

**Key dates in Vermont Sled Cats history:**

April 16, 2005 - First-ever sled hockey practice is held at Cairns Arena. A handful of potential sledders hit the ice for the first time.

Summer 2005 - Various skating sessions to introduce the sport and attract potential skaters are held in rinks throughout the state. Seasoned players from other New England sled hockey programs volunteer time to provide on-ice instruction.

Fall 2005 - Sled Cats begin practicing for bi-weekly, one-hour sessions. Saint Michael's College donates more than a dozen purple and gold practice jerseys for the Sled Cats to use.

January 14, 2006 - Sled Cats play an exhibition game in Deerfield, Mass., against the Connecticut Wolf Pack. A six-person Vermont squad draws players from neighboring states to fill out a fuller roster for the game.

Spring 2006 to Spring 2008 - Sled Cats continue weekly practices throughout the winter months. Exhibition games and demo games at high school and college games are held.

April 2009 - Vermont is invited to the Northeast Sled Hockey Invitational in Westfield, Mass.

Fall 2009 to Spring 2013 - Sled Cats play in the Northeast Sled Hockey League (NESHL). Vermont becomes the fifth team to compete in the NESHL. Sled Cats kick off the 2009-10 season by hosting their inaugural Green Mountain Sled Hockey Classic.

2013-14 Season - Sled Cats withdraw from the NESHL. Team plays an independent schedule, traveling to Lake Placid, Ottawa and western Massachusetts for games.

2014-15 Season - Sled Cats rejoin the NESHL. League expands to "A" and "B" divisions. Vermont begins play in the B Division. Team posts a 5-0-1 league mark to win the B Division championship. Sled Cat Bryan Bathalon is the league leader in points (19) and goals (14). Sled Cat Zach LaRose records a 0.33 goals-against average, a .901 save percentage and two shutouts.

2015-16 Season - Sled Cats sit atop the division at 4-0 overall as of December 2015.