



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

John Howell Named Head Coach of Jr. Steelheads 18U AA Team for 2025–26 Season

The Jr. Steelheads are proud to announce John Howell as the Head Coach of the 18U AA team for the 2025–26 season. A Minnesota native and longtime leader within the organization, Coach Howell brings decades of elite-level experience and a deep-rooted commitment to teaching the game the right way.

As the former Hockey Director of the Jr. Steelheads, Coach Howell helped establish the foundation of the program's identity — built on hard work, skill development, and doing things with class. With a collegiate playing background and years of coaching high-level youth hockey, he moves to the 18U level with a clear vision: prepare players for the next step and pursue a USA Hockey National Championship with pride and purpose.

Coach Howell's 18U program will be built around:

- **Championship Standards:** From the first team meeting to the final buzzer of the season, expectations will be high. The culture will demand accountability, effort, leadership, and execution — with a team-first mindset at the core.
- **College-Prep Systems & Structure:** Players will be immersed in the systems, habits, and pace required to succeed at the junior and collegiate levels — from special teams to situational play and structured full-ice systems.
- **Advanced Skill & Hockey IQ Development:** High-rep, detail-driven practices will focus on game-specific skill transfer, decision-making, and building complete, confident players.
- **Leadership & Maturity:** With clear roles, rotating captaincies, and player ownership over preparation, communication, and peer standards, players will be challenged to grow on and off the ice.

Coach Howell's career has been defined by creating competitive, intelligent, hard-nosed teams that elevate the standard — and his presence behind the bench of the 18U AA group instantly signals that this is a team with serious goals. He's a leader players will learn from, trust, and follow — and his return to the top of the Jr. Steelheads ladder brings a sense of focus and belief that will carry this group into the national conversation.

Welcome back, Coach Howell.

Go Steelheads!