

ECHO STARS ICE HOCKEY



2024-25 SEASON
WWW.EHOSTARS.COM



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PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The Eastern Connecticut Hockey Organization (ECHO) travel hockey program (the “Club”) is a very competitive level of hockey play and requires a strong time commitment by both the player and the parent. It is very important that the player and parent understand and accept the time commitment of the travel program and that they are expected to make the travel team a priority (see “Attendance Policy” in Travel Program Policies). Parents and players should be prepared to accept this level of commitment.

PLANNED TEAMS 6U -18U

For the 2024-2025 season, based on the player's age as of December 31st, 2024, the Club plans to field the following teams. The number of teams at each competitive level of play (AA, A or B, etc.) will be determined by the skill level of players trying out and may be changed after the league parity event based on parity results.

Level	Birth Years
8U	2016 and Under
10U	2015/2014
12U	2013/2012
14U	2011/2010
18U	2009/2008/2007/2006



ROSTER SIZE

At all levels, only players qualified to play at that level will make a travel team roster. During and immediately after the March and April tryouts, roster spots may be filled by the most qualified players attending the tryouts. The Club anticipates that all spots may not be filled after tryouts and that some number of players may be added at the Hockey Director's discretion without having participated at tryouts.

PROGRAM FEATURES

SPLIT SEASON 18U A/AA

Player Fee: \$2,395 plus jerseys/apparel *(Payment plan available)

Games Target: 20

Practice Start Date: 09/03/24

Practice End Date: 11/18/24

Team Practice Hours: 24*

Additional Skills Session Hours: 5

Goalie Training: Weekly*

14U BANTAM

Player Fee: \$3,475 plus jerseys/apparel *(Payment plan available)

Tournaments/Showcases: 2

Games Target: 38

Practice Start Date: 09/03/24

Practice End Date: 02/28/25

Team Practice Hours: 50*

Additional Skills Session Hours: 5

Goalie Training: Weekly*

12U PEEWEE

Player Fee: \$3,325 plus jerseys/apparel *(Payment plan available)

Tournaments/Showcases: 2

Games Target: 38

Practice Start Date: 09/03/24

Practice End Date: 2/28/25

Team Practice Hours: 50*

Additional Skills Session Hours: 5

Goalie Training: Weekly*

10U SQUIRT

Player Fee: \$3,075 plus jerseys/apparel *(Payment plan available)

Tournaments/Showcases: 2

Games Target: 38

Practice Start Date: 09/03/24

Practice End Date: 2/28/25

Team Practice Hours: 50*

Additional Skills Session Hours: 5

Goalie Training: Weekly*

8U MITE

Player Fee: \$2,250 plus jerseys/apparel *(Payment plan available)

Tournaments/Showcases: 1

Games Target: 34

Practice Start Date: 09/03/24

Practice End Date: 2/28/25

Team Practice Hours: 50*

Additional Skills Session Hours: 5

Goalie Training: Weekly*

***Calendar Permitting**

GAMES

Connecticut Hockey Conference – CHC

All ECHO teams compete in the CHC which includes 38 youth hockey organizations in CT. All games are played in CT, with teams having the option to compete in out of state tournaments.

Games are scheduled with teams of similar skill level with roughly 40 games played throughout the season. CHC provides end of season Jamborees at the 8U level, as well as State Tournaments at the 10U, 12U and 14U levels. 12U Tier II teams are eligible to compete for Regionals, while the 14U Tier II teams are eligible for Nationals.

COACHING STAFF

The Club plans to announce coaches in advance of tryouts; however coaching assignments are subject to change.





PROGRAM POLICIES

1

Checking Policy:

Checking is not allowed in Travel games at the 12U and younger levels. Checking is permitted at the 14U and 16U/18U levels.

2

Line Changing Policy:

All Travel games include changing on the fly, except in some cases cross-ice mites.

3

Ice Time Policy:

Club policy for 10U levels, and all other "A" and "B" levels, is that all players should have consistent ice time except in the last 5 minutes of the game. For 12U "AA" the policy will be consistent ice time except the last 5 minutes of the game and during penalties and power play situations when the coach will have the prerogative to play the players of his/her choice. For 14U "AA" and 18U "AA", the coach will have the prerogative throughout the game to play the players of his/her choice. However, barring any disciplinary actions, the club does expect that all players will play in every period.

4

Attendance Policy:

The Club 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 and Crossbar has been updated to reflect the impending absence. If no advance notice is given, the absence will be considered unexcused.

If a player has 2 or more 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 attend but not dress and 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.

TRYOUT SCHEDULE & FEES

- Tryouts will start on March 11 for 8U, March 25 for 10U & 12U and April 10 for 14U. Tryout fees are FREE for 8U and \$175 for all other teams, please refer to the tryout flier posted. Tryout schedules for each level are posted on WEBSITE AND EMAILED.
- This tryout fee will be non-refundable in whole or in part regardless of the number of tryouts attended by the player. This tryout fee will be applied towards the yearly registration fee.

ECHO Stars							
2024-25 TRYOUT DATES AND TIMES							
Level	Birth Years	Date	Time	Date	Time	Date	Time
8U	2016 and Under	March 11	5:30pm	March 12	5:30pm	March 13	5:30pm
10U	2015/2014	March 25	5:15pm	March 26	5:15pm	March 27	5:15pm
12U	2013/2012	March 25	7:00pm	March 26	7:00pm	March 27	7:00pm
14U	2011/2010	April 11	6:15pm	April 15	7:00pm	April 16	7:10pm

Registration and deposit paid for all teams must be completed.

Complete registration includes:

USA Hockey on-line registration. You must complete USA Hockey membership registration (<https://www.usahockey.com/membership>) before registering with the Club on-line. Our registration system will prompt the user for his/her new USA Hockey number. Registration cannot proceed without the correct number.

Numbers are valid August of the current year. Before the season begins in the fall, players will need to renew their USA Hockey registration.

On-line registration via the club/rink website and all required waivers and information submitted and either a deposit paid or paid in full

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 - On-line registration via the club/rink website and all required waivers and information submitted and either a deposit paid or paid in full.
- **Payment Schedule**
 - When a player is selected to play for a team, the yearly fee can be paid by:
 - Full payment of the above at the time of registration by one check or one credit card payment for the full amount.
 - 4 equal payments by 4 checks or credit card of the **"Payment Plan Season Fee"** shown above. All four checks must be submitted at time of registration.
- **Refund Policy**
 - The Player and Parent acknowledge and agree that the full participation fees must be paid, even should the Player or Parent determine to voluntarily leave the Club or the Player be discharged from the Club for reasons including, but not limited to, suspension for disciplinary or academic reasons, injury or illness, voluntary resignation, or team- mandated limited or non-participation. No refund will be given at any time for any reason. Please note that, per USA Hockey Bylaws, no player from any USA Hockey Affiliate or District may register or participate on a team within the Atlantic Affiliate if such player owes any financial obligation, including, unreturned equipment, to any previous team or organization registered within any USA Hockey Affiliate or District. Anyone who is not paid in full will be reported to the Affiliate.



TRYOUT POLICIES FOR PROGRAMS

The Club has adopted the following policies for the team tryout eligibility, which will apply for the upcoming season.



Open Eligibility for Team Tryout

- It is the Club's policy to give every player the opportunity to tryout 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 tryouts. Prior playing experience with the Club will not be a factor in determining which players make a Travel roster. No number of roster spots on a Travel team will be reserved for current Club players.



Number of Tryout Sessions Prior to "Cuts"

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



Try Out Procedures

- Each player will be assigned a unique tryout number and jersey or pinney 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 tryouts. At the conclusion of each tryout session, or as soon thereafter as possible, the Head Coach of the appropriate team shall conduct a roundtable discussion to gather and review the tryout results. At least one member of the Evaluation Committee shall attend the round table discussion.
- 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 tryout sessions for those selected players.
- All players, whether they are being placed on a team or cut from the tryout process will be notified by e-mail.
- Goalies shall be evaluated by the Club's goaltending instructor and evaluators. The goalie evaluations will take place during the regular tryout sessions.

TRYOUT POLICIES FOR PROGRAMS

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Addition of a Player to the Roster after Tryouts

- A player may be added to any team at any time up to 12/31 without attending any tryouts by coach's selection only after approval by the Club's Hockey Director and an appropriate release from another club, if applicable. However, this will be the exception and the vast majority of player's will be placed on a team right after the tryout sessions.

Player playing at a higher level than his/her USA Hockey defined level

- A player shall only be allowed to play at a level above his regularly slated USA Hockey level as determined by his birth date, (i.e. 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U), if the Hockey Director, in his or her sole discretion, determines that the player demonstrates skills such that at the higher level he/she will be one of the top six players (i.e. a first line player or starting goalie) on the higher level's top team. For example, a 14U would have to be in the top 6 to make the 16U AA team.





CODES OF CONDUCT

Players and parents should read and discuss together the following rules of conduct of the Club. Remember, 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.

Club Code of Conduct for PARENTS

Parents and guardians agree and acknowledge the below code of conduct.

I will always remember that my child plays the game of hockey to have fun. I will never scold my child for mistakes that are made on the ice, because children have more need of example than criticism. I will accept the results of each game, teach my child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement. I will not coach from the sidelines. I will let my child's coach be in charge at every game. I will never use abusive or profane language directed towards anyone connected with the game. This includes the children, referees, coaches, rink employees and other parents. I will not lean over the glass and shout, pound on the glass nor make any attempt to communicate with on-ice referees, coaches or players. I will be an example of sportsmanship to others and will expect the same in return from my child, the coaches, and other parents. I will attempt to relieve the pressure of competition, not increase it. I will be encouraging, supportive, and positive in regard to my child's play on the ice and the development of his/her hockey skills. I will fully support the coaches as they carry out the developmental objectives of the club at all levels. I will not interfere at any time with the duties and responsibilities of the coach or Hockey Director. I will never show favoritism towards any member of the team, making sure no one, especially my child, receives unfair advantages. I will firmly stand behind the objectives of the club at all times, and support its priorities of fun, skills development and sportsmanship under all circumstances. I understand that violation of any of the principles contained in the Parent Code of Conduct may result in the suspension and/or dismissal of my child and/or me from the Club and/or arenas where the club practices or plays. I further understand that tuition remains non-refundable if my child and/or I are dismissed from the Club.



CODES OF CONDUCT CONT.

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Club Code of Conduct for Players

1. No swearing or abusive language on the bench, in the rink, or at any team function.
2. No lashing out at any official no matter what the call is. The coaching staff will handle all matters pertaining to officiating.
3. Anyone who receives a penalty will skate directly to the penalty box.
4. Fighting will not be tolerated and may result in suspension or permanent dismissal from the club.
5. There will be no drinking, smoking, chewing of tobacco, or use of illegal substances at any team function.
6. I will conduct myself in a respectful and befitting manner at all facilities (ice rink, hotel, restaurant, etc.) during any team function, including on-ice practice and play.
7. I understand that players or team officials who cannot abide by these rules or who violate them will be subject to further disciplinary action or permanent dismissal from the Club.

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.