

2020-21 Arlington Knights Hockey

Who are the Knights?

The Knights are a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) non-profit hockey club for 6th to 8th graders who live in Arlington County, Virginia. We welcome players of all skill levels and abilities. Our focus is developing a lifelong love of the game, improving skills, and having fun with your friends. The Knights play in the competitive Northern Virginia Scholastic Hockey League (NVSHL) and schedule exhibitions with other clubs and schools in the area.

Please check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/arlingtonknighthockey and our website at www.arlingtonknighthockey.org. The Knights provide a fun, supportive environment to play competitive middle school hockey for kids at all skill levels. We have great relationships throughout the DMV hockey world and can offer a wide-range of opportunities (at a pretty good value) that provide a balance between development, competition, and fun. Younger players will have a real opportunity to push themselves and grow as hockey players. Last year, the Knights made a real jump in being a very competitive team while still maintaining its inclusive philosophy. We are excited about building upon last year's momentum.

Leadership

Club President: David McGraw

Treasurer: Bill Foster

Coaches – David McGraw, Dilip Ghate, Talbot Black, and Rob Ferguson

All coaches and parent volunteers have current USA Hockey Numbers, Safe Sport Training, and background checks, as required by the NVSHL and PVAHA.

Season Plans – Teams, Practices and Games

Middle School Hockey plays by USA Hockey's Pee-Wee rules. Checking is prohibited.

Knights hockey does not replace a traditional house or travel hockey program. All players are **REQUIRED** to play for a traditional hockey club. We require players to have previous playing experience at the regular house, select, Tier II, or Tier 1 level.

Players who register to play for the Knights must meet these requirements to be eligible to be rostered on a Knights Middle School Hockey team.

Rosters / Teams – There is tremendous interest in Middle School hockey in Arlington. During the 2019-20 season, 56 players played for the Knights. The average Knight's player attended 6 practices and played in 13 NVSHL or Exhibition games. Some played in more games and some played in less. All players had the opportunity to participate in as much or a little as they wanted.

Every game is very competitive and requires the full commitment from parent and players to ensure we were able to deliver a fun positive experience for all.

It's hard to meet the expectations of all the players and parents. We need parents to be engaged and proactive to help us in the very difficult task in setting competitive rosters for games, so we can accommodate everyone. We occasionally failed, and the kids may have been on the wrong side of a blowout, but the kids always tried hard and

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had fun. Success sometimes comes from adversity and meeting a tough challenge. However, if your kids make new friends, have fun, and develop a life-long love of the game, then we have been successful.

We plan to roster 26 skaters and 4 goalies. We reserve the right to adjust this number up or down depending on the ice time and volunteer commitments we can secure.

The majority of practices and games will be scheduled for Friday nights. We will practice and have games at Medstar and The St James. Games will be played at rinks throughout the area (Medstar, Reston, Ashburn, Haymarket, Prince William, Cabin John, and Ft Dupont). The Knights will buy ice at Medstar and The St James.

Season –First practices will start in October 2, 2020 and last games end in early March.

Practices— During the season, we will schedule 3 or 4 practices. All players are welcome. First practice will be Friday, 10/2. Additional practice dates are October 16 & 23.

NVSHL Games—We will field one league team. They will have 10 league games in the highly competitive NVSHL. These games are mostly for our veteran players and the level of play is akin to Bantam Travel A. These games start on October 30th.

Exhibition Games—The Knights will likely schedule 8-10 games against a number of programs inside and outside of the NVSHL. These games are highly competitive and will give our younger players to a chance to test themselves. We will endeavor to build rosters that provide competitive matchups that give younger Knights a chance to succeed.

Post-season Development—The Knights offer a Summer-long skills program with goalie instruction and a professional power skating coach.

Blow-Out Party—Hockey trivia, awards, great company. We celebrate our success and host best end-of-year must attend party of the year. As one well-known Knight said, “All of my Knights bros were there, and it was lit!”

Player Registration Requirements / Forms

The Knights will use SportsEngine as a backend system for registration and team management this upcoming season.

Returning player registration will open on or about August 1st. New player registration will open two weeks later. We reserve the right to close the registration process at any time.

After you complete the registration process, please download the SportsEngine app to your phone. We will be using this system to roster players, communicate schedules, confirm player availability, etc.

If you are interested in your player playing for the Knights, please email coachmcgraw@arlingtonknightshockey.org to be placed on our mailing list and ensure you are notified when Knights registration opens.

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Player Fees

The fees for the 2020-21 season will be as follows:

- **Player Fees:**
 - Full Season - Skaters. \$400. Player will be invited to 8-10 League/Exhibition Games and 4 Practices
 - Partial Season - Skaters. \$200. Player will be invited to 4 Exhibition/League Games and 4 Practices
 - Full Season - Goalie. \$250. Player will be invited to 4+ Exhibition/League Games and 4 Practices
- **\$100 uniform fees.** This is an approximate cost for the game jersey, socks, and practice (alternate) jersey. Required purchase for new players. Returning players optional.
- **Knights Swag (Not required).** Other items (t-shirts, hoodies, etc.) are available for an additional fee. The SWAG team store is always open for ordering. <https://www.arlingtonknightshockey.org/teamstore>
- **Donations (Always welcome).** The Knights are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In the past, donations have been used to sponsor participants who were unable to pay their registration or uniform fees, buy additional practice and game ice slots, etc. Please consider making a donation. Thank you!

We also do some fund raising and will have a couple of dining out events. In the past, we received some generous donations from the parents and held fund raisers at Chipotle, California Pizza Kitchen and Pete's Apizza. If you are interested in helping us plan fundraising events, please let know.

Player fees and donations can be made online during the registration process.

