skaters are assessed on effort, competitive attitude, and hockey intelligence rather than assigning scores or rankings to individual performance in specific drills. No players will be cut from the Dragons. Team formation for each level will take place over a series of sessions. Attendance at each of the sessions is strongly encouraged, but is not required, as we understand that kids have other seasonal commitments. However, it is recommended for a skater to attend at least two of the sessions in order to be properly evaluated.

The PYHA Board and OIC will manage the team formation process for the Dragon teams the same as their team formation process for other teams. With only an A and a B team at each level there may not be a separate "A" tryout as outlined in the PYHA Handbook for age levels that have A, B and C teams.

Girls who signed up for the Dragons team to play all-girls will have separate placement sessions than the youth (co-ed) teams. Cross-rostered and double rostered girls do not need to participate in these all-girls placements as they will skate with their primary team. Placement of cross-rostered players will be determined by the requesting coach in



consultation with the Hockey Director as advised by the DAC.

Evaluators are identified by the Hockey Director based on recommendations from the DAC and OIC. Parents of players at an age level are not eligible to evaluate at that age level per PYHA policy.

Full details of the team formation process are outlined in the [PYHA Tryout and Placement Process](#) document.

## Will there be off-ice training?

Additional off-ice training sessions may be scheduled by the coach on each team.

## What teams will the Dragons play against?

Several other all-girls teams in Region 4 include the Madison Mavericks, Sauk Monkeys, Polar Caps, Jr. Icebergs, Baraboo Badger Lightning and Beloit/Janesville co-op. Other girls teams can be found in the Fond du Lac/Beaver Dam area, Green Bay area, Wausau/Stevens Point area, Milwaukee area, Hayward, Superior and Lacrosse/Tomah area.

Depending on the team, some Dragons teams may play youth (co-ed) teams to provide competitive games. Since the rules are the same at these age levels between youth and girls teams, this is a great way to find good competition at the local level and help reduce travel.

## Who will the coaches be?

Coaching applications are available on the Patriots' website. Applicants are interviewed in September and chosen at placements, with input from the DAC, by the On Ice Committee with PYHA Board approval. Historically, coaches are primarily parent coaches, but in the event there are no parents with coaching experience, non-parent coaches will be utilized. The On Ice Committee also has the right to select a non-parent coach as head coach if more qualified than the parent coach applicant.

Both male and female coaches are possible. Almost all coaches have prior playing experience with most at the high school or collegiate level. All coaches undergo background checks, SafeSport training, coaching seminars, and online modules specific to coaching female athletes.

Coaches are supported by the On-Ice committee with representatives paired up at each level to mentor coaches and develop coaches, not just players.

Additional guest coaches may be brought in to include former players with high level experience. These guest appearances will likely be during the skills sessions.



## Will the teams be state eligible?

The goal is for all Dragons teams to be state eligible. The DAC is closely following all WAHA rules to maintain eligibility. This includes monitoring the number of associations represented on each roster, the number of cross-rostered and double-rostered players on each team, and ensuring girls have played in enough games to be eligible for playdowns and the state tournament. Per one of the WAHA guidelines, each team will be eligible for state if the team has a total of no more than 3 organizations represented in addition to the home association. For example, if a Dragons team had players from the Patriots (as host association), McFarland, Sun Prairie, and Waunakee, the team would be eligible for state playdowns and the state tournament. This rule is enforced at the team level, not the age level, meaning different associations could be represented on each roster.

## Do players need to be released to play on the Dragons?

Girls from associations that do not offer an all-girls team would not need a release from their home association as they are eligible to join the nearest association with all-girls hockey without a release UNLESS they have previously played on a different all girls team.

Girls from a different association offering all-girls teams would need a release.

Girls that have played for another all-girls team as their primary or cross roster team may need a release. WAHA defines a girl's home association as the first girls team she played for.

## How can I prepare for the season?

Register for the Dragons through the Patriots' website at <https://www.patriotshockey.org/registration>

There are local power skating and girls hockey clinics available.

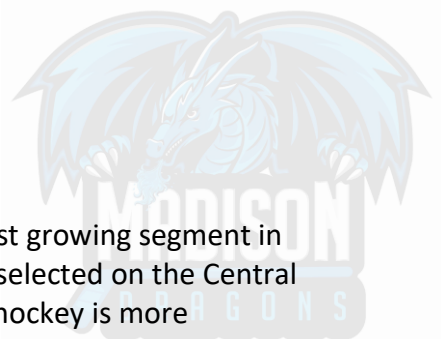
Sign up for the Region 4 Showdown in Verona on August 16-17, 2025 [HERE](#).

Practice your skills off ice with the summer conditioning program. There are programs for shooting, stickhandling, and general fitness on the Patriots' website: <https://www.patriotshockey.org/summerskills>.

## Which is better for my player, all-girls or youth (co-ed)?

This is a very personal decision and there is not one right answer. It is our goal for all girls to develop skills, feel supported, included and respected by their peers and have the opportunity to play all positions on an all-girls team.

USA Hockey provides resources to help consider factors when making this decision on their girls hockey website <https://www.usahockey.com/girlshockey> including this [helpful](#)



[brochure.](#)

Opportunities for girls continue to explode as part of the fastest growing segment in hockey and a continually changing landscape. 70% of the girls selected on the Central District team last year played girls hockey in the past. All-girls hockey is more competitive than ever and is not simply a recreational option. Don't be afraid to ask others within the girls community for their experience.

For further research and support validating girls hockey and girls-only sports programming, please reach out to the Dragons Advisory Committee.