

Lake Superior State University Sports Program Overview

LSSU Making History

This Fall 2020 marks the inaugural season of **Men's and Women's DII Hockey!** This season we have hired a Sports Director, Full-time experienced coaches, and LSSU has joined the ACHA. Due to just starting this program, and school starting in just a few months **we are in need of some players.** LSSU gives students, that weren't picked up by an NCAA team, a chance to still **compete at a very competitive level and be a part of an amazing college experience.** **Who do you know that would benefit from playing at LSSU?** If you or someone you know wants the opportunity to play DII hockey at a quality institution please contact Ruthann Cantile 507-304-1093

The American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) is the national governing body for non-NCAA college hockey. It is the only non-NCAA college hockey partner recognized by USA Hockey. This allows member teams and athletes to be covered by USA Hockey insurance and other USA Hockey benefits. The ACHA teams compete against one another for season standings and the top teams in each division participate at the ACHA Nationals in Massachusetts in 2021. For more info on the ACHA see: <http://achahockey.org/>

Recruit Me

If you are interested in having our coach contact you to answer more questions please email rcantile@lssu.edu or call 507-304-1093

Eligibility and Cost to Participate

By registering for full-time coursework (minimum of 12 credits) and maintaining a 2.0 GPA you are eligible to play hockey and virtually all of your competition costs are covered including:

- USA hockey registration and insurance
- Ice fees
- Referee fees
- Transportation to and from games
- Team Hotel Stay
- Team Meals
- Equipment
- Locker room

There is a modest LSSU Club Sports Participation fee, required by all club athletes.

Admission to LSSU

It is FREE to apply at www.lssu.edu and within a week of application our admissions representatives will have a determination for you. Once you are accepted you will then be directed to the Financial Aid office where they can determine your family contribution towards the educational costs, and notify you of any academic or need based scholarships available to help keep your cost to a minimum.

On-campus living community

Our club sport athletes are housed together in the same dormitories. This creates a comfortable environment providing common interest relationships and helps develop a sense of

belonging. Once you are committed to a team, our housing director assigns the roommate pairings and connects you with another club sport athlete.

Academic Programs

<http://webteam.lssu.edu/catalog/cmscatalog1920/programs.php>

Academic Support

Our coaching staff holds you accountable to get your academic responsibilities done first and they hold weekly study hall, monitor your progress, assign you an accountability partner, and give you the tools to communicate effectively with your professors if you need to miss class for an athletic event. We also have academic support services on campus, which is open to everyone. The **Academic Success Center** (ASC) provides free academic support to all registered Lake State students- from their first year to graduation. Our goal is to assist students in finding academic success while building their confidence, independence, and self-esteem.

Equipment

LSSU will provide you a helmet, home and away jerseys & socks, practice jerseys, hockey pant shell, gloves, and tape. We have an equipment manager that washes, dries, and delivers laundry throughout the week and after competition. Our equipment manager will also sharpen your skates and will repair any equipment needs.

Practice & Game Schedule

Our rink is owned and operated by the University and we are fortunate enough to get **prime time practice hours**. *You do not need a car while you are here, because the rink is on campus, and you are not driving yourself to away games.

We have already have a full schedule for the 2020-2021 season against Michigan, Ontario, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Ohio Universities.

Home Games are played ON CAMPUS at the:

Clarence "Taffy" Abel Arena is a 4,000-seat hockey arena in [Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan](#) on the campus of [Lake Superior State University](#). The arena is part of the Norris Center student athletic complex, which was built in 1976 and includes the 2,500-seat Cooper Gymnasium and other sports facilities for the school. The arena itself dates back to 1976; it was renovated and remodeled to its current larger form in the summer of 1995 following the Lakers' run of three national championships and eight straight NCAA tournament appearances, which continued into the first year of the arena. It was named after American ice hockey player [Clarence "Taffy" Abel](#), who was born in Sault Ste. Marie. It is the only on-campus hockey arena in the United States which has a seating capacity greater than the enrollment of the school for which it's used. Our team has a designated locker room space in the arena.

Director of Club Sports

Ruthann Cantile, Director of Club Sports, grew up in Cheboygan, MI. Ms. Cantile played hockey in Cheboygan and the Ice Arena is named after her father, Ralph G. Cantile, who coached and managed the arena for many years. Along with hockey she played boys soccer, volleyball, and softball at Cheboygan Area High School. Ruthann continued playing and

coaching club hockey in college at Western Michigan University, where they won a National title in 1998 in Lake Placid, NY. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education. Ms. Cantile coached/managed at many levels and has been in on the ground floor of most of these programs.

Historically, she was the youngest NCAA DI Head Women's Hockey Coach in the country at Bemidji State University. After coaching at BSU she went on to coach at Minnesota State University, where their staff earned Western Collegiate Hockey Association WCHA Coach of Year honors in 2004. Ms. Cantile coached both of her kids, Mariah (25) and JD (18) in their various youth sports. She earned a Master Degree in Sport Administration in 2006, and in 2010 she began her own financial consulting business. Ruthann is a passionate, self-driven, competitive spirit that aspires to bring students with the same qualities to Lake Superior State University and provide them with the opportunity to play the sport they love.

As Director of Club Sports her goal is to bring exposure to the University and comb the region looking for the most qualified coaches and student-athletes that fit the culture of LSSU. By cultivating strong relationships and creating a bond with these folks awareness, participation, pride, and funding become present and strengthen the community. For the 2020-2021 season the first two sports we are offering are Men's and Women's Hockey and plan to add two new teams every year for the next 5 years. Soon we will announce the sports teams LSSU will endorse in 2021-2022.

LSSU Coaching Staff

Steven Kaunisto, born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, played his youth hockey in the Soo AND played NCAA DI hockey for the Lakers. Steve earned his BA degree from Lake Superior State University in Finance and Economics with a minor in Marketing. Steve went on to play 10 years of professional hockey in the ECHL, CHL, and SPHL. Coach Kaunisto served on the executive committee for the Professional Hockey Players Association and was a Player-Assistant Coach for the Elmira Jackals.

Steve and his wife Abby live in Brimley and Abby is the Clinic Coordinator at Bay Mills. When Steve isn't playing or coaching hockey he enjoys gardening.

"Coach Kaunisto's biggest strength is his wealth of knowledge of the game and the ability to teach hockey skills and systems to his players. He also has an honest, compassionate, direct communication style that players respect and appreciate. Along with being the Head Coach of the men's program he will also assist the women's hockey program with scouting, recruiting, campus visits, and practice planning execution." Ruthann Cantile, LSSU Director of Club Sports

"I am very excited to be able to stay in the game of hockey and to help the student-athletes continue to grow both on and off the ice. I am also looking forward to be able to grow the sport of hockey in my hometown that helped make me the person I am today. I am looking for student-athletes that strive to push themselves to be better in the classroom as well as on the ice." Steve Kaunisto, LSSU Men's ACHA DII Head Hockey Coach

Matthew Parker, born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, played his youth hockey in the Soo as well AND has been a proud supporter of the LSSU NCAA DI team since birth. On the night he was born his mother actually went into labor right after an over-time win for the Lakers! As a

USA Hockey Certified Level 4 Coach he has over 15 years of coaching experience with the Soo Firehawks, St. Ignace Firehawks, and the LSSU ACHA DII men's hockey club 2015-2017. His wife Abby is an ER Nurse at War-Memorial Hospital and supervises Nursing Clinical at LSSU. Matt and Abby have two daughters that enjoy skating, being outdoors, and working on projects with their parents.

"Coach Parker's enthusiasm, dedication, and loyalty to Laker Hockey shines through and through. We look forward to him sharing that passion in the recruiting process with our current and future student-athletes. He is a student and a teacher of the game. His ability to connect with people and maintain solid relationships are a huge asset to our program. He will do well serving the LSSU community with his time and talents. Along with being the Head Women's Hockey Coach he will also assist our Men's program with scouting, recruiting, campus visits, and practice planning execution." Ruthann Cantile, LSSU Director of Club Sports

"I am beyond ecstatic to be offered this opportunity to be a part of this ground up program at LSSU. I look forward to the challenge of creating a competitive team, but more importantly helping young people develop on and off the ice. This is going to help draw more positive attention to the University and give the students a great college experience." Matthew Parker, LSSU Women's ACHA DII Head Hockey Coach

Want to Get Involved?

Alumni, current students, faculty/staff, and LSSU supporters have the opportunity to get involved as advocates for our club teams! We are creating a group that would like to be actively involved with the club sport initiative. This group works together to bring ideas to the table for fun social events, fundraising efforts, support awareness, and donate their time and talents to LSSU club sports. Anyone who has a passion for this project should contact Ruthann Cantile at 507-304-1093.

Sponsorship

Anyone that is interested in helping with an in-kind gift or a monetary donation to the club sports program should contact Andrew Rubinstein at the Foundation Office: 248-765-4527



