



Program Overview and FAQs - 2019-2020

Welcome to hockey in Fort Wayne! We're thrilled your considering beginning or continuing your Player's path of hockey development with us. As parents, you have many recreational and competitive youth sports to choose from. Hockey offers an exciting sport for your athlete to enjoy from an early age well-through adulthood.

Our Mission: We commit to provide all hockey players, families, and coaches with a premier development experience through appropriate levels of play.

Our Vision: We will be a hockey program developing the whole athlete for all levels of hockey.

We've heard some common questions from parents at various points along the Player Development Path. In an effort to answer some questions you may already have, please review our most Frequently Asked Questions and answers. If you have any questions, we recommend you reach out to one of the following contacts:

- Kaleigh Schrock, FWAHA Coaching & Development Director, schrockk@trine.edu
- Jeff Blakely, PSM Force Travel & Select Director, jeffblakely@frontier.com
- Tom Bunn, FWAHA High School Commissioner, bunner1171@gmail.com
- Brian Gratz, Canlan's Head of Athlete Development, bgratz@icesports.com

What hockey options does FWAHA offer?

The FWAHA offers competitive team play for ages 7 to 18 years old with the following options:

- PSM Force Travel teams - organized by birth year (one birth year per team); 10U-18U
- PSM Force Select teams - organized by birth year (two birth years per team); 8U*-14U. *8U/7U is organized by one birth year per team
- FWAHA High School teams - open to eligible High School Freshman-Seniors. Four Varsity teams and one JV team.

FWAHA promotes programs at Canlan Ice Sports, owner/operators of the SportONE/Parkview Icehouse, which include:

- FWHL House League - organized by birth year (two birth years per teams); 6U-14U
- Bauer 3-on-3 League - organized by birth years; 8U-High School
- Academies, Camps, and Skill Instruction
- Learn-to-Skate
- Little Blackhawks Learn-to-Play
- Hockey Fundamentals

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What are the differences between the types of teams?

Please see the following chart for a summary of each hockey product/team according to Development; Skill Instruction; Competitive Level; League; and Tournaments.

	HOUSE	SELECT	TRAVEL	HIGH SCHOOL
DEVELOPMENT	ADM Practice:Game	ADM Practice:Game Team Size	ADM Practice:Game Team Size	2 practices/week Maximum Team Rosters
SKILL INSTRUCTION	ADM Stations	Skill Instruction Weekly On-Ice; Dry Land; Shooting; Goalie	Skill Instruction Weekly On-Ice; + Add'l Dry Land; Shooting; Goalie	Varies by Team Includes PSM Performance
COMPETITIVE LEVEL	Recreational	A/B	AA/A	AA/A
LEAGUE PLAY	Canlan House	Canlan House	LCAHL	FWAHA
TOURNAMENTS	No	Yes	Yes	ISHSHA Crossovers and State

PSM Force Travel and Select teams offer similar training and development through practices, skill specific training, and off-ice performance training at each age group. The difference in teams becomes competition level. The goal is for players to be on teams appropriate to their skill level and for those teams to play equally matched teams through league play and tournaments. Competitive teams should not win all games, nor should they lose all games either.

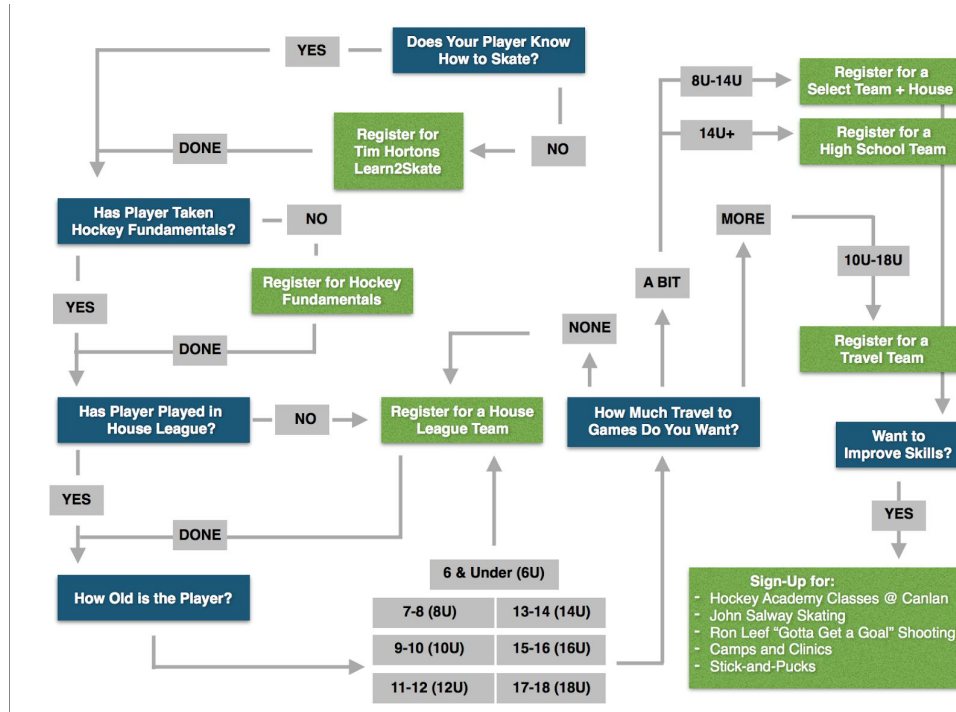
PSM Force Travel teams play their league games inside the Little Caesars Amateur Hockey League, with home games played at the SportONE/Parkview Icehouse or a limited number at Thunder Ice Arena in Angola, IN. PSM Force Select teams participate in Canlan's House league at the SportONE/Parkview Icehouse. All PSM Force teams will also play in a limited number of tournaments.

FWAHA High School teams play home games at the SportONE/Parkview Icehouse. Some High School Hockey crossover and State Tournament games will be held elsewhere in the State of Indiana.

SEE THE TEAM(S) SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR YOUR BIRTH YEAR TO COMPARE DEVELOPMENT, COMPETITION, AND COST.

What is the Player Development Path?

The Player Development Path is a tool for parents and players to understand where they are currently development-wise and what the opportunity is to advance. It's designed to be used as you answer a few questions as you consider the options in front of you.



How much does hockey cost and what do I get for the money?

FWAHA understands that youth sports can be expensive and your Player should play other sports in addition to hockey per USA Hockey's recommendations. The hockey products offered along the Player Development Path are offered at tiered prices, increasing with age and competitive level. The price you see is what you will pay and you will receive all the development and games outlined below, specific to your birth year and team.

The FWAHA does not want any player to be limited in their ability to play at the appropriate level for them on the Path, and has several options to help offset out-of-pocket expenses including fundraising and limited scholarship opportunities. Additionally, the FWAHA supplements the total expense for competitive hockey at all levels. Yes - the price you pay does not actually cover all the costs for the development we offer, which is something we're proud of when you compare development offered at other locations at much higher fees.

Please see the specific costs for your age group by team type for specific costs. All fees are set for the year and include all development including practices and games as described in the team specific information. Additional costs include uniforms and any travel expenses like hotel, gas, food, etc.



	8U		10U			12U			14U			16U	18U	High School
	Select 2012	Select 2011	Select 09/10	Travel 2010	Travel 2009	Select 07/08	Travel 2008	Travel 2007	Select 05/06	Travel 2006	Travel 2005	2003 2004	2001 2002	9th-12th Grades
Season Start	SEPT	SEPT	AUG	AUG	AUG	AUG	AUG	AUG	AUG	AUG	AUG	AUG	AUG	AUG
Season End	FEB	FEB	MAR	MAR	MAR	MAR	MAR	MAR	MAR	MAR	APR	APR	APR	MAR
ADM Recommended Players per Team	9-13	9-13	10-12 +Goal	10-12 +Goal	10-12 +Goal	15 +2 Goal	15 +2 Goal	15 +2 Goal	16 +2 Goal	16 +2 Goal	16 +2 Goal	16 +2 Goal	18 +2 Goal	18 +2 Goal
Practice:Game Ratio	1.4	1.4	2	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.4
Total Games*	34*	34*	36*	37	37	38* (42 W/OPT TNY)	42	42	46* (Low ADM)	51 (High ADM)	51 (High ADM)	64*	64*	35-40 15 League + Crossover Games
Tournaments	4 2 hme 2 awy	4 2 hme 2 awy	4 2 hme 2 awy	4	4	4 or 5 2 or 3 home 2 awy	4	4	5 2 hme 3 awy	5	5	7	7	1
Total Practices*	46	46	71	79	79	71	81	81	73	95	95	102	102	2/week
PSM Performance Training (45 min)	1/wk x5 mnths	1/wk x5 mnths	1/wk x5 mnths	2wk x6 mnths	2wk x6 mnths	1/wk x5 mnths	2wk x6 mnths	2wk x6 mnths	1/wk x5 mnths	2wk x6 mnths	2wk x6 mnths	1/wk x5 mnths	1/wk x5 mnths	1/wk x5 mnths
Gotta Get a Goal Shooting	8	8	1 per 2wks	1 per week	1 per week	1 per 2wks	1 per week	1 per week	1 per 2wks	1 per week	1 per week	N/A	N/A	N/A
Goalie Instruction	N/A	N/A	1.5/ wk	2/ wk	2/ wk	1.5/ wk	2/ wk	2/ wk	1.5/ wk	2/ wk	2/ wk	1/ wk	1/ wk	Varies by Team
Estimated Overnight Stays	4	4	4	8	8	4	8	8	6	10	10	10	10	6
Total Cost Per Player**	\$1300	\$1300	\$1700	\$2100	\$2100	\$1700	\$2200	\$2200	\$1950	\$2500	\$2500	\$1500	\$1500	\$2000-2200 est.
Cost for PSM Force team only	\$600	\$600	\$1000	\$2100	\$2100	\$1000	\$2200	\$2200	\$1200	\$2500	\$2500	\$1500	\$1500	N/A

* Includes House and/or High School where appropriate

** Includes estimated House costs for Select teams. Does not include uniforms or travel expenses like hotel, gas, etc.

How long is the season?

Please see chart above for specific information by age group and team.

All teams will tryout in May for the following hockey season. Off-Ice practices will begin for 10U-High School teams in mid-to-late August with 8U Select teams beginning practice in September. Games for

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Travel teams will begin in September with Select and High School beginning games in October.

How far and where do I have to travel?

The distance and frequency of travel depends on the team type.

Regarding travel for Games:

- PSM Force Travel - all PSM Force Travel teams participate in the LCAHL, which operates primarily in Michigan. Our home ice is at the SportONE/Parkview Icehouse. LCAHL games may be played as far as Detroit or Grand Rapids. See Travel Team Tournament Guidelines below for additional information on tournament travel.
- PSM Force Select - Tournaments will be scheduled on weekends that do not conflict with Canlan's House League game schedule. Tournament locations will be within a 3-hour driving radius of Fort Wayne per the Select Team Tournament Guidelines below.
- High School - all High School teams play crossover games at other rinks in Indiana.

Regarding travel for Tournaments:

- Some tournaments will start on a Friday or end on a Monday requiring a player to miss some school time (10U-18U).

SELECT Teams will follow these Game and Tournament Guidelines:

- Away tournaments will be held within a 3-hour driving radius. Teams must receive a waiver from the board's Travel committee for any tournaments outside of this radius.
- All tournaments must be chosen from the list of approved tournament providers/locations as developed by the Travel committee.
- Tournament total must include 2 local tournaments for all Select teams; one of these two local tournaments will be the Mid-Am Regional Silverstick Tournament where teams will be placed by ranking in the appropriate division.
- 12U Select may play a fifth tournament if the fifth tournament is also played locally and the team assists in the recruitment of other teams to the tournament.
- 14U Select will have 5 tournaments
- Friendly games may be scheduled by the Team Manager according to the age and team divisions below:
 - 10U Select - up to 2 friendly games; 1 home and 1 away
 - 12U Select - up to 4 friendly games; 2 home and 2 away
 - 14U Select - up to 8 friendly games; 4 home and 4 away

TRAVEL Teams will follow these Tournament Guidelines:

- Away tournaments are not restricted to a 3-hour driving radius, but discretion should be used when choosing tournaments to make sure they are a reasonable driving distance.
- All travel teams are required to play their designated division of Mid-Am Regional Silver Sticks according to their ranking and competitive level by the Silver Stick committee.
- All tournaments must be chosen from the list of approved tournament providers/locations as developed by the Travel committee..



Ok - I know my Player wants to tryout. How do I know which team they should try out for?

All Players tryout together with their birth year (2010, 2009, 2008, etc.). [See the calendar for your specific date and time.](#)

When are the tryouts?

- House – August
- PSM Force Travel & Select - May; 8U will be in June
- High School – May & June

For the 2019-2020 season, tryouts will be held:

- May 4 & 5 - for 16U and 18U teams
- May 11 & 12 - for 10U-14U teams
- May 16 & 23 - for Fort Wayne (H.S.)
- June 6 & 20 - for Carroll, Homestead, and Leo (H.S.)
- June 6 & 23 - for H.S. Open Draft
- June TBD - for 8U teams

What if I can't make the tryouts?

Best efforts should be made to make all scheduled tryout dates. We understand that occasions arise where that is not possible. In these cases, a prior arrangement should be made with the respective Division Director/Commissioner or Canlan HOAD (Head of Athletic Development).

Will there be a team for my player to play on?

Yes. We anticipate having enough players to roster at least one team in every age group (8U-18U). For the past several years, we've had two or three teams at each age group (8U-14U).

FWAHA uses USA Hockey's ADM recommendations for the number of players per team. This recommendation is how the Player Fees were established.

What if my player doesn't make a team?

Independent evaluators will evaluate all players fairly according to their birth year. Based on those evaluations, Coaches will offer your Player a roster spot on a team based on their current skill level so that they receive appropriate development through training and competition for the next hockey season. Travel teams will be rostered first, within 48 hours of tryouts. After the Travel team(s) are selected, the Select coaches will roster their teams. Select rosters will be finalized within 48 hours

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following the Travel roster announcement.

There is an FWAHA team for all levels of skill. Only in rare circumstances will no appropriate team be an option. In almost every case, one year of additional play at their current level of (for example, House or JV) will benefit the Player and allow them to compete the following year at their desired level.

Canlan offers a wide range of training programs at the SportONE/Parkview Icehouse to help your player prepare for tryouts. In addition, there are many skill instructors offering private and group lessons for players looking to increase their ability in specific areas.

How is the coach selected?

Each year prior to the tryouts, coaching applications are accepted online and considered for approval by the Director of Coaching and Player development. All coaches must be background screened, SafeSport compliant; and have completed the appropriate training course (levels 1- 4) and age specific modules. All Coaches meeting this criteria are interviewed and considered for teams on an annual basis. All Coaches must agree with and comply with development standards set out by USA Hockey according to the ADM and enforced by the FWAHA.

What if I want to play High School and Travel?

FWAHA encourages players to play in both programs. With that in mind, the practice and game schedule is designed to accommodate both programs. Players wishing to play both must register separately for each program and pay the respective non-refundable fees.

Can my player “play-up” to the next level?

In rare circumstances, the FWAHA does allow play-ups from the Player’s birth year to the one immediately above it. Although not common, any Player meeting policy guidelines and who demonstrates exceptional skill, maturity and/or understanding of the game may be considered to play up to the next age classification. Given the limited number of players in the position, special consideration may be made for goalies. See play-up policy at <https://www.fwaha.org/travel>.

Mythbusting:

- *The costs of Travel hockey prevent us from playing at a higher level.* Compare the Total costs for your birth year between the Select and Travel team. When you add up all the costs, Travel families will pay slightly more than Select families due to some additional tournament overnights. However, the FWAHA doesn’t want the difference to hinder a Player from rostering at the appropriate place on their personal Player Development Path. Contact the Board to learn about opportunities to defer costs if you are concerned.

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- *Travel means hockey more nights of the week, travel every weekend, and less time at home.* Travel and Select players will receive an appropriate number of games and practices, with the goal to keep the practice-to-game ratio tied closely to the ADM recommendations. While Select players will play all of their 18 (House) league games at home, Travel players will play half of their approximately 20 LCAHL league games at home. LCAHL league games are often played in a single day, not requiring an overnight. Last year, our Travel teams averaged 5 weekends off during the season as compared to Select who had 6 weekends off.
- *Once I'm rostered to a team, I'll be rostered with the same players/team every year.* Player tryouts happen annually and Players are evaluated each year by a team of independent evaluators. Your Player will develop each year and progress, just as other Players will do at the same time. Players will be invited to roster on the team that will offer your Player the development they need for the next season according to their age and the ADM recommendations. This may mean that your Player moves between Travel and Select from year-to-year.