



**HARTFORD JUNIOR
WOLFPACK SOUTH AAA
2024-25 SEASON GUIDE**

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BLACK BEAR ASCENSION PATH



Black Bear Sports Group: Bethesda, MD

- Owns and operates 34 ice rinks across CT, DE, IL, MD, MI, NJ, OH and PA
- 31 youth clubs, 4 junior teams, 4 leagues and 2 tournament businesses

YOUNGSTOWN PHANTOMS - UNITED STATES HOCKEY LEAGUE (USHL)



- Only Tier I Junior "A" league in the U.S.
- 400+ college committed players in 2022-23 and 557 all-time NHL alumni
- 57 players drafted in the 2022 NHL draft
- All travel and player expenses paid by the club

MARYLAND BLACK BEARS - NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE (NAHL)



- Only Tier II Junior "A" hockey league with 29 teams across 17 states
- 300+ NCAA commits each season (~70% Division I)
- All travel and most player expenses paid by the club

MERCER CHIEFS - NATIONAL COLLEGIATE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (NCDC)



- East-coast based Tier II Junior "A" hockey league
- 52 NCAA commits in 2021-22
- All travel and most player expenses paid by the club

TEAM MARYLAND - EASTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE (EHL)



- East-coast based Tier III Junior "A" hockey league
- ~1,000 college commits in the last 5 years
- 95% to Division I/II

ELITE YOUTH HOCKEY CLUBS



BLACK BEAR DEVELOPMENT

Black Bear is committed to advancing its elite youth hockey programs (Biggby Coffee Hockey Club, Flyers Elite, Hartford Jr. Wolfpack, MassConn United, Mercer Chiefs, New Jersey Jets, Palmyra Black Knights, Philadelphia Revolution, Team Maryland) to its junior franchises for increased NCAA exposure. The following, represent Black Bear affiliate player ascension statistics;



YOUNGSTOWN PHANTOMS

YEAR	USHL DRAFT PICKS	ACTIVE ROSTER (1)	AFFILIATE CALL-UPS	COLLEGE COMMITS
2022-23	1	1	0	23
2021-22	3	1	0	28
2020-21	4	0	2	26
2019-20	3	1	2	28
2018-19	1	0	0	29



MARYLAND BLACK BEARS

YEAR	NAHL DRAFT PICKS	TENDER SIGNINGS	ACTIVE ROSTER (1)	AFFILIATE CALL-UPS	COLLEGE COMMITS
2022-23	1	1	9	0	12
2021-22	1	1	5	4	15
2020-21	0	3	3	7	19
2019-20	2	1	2	2	11
2018-19	0	0	0	2	4



MERCER CHIEFS NCDC

YEAR	ACTIVE ROSTER (1)	AFFILIATE CALL-UPS	COLLEGE COMMITS
2022-23	9	2	1



TEAM MARYLAND EHL

YEAR	ACTIVE ROSTER (1)	AFFILIATE CALL-UPS	COLLEGE COMMITS
2022-23	6	0	1
2021-22	12	1	8
2020-21	7	0	15
2019-20	5	1	7

- Over 60 active roster players
- 22 Draft Picks/Tenders
- Over 200 College Commitments

(1) Represents players from Black Bear AAA clubs on the Black Bear Junior Teams



HARTFORD JUNIOR WOLFPACK

NOTABLE WOLFPACK ALUMNI

Francis Nault - University of Maine

Francis was a dominant force in Connecticut Ice Hockey before playing for 3 Seasons and over 100 games at the University of Maine. In his final season at Maine he played in the National Championship. Following a distinguished career there Francis played professionally across the ECHL, AHL, and other professional leagues in Canada.

Nick Bonino - 2 Time Stanley Cup Champion and NCAA National Champion

One of Connecticut's most successful ice hockey players ever, Nick played for the WolfPack before moving on to Avon Old Farms where he won the New England Prep Championship, Boston University where he won a National Championship, and then on to the NHL where he won back-to-back Stanley Cups. Nick is now a member of the New York Rangers.

Nick Capone - University of Connecticut - Tampa Bay Lightning

Nick played his youth hockey in Milford until switching over to play for some of the most competitive WolfPack teams in the entire history of the organization. He then moved on to compete in Prep School, followed by the USHL, and ultimately to the University of Connecticut. Nick was drafted by the Tampa Bay Lightning in the 2020 NHL Entry Draft.

Molly Jordan - Boston College - Team USA

Molly has quickly become one of Connecticut's most accomplished girls ice hockey players. A major contributor to the 14U Junior Lady WolfPack National Championship run Molly turned that into playing at Loomis Chaffee, committing to Boston College, and most recently represented Team USA at the IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship in 2023 (Bronze) and 2022 (Silver).



View Our Entire Alumni List





JUNIOR WOLFPACK SOUTH

ABOUT

Hartford Junior Wolfpack Youth Hockey is a AAA, USA Hockey program in Connecticut. We are members of the Black Bear Sports Group, an elite-level multi-tiered hockey system, with access to a network of scheduling, showcase, and advancement resources all to support the development of the elite Student Athlete. 2024-25 will mark the inaugural season for the Wolfpack to skate out of Milford Ice Arena offering teams at 4 levels.

The Wolfpack model focuses on development through Active-Coaching; our team of professionals will focus on intent and pace through skill progressions and situational play. Our goal is to help each player have fun competing and improving at USA Hockey's highest level.

ORGANIZATION BENEFITS (WPS)

- AAA Multi Tier Hockey Organization
- Customized Tier I
- 24-28 league game schedule plus showcases and league tournaments
- Spring Parity Event
- Spring Tournament
- Pre-season Player and Goalie training camp
- Dedicated Home locker room for 11U, 12U & 13O
- Film Room
- Shooting Room

2024-25 WOLFPACK SOUTH TEAMS

- 10U Squirt Major (2014 & 2015)
- 11U Pee Wee Minor (2013)
- 12U Pee Wee Major (2012 & 2013)
- 13O Bantam Minor (2011)

LEAGUES

- Tier I Hockey Federation (THF)
- Super Series Tournament



JUNIOR WOLFPACK SOUTH

TIER I BOYS MANAGEMENT STAFF

JP Shimko - Executive Director

- 8 years coaching experience
- USA Hockey Certified
- Competitive Background: Wonderland Wizards, Joel Barlow Falcons, Canterbury Saints, Ohio State Buckeyes
- Disciplines: Power Skating, Edge Work, Stick Handling and Shooting Skills, Off-Ice Training
- Current Occupation: General Manager of Milford Ice Arena, Milford High School Boys Ice Hockey Coach, Team Doritos PW Quebec Ice Hockey Coach



Brian Kim - Hockey Director

- 15 years coaching experience
- USA Hockey Certified
- Competitive Background: Merrimack Valley (MA), North Andover Scarlet Knights, Wake Forest Demon Deacons, Fairfield Ice Academy (FIA)
- Disciplines: Power Skating, Edge Work, Stick Handling and Shooting Skills, Off-ice Training
- Current Occupation: Founder and Director of Foundation Hockey, Milford High School Boys Ice Hockey Coach



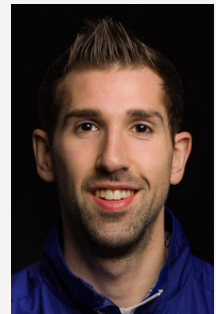


JUNIOR WOLFPACK SOUTH

TIER I BOYS COACHING STAFF

Player Skills and Development - Dave Canfarotta

- 10 years coaching experience
- Head PEP Instructor
- USA Hockey Certified
- Competitive Background: Southern Stars, Salisbury Knights, Connecticut Oilers, Fairfield Ice Academy (FIA)
- Disciplines: PEP, Power Skating, Edge Work, Stick Handling and Shooting Skills, Off-ice Training
- Current Occupation: Founder and Director of DC Skills, Fairfield High School Boys Ice Hockey Coach



Rachel Ricca - Skating Director

- 25 years coaching experience
- PSA Member, USFS Member, ISI Member, LTS USA Member, Level 4 USA Hockey
- Competitive Background: USFS competitions, ice shows
- Disciplines: Freestyle, Moves in the Field, Power Skating, Basic Skills, Hockey, Off-ice Training



Pro Crease - Goaltending Skills

- Pro Crease Goaltending, is the largest instructional hockey organization dedicated solely to goaltending in CT and NY
- Founded in 2007
- Staff of twenty (20) premier goaltending instructors
- Jared Waimon is currently the Goaltending Scout for the 2020-2021 Stanley Cup Champion Tampa Bay Lightning
- Goaltending Coach at Quinnipiac University for five years.





JUNIOR WOLFPACK SOUTH

Individualized Development Plan

Squirt Major 10U (2014 & 2015)

- Player Fee: \$5,520 includes jerseys, socks, shell
- Goalie Fee: \$2,760 includes jerseys, socks, shell
- Payment plan available
- Tournaments: 2, THF Showcases: 2-4, THF Playoffs
- Games Target: 51
- Spring Practices (6) and Tournament (1)
- Training Camp Start Date: 8/10/24
- Practices Start: week of 8/12/25, End:3/2/25
- Practices: 2X weekly 75 minutes each (calendar permitting)
- Skill Sessions and Goalie Training: Weekly (calendar permitting)
- Chalk Talk: Weekly (calendar permitting)
- Shooting Room: Weekly (calendar permitting)



Pee Wee Minor 11U (2013)

- Player Fee: \$5,700 includes jerseys, socks, shell
- Goalie Fee: \$2,850 includes jerseys, socks, shell
- Payment plan available
- Tournaments: 2, THF Showcases: 2-4, THF Playoffs
- Games Target: 51
- Spring Practices (6) and Tournament (1)
- Training Camp Start Date: 8/10/24
- Practices Start: week of 8/12/25, End:3/2/25
- Practices: 2X weekly 75 minutes each (calendar permitting)
- Skill Sessions and Goalie Training: Weekly (calendar permitting)
- Chalk Talk: Weekly (calendar permitting)
- Shooting Room: Weekly (calendar permitting)
- Dedicated Home Locker Room



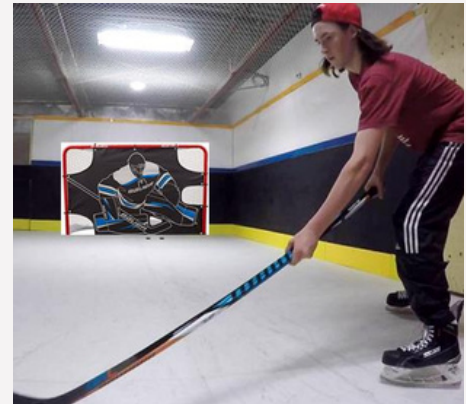


JUNIOR WOLFPACK SOUTH

Individualized Development Plan

Pee Wee Major 12U (2012 & 2013)

- Player Fee: \$6,000 includes jerseys, socks, shell
- Goalie Fee: \$3,000 includes jerseys, socks, shell
- Payment plan available
- Tournaments: 2, THF Showcases: 2-4, THF Playoffs
- Games Target: 51
- Spring Practices (6) and Tournament (1)
- Training Camp Start Date: 8/10/24
- Practices Start: week of 8/12/25, End:3/2/25
- Practices: weekly 1-75 minute split ice, 1-60 minute full ice (calendar permitting)
- Skill Sessions and Goalie Training: Weekly (calendar permitting)
- Film Room: Weekly (calendar permitting)
- Shooting Room: Weekly (calendar permitting)
- Dedicated Home Locker Room



Bantam Minor 130 (2011)

- Player Fee: \$6,120 includes jerseys, socks, shell
- Goalie Fee: \$3,060 includes jerseys, socks, shell
- Payment plan available
- Tournaments: 2, THF Showcases: 3-5, THF Playoffs
- Games Target: 51
- Spring Practices (6) and Tournament (1)
- Training Camp Start Date: 8/10/24
- Practices Start: week of 8/12/25, End:3/2/25
- Practices: weekly 1-75 minute split ice, 1-60 minute full ice (calendar permitting)
- Skill Sessions and Goalie Training: Weekly (calendar permitting)
- Film Room: Weekly (calendar permitting)
- Shooting Room: Weekly (calendar permitting)
- Dedicated Home Locker Room



PROGRAM OFFERINGS

- Over 50 Games
- National Showcases
- USA Hockey Nationals
- 3 to 4 hours of practice/skills a week
- Film room for team meetings and review
- Shooting room for team skill and system
- Professional Skills training from DC Skills
- Professional Goalie training from Pro Crease



TIER I TRYOUTS

Wolf Pack South

2024-25 TRYOUT DATES AND TIMES

Level	Birth Years	Date	Time	Date	Time	Date	Time
10U	2014/2015	March 4	6:10pm	March 5	7:20pm	March 7	7:20pm
11U	2013	March 4	7:20pm	March 6	8:20pm	March 7	8:30pm
12U	2012/2013	March 4	8:30pm	March 5	8:30pm	March 7	8:30pm
13O	2011	April 9	6:40pm	April 10	6:40pm	April 11	6:40pm

10U-13O TRYOUT REGISTRATION FEE: \$200

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTED REGISTRATION FEE
OF \$150

IF REGISTERED BY FEB 28TH FOR 10U-12U
OR BY APRIL 3RD FOR 13O





JUNIOR WOLFPACK SOUTH

TRYOUT POLICIES

Travel Withdrawal/No Refund Policy

Once teams have been formed, if a player leaves, it is very difficult to find replacement players. Our policy is that once a player has registered for a team, the party registering the player is responsible to pay Wolfpack South the entire fee associated with that team: if the player leaves, we will not refund any portion of the fee. Until Wolfpack South has received payment of the registration fee in full, the player will not be released from Wolfpack South. Until a written release is issued by the club, the player cannot register for/play for a team in any other USA Hockey association/club.

Open Eligibility for Team Try Out

It is the Club's policy to give every player the opportunity to try out for the age appropriate team of his or her choice, regardless of where or at what skill level the player may have played in the prior year. Roster spots will be open to any players who attend try-outs.

Number of Try Out Sessions Prior to "Cuts"

There will be no cuts until after the second scheduled try-out. The Director of Coaching will be responsible for developing tryout evaluation procedures and providing evaluators and Club coaches with adequate direction relating to this matter.

Travel Try Out Procedures

- Each player will be assigned a unique tryout number and jersey that MUST be worn at each evaluation.
- An Evaluation Committee shall be organized by the Hockey Director and will be comprised of the Hockey Director, and no less than two (2) other disinterested, qualified evaluators, to be selected by the Hockey Director. This committee shall organize the drills and objectives for each level and shall evaluate at as many evaluation sessions as possible. The committee shall work with the coaches throughout the try outs. At the conclusion of each try out session, or as soon thereafter as possible, the Head Coach of the appropriate team shall conduct a roundtable discussion to gather and review the try out results. At least one member of the Evaluation Committee shall attend the round table discussion.



JUNIOR WOLFPACK SOUTH

TRYOUT POLICIES CONTINUED

Travel Try Out Procedures Continued

- At the conclusion of each session, the Head Coach upon approval of the Hockey Director shall be allowed to make selections to the team, thereby waiving attendance at the remaining try out sessions for those selected players.
- All players, whether they are being placed on a team or cut from the try-out process will be notified by posting on the web or bulletin board, individual telephone calls or a personal face to face conversation. The appropriate coach has the responsibility for providing this notification to the affected players.

48 Hours To Register

Once players have been notified of their team placement, parents have 48 hours to register for that team, or Wolfpack South may offer the player's spot to another player.

Player Addition After Tryouts

A player may be added to any team at any time up to 12/31 without attending any try-outs by coach's selection only after approval by Wolfpack South's Director of Coaching. However, this will be the exception and the vast majority of player's will be placed on a team right after the try out sessions.

The try out fee will be non-refundable in whole or in part regardless of the number of try-outs attended by the player. NO Exceptions.





JUNIOR WOLFPACK SOUTH

TRAVEL POLICIES

- **TRAVEL ROSTER SIZE:** At all levels, only players qualified to play at that level will make a travel team roster. Travel teams will have a target roster size that may vary from age level to age level, and will be at the discretion of the Hockey Director. Based on the number of players and the skill of the players trying out, the Club reserves the right NOT to field a team at any level.
- **TRAVEL COACHING STAFF:** Wolfpack South intends to announce coaches prior to try outs.
- **TRAVEL PROGRAM POLICIES:**
 - **Ice Time Policy:** At all levels, the coach will have the prerogative throughout the game to play the players of his choice; however, the club does expect that all players will play in every period.
 - **Attendance policy:** Wolfpack South requires that Travel players not miss more than one (1) practice and one (1) game per month on an unexcused basis. Occasional absences, approximately once a month, for illness, school obligations and family obligations will be considered excused absences. However, these absences will only be considered excused absences if the head coach or team manager is informed in advance of the impending absence. If no advance notice is given, the absence will be considered unexcused. If a player has 2 unexcused absences in any month as outlined above, the following shall occur: If a second practice or game in any month is missed, the player will be required to sit out one (1) period of the next game. If a third practice or game in any month is missed, the player will be required to sit out two (2) periods of the next game. If a fourth practice or game in any month is missed, the player will be required to be in attendance but sit out the next game. In addition, there will be a discussion with the player and his/her parents as to the athlete's commitment to the program.
- **YEARLY FEES:** The yearly fee for the Travel program will ONLY include:
 - Sessions and all games as noted in the Individualized Development Plans (pages 7 & 8) to include tournament and showcases. THF player league fees are the responsibility of the parent and are not included in the yearly fee.



JUNIOR WOLFPACK SOUTH

TRAVEL POLICIES CONTINUED

	One Payment Season Fee (NOTE 1)	3 Payment Plan Season Fee (NOTES 1 & 3)
10U Squirt Major Teams	Player-\$5520 Goalie-\$2760	Player-\$5670 (\$1890 each payment) Goalie-\$2910 (\$970 each payment)
11U Pee Wee Minor Teams	Player-\$5700 Goalie-\$2850	Player-\$5850 (\$1950 each payment) Goalie-\$3000 (\$1000 each payment)
12U Pee Wee Major Teams	Player-\$6000 Goalie-\$3000	Player-\$6150 (\$2050 each payment) Goalie-\$3150 (\$1050 each payment)
130 Bantam Minor Teams	Player-\$6120 Goalie-\$3060	Player-\$6270 (\$2090 each payment) Goalie-\$3210 (\$1070 each payment)

- Note 1: Credit card customers will be charged a credit card processing fee to their card.
- Note 2: Registration for all Travel teams must be complete (defined below) in full within 48 hours of being notified of team assignment. If not fully completed within 48 hours: player's spot may be offered to another player and ALL Season Fees shown above will be increased by \$400.
- Complete Registration Includes: You must complete USA Hockey registration before registering with WPS online. Our registration system will prompt the user for his/her new USA Hockey number. Registration cannot proceed without the correct number. 10U and 12U: please enter your current season USAH number. 130 may enter either the 23/24 or the 24/25 number.
- Full Payment received by WPSA, or if paying by check, check(s) must be received within 3 days of registration.
- TRAVEL PAYMENT SCHEDULE: When a player is selected to play for a team, the yearly fee can be paid by:
 - Full payment of the "One Payment Season Fee" above at the time of registration by one check or one credit card payment for the full amount. Note 1: Credit card customers will be charged an additional credit card processing fee to their card.
 - Note 3: three equal payments by three checks or credit card of the "3 Payment Plan Season Fee" shown above. All three checks must be submitted at registration time. One check dated as of the registration date for 1/3 of the fee, One check dated July 15 for 1/3 of the fee and one check dated September 15 for the remaining 1/3 of the fee.



JUNIOR WOLFPACK SOUTH

TRAVEL POLICIES CONTINUED

WPS CODES OF CONDUCT

Players and parents should read and discuss together the following rules of conduct of the Club. Each player is representing the Club not just on the ice during practices and games, but also in the locker room both home and away, in the hotels on road trips, at restaurants when dining together, etc.

WPS Code of Conduct for PARENTS

I agree that, "Kids play sports for their own enjoyment, not mine." I will encourage my child to play by the rules of the game. I will teach my child that winning games does not make a winner and losing games does not make loser, and I will teach my child that good sportsmanship and having fun are truly the most important parts of sports.

I agree that officials are an important and integral part of the game. I accept the premise that each official has integrity and is trying to call a fair and equitable game. I understand that referees are human and subject to make mistakes just as I am. If I disagree with an official's call, I will express my disagreement without verbally abusing the officials or demeaning them in any way.

I will applaud good plays from our team and from opponents' and avoid criticizing children (mine or others') if they fail. I understand that children respond positively to positive encouragement and negatively to negative comments. I will remember that my activities and actions can either enhance or demean the efforts of my child as well as all other participants. The choice is mine. The benefit (or harm) is always the child's.

I will at all times act like an adult, cheering when appropriate and refrain from making loud, abusive, demeaning, or vulgar comments toward officials, other team members, parents or other team's coaches and will remember that such actions can cause serious embarrassment to my child and damage to the reputation of the team and the program.

I will support my coaches and will refrain from criticizing them in front of my child or other players. I will treat the coaches and team officials with respect and insist that my child does as well.

If I have a disagreement with a coach, player, parent, referee or club official, I either approach them in a calm, reasonable manner or will use the club procedures for resolving this conflict.

I will volunteer my services when needed.

I will ensure that my child abides by the rules of the team, USA Hockey and Hartford Junior Wolfpack association, and will ensure that my child doesn't disparage other participants concerning their skills, race, ethnic background, sex, religion or national origin.

I will ensure that my child is on time to team practices and games and that his/her behavior is not disruptive to the other members of the team.

I will not knowingly participate, instigate or pursue any course of action that could reasonably be expected to lead or cause physical or emotional harm or legal action to or against any minor participant including, but not limited to providing of controlled substances or alcohol.

WPS Code of Conduct for PLAYERS

Rules: Follow the rules. Each player agrees to abide by all of the published and non-published rules and regulations of USA Hockey, Tier 1 Hockey Federation (THF), all leagues the team may play in, and WPS.

Respect: Be Respectful. WPS expects to be respectful of all referees and refrain from any negative communication with the referees. WPS expects all parents, players and coaches to show respect to the referees, opposing team, parents, and other coaches.

Behavior: Watch the language, horseplay, gestures, attitudes, etc. Be respectful of others and the property of others. Always be a good sport and set a positive example for others, particularly younger players.

Sportsmanship: Practice teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline. Demonstrate mature behavior on and off the ice. Participate, with grace, in end of game hand-shake line. Learn to win and lose with the same amount of sportsmanship and dignity.

Adults: No Insubordination. Follow the directions given by the coaches, WPS staff, rink officials and referees. Please note the Zero Tolerance posters in all rinks. Play for FUN and enjoy hockey.

Illegal Activities: Any activities/situations that are illegal (possession or use of cigarettes, alcohol or drugs, shoplifting, stealing, vandalism, etc.) will not be tolerated. Illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities. Demand a drug-and alcohol-free sports environment for your team.

The consequences for violating the above-referenced rules are varied, depending on such factors as whether this is a first time offense or part of a pattern or practice, the seriousness of the offense, the potential for or actual harm to the player or other players, and whether or not the behavior is illegal (this list is not exhaustive). The coach may determine the appropriate punishment or may refer violators to the WPS disciplinary committee. Consequences of violations may range from suspension for a period or two of a game, to a single or multiple game suspensions; to expulsion from WPS (this list is not exhaustive).

Suspensions or expulsions will not entitle any family to a refund of any kind. In fact, parents are responsible for the player's actions and will be held financially liable for them.



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