



INFORMATION FOR JR. NAILERS TRAVEL 2019/2020

Founded in 1964, WAHA is a non-profit community of some 400+ families who come together each year to offer our youth a chance to play the great game of ice hockey. With 7 travel teams, 6 development programs, a Senior League and nearly 500 players, we are the largest youth hockey organization in WV and one of the largest in the Western PA hockey region.

WAHA strives to provide our players with a competitive and complete youth hockey experience. Our belief is that every player's hockey experience should include improvement in fundamental hockey skills as well as life lessons learned through the team experience.

For families interested in competitive travel hockey, the WAHA program has long been regarded as one of the best values in our area. Placement is based on what the evaluation committee believes will constitute the most competitive, or most evenly assembled team.

All the key information you need to prepare for the upcoming year is contained in this newsletter. Thank you for your support. We look forward to another great hockey season!

- WAHA travel teams play in the Pennsylvania Amateur Hockey League (PAHL) for all age levels for youth (co-ed). *Travel is typically limited to the Western PA region, nearby Morgantown, WV and some trips to State College, Erie, Lawrence County, PA, and Youngstown, OH.*
- For player development, WAHA believes our teams are best placed in the division where they have the best opportunity to compete. WAHA favors the PAHL placement process conducted by pre-season scrimmages. It is important for teams wanting to improve pre-season placement to compete and do well in placement games.

INDICATION OF INTEREST DETAILS

DAY OF EVALUATION/CHECK-IN

Fees due at registration: All players and goaltenders must bring a \$20 non-refundable evaluation fee check made payable to WAHA, to the first day of evaluations.

- Arrive at the rink for your designated evaluation in plenty of time to check in and change.
- Have WAHA contract filled out and signed, and a check for \$20 made out to “WAHA”.
- We use WAHA practice jerseys for evaluation. If you don’t have one, you will be given a jersey for duration of evaluations.

EVALUATION ABSENCES

- If a player is going to miss all or part of the evaluation process due to injury, illness or a school-related conflict, **you must still register and turn in your deposit.**
- **You must also notify:** wheelinghockey@gmail.com as soon as possible.
- We will do our best to accommodate a player’s absence within the evaluation process.

POST-EVALUATIONS: WHAT Happens Next?

The team assignments will be posted to <http://www.waha.com> on Friday, April 12, 2019.

- No names will be posted to the web. Players will be identified by evaluation number only.
- Coach name identifies the team.
- Online Registrations will be open when team assignments are posted.

REGISTRATION PROCESS-Opens April 12th 2019

1. REGISTER WITH USA HOCKEY

- Start by getting a 2019-2020 USA Hockey registration number (IMR). USA Hockey 2019-2020 registration will open on April 1 online at <http://www.usahockeyregistration.com> .
- A credit card is required to pay the \$51 registration fee.

2. REGISTER FOR WHEELING JR. NAILERS

- Registration opens online April 12th, 2019 for Travel players.
- With your 2019-2020 USA Hockey registration number form handy, go to the WAHA web site at <http://www.wvaha.com.prod.sportngin.com/> and register for the WAHA travel hockey program you got placed on. There will be a link and directions on the WAHA home page. Once registered, pay commitment fee by choosing the appropriate payment plan with credit card online.

SEASON PLAYER FEE: \$950.00.

- Season fee does not cover equipment/extra tournaments/overnight stays/scrimmages.
- Season fee does not cover not the annual USA Hockey fee.
- Fees can be paid up front or on one of many payment schedules.
- Girls, U16, and U18 player fees may vary, depending on season/tournament scheduling.

All prior season balances with WAHA and other PAHL associations must be settled before a player may indicate an interest in evaluation. Team fees are expected to be paid in full no later than October 1st. WAHA reserves the right to keep a player off the ice until the player-account is in good standings.

REFUNDS

If a player makes a travel team and then decides to leave WAHA, fees WILL NOT BE refunded, except if you decline your position before 4:00 PM on April 26th, 2019. All declinations must be made in writing by email to wheelinghockey@gmail.com or by mail, hand delivery in-care-of WAHA, 44-15th Street, Wheeling, WV 26003.

If you haven't declined by the due date you have consented to all obligations in the WAHA contract, including responsibility for paying season player fees. **After the due date WAHA will not release any player to another association before the season fee is payed for.** Additionally, players failing to register before the registration period is over are no longer guaranteed to make a team and are at significant risk of losing their roster spots. If a team does not have enough player commitments by the deadline, the team will be cancelled and any season fees payed will be refunded.

FAQ: WHAT IS TRAVEL HOCKEY ALL ABOUT?

WHAT IS TRAVEL HOCKEY?

Travel hockey is for the player who has enjoyed past in-house hockey seasons and consistently liked the sport enough to move on to the next level to receive additional ice times and instruction. Sometimes, travel is not yet suitable for your child, but as children continue to mature might become a better fit in a year or two. Your child needs to be enthused about the game of hockey and able to compete safely at the appropriate level.

HOW ARE THE PLAYERS EVALUATED?

Each evaluator will independently grade each player and fit for a team by the end of the first session, if evaluation is deemed complete by the evaluators. If incomplete, a second session will take place to further evaluate players. The purpose of evaluations is to evaluate and identify each player's current and potential skill level so each player is placed on the appropriate team. Placements are based on what the evaluation committee believes will constitute the appropriately assembled teams and level for individuals, either a best team, equal level teams, or a combination thereof.

CAN THE PARENTS OR PLAYERS SPEAK WITH ANY OF THE EVALUATORS DURING THE EVALUATION PROCESS?

To maintain their objectivity, all evaluators are prohibited from discussing any aspect of the evaluation process with any parent or player until all team placements are completed. The evaluators are selected for their knowledge of the game of hockey, familiarity with the developmental needs of the level being evaluated, and their reputation as objective and impartial evaluators. There are approximately four evaluators for each level.

WHAT DOES A PLAYER DO IF THEY CANNOT ATTEND ONE OF THE EVALUATION SESSIONS?

If a player is going to miss all or part of the evaluation process due to injury, illness or a school related conflict, you must still register and send your deposit. You must also notify wheelinghockey@gmail.com as soon as possible. We will do our best to accommodate a player's absence within the process. It is the responsibility of the player to give notice.

WHAT IF I WISH TO BE EVALUATED FOR AN OLDER AGE GROUP?

Mites are not allowed to play up with an older age group, per PAHL rules. Second year Squirt, PeeWee, and Bantam players who wish to be evaluated for the allowable step up in age group need prior approval from wheelinghockey@gmail.com and must also be evaluated within their own age group.

Ask yourself if the player moving up an age group will be able to get ice time in key situations so crucial for development, or is he/she better off with more success at a lower level? Can the player handle the move up physically and emotionally? As a general rule a player taking an older player's roster spot should be in the top quartile of the older age group to move up.

WHAT IF THERE AREN'T ENOUGH PLAYERS SHOWING UP AT EVALUATIONS TO FIELD A TEAM FOR MY AGE GROUP?

No evaluations will be held for that age group, the team will be canceled and you will get your evaluation fee returned.

WHAT IF I OWE WAHA OR ANOTHER PAHL ASSOCIATION MONEY?

All prior season balances with WAHA and other PAHL associations must be settled before a player may be permitted to be evaluated. Team fees are expected to be paid in full no later than October 1st. WAHA reserves the right to keep players off the ice until the player-account is in good standing.

PLAYER AND TEAM PLACEMENT

HOW ARE PLAYERS NOTIFIED THEY MADE A TEAM?

Teams will be posted on www.wvaha.com. For privacy concerns, no names will be posted to the web. Players will be identified by evaluation number. Only the coach is identified by name. Most players will know by the buddy system which team they made within minutes.

WHO WILL COACH THE TEAM?

Some of our coaches have kids in the program and we won't know until after the evaluation process is concluded where those kids are placed. To keep the placement process honest WAHA can't name coaches until after the evaluation committee picks the teams. Coaches will be announced as teams are posted online.

HOW IS THE COMPETITIVE LEVEL OF EACH TEAM DETERMINED?

The PAHL team placement committee will make the final decision at the end of September, after placement games are played, it's not a WAHA decision.

WHEN MUST MY CHILD MAKE A COMMITMENT TO DECLINE OR ACCEPT A ROSTER POSITION?

On the designated date following the posted roster positions. Players failing to register before registration week is over are no longer guaranteed to make a team and are at significant risk of losing their roster spots. Players accept the position by negative consent after due date.

HOCKEY SEASON

WHEN DOES HOCKEY SEASON BEGIN?

The recommended PAHL hockey season is from September 1 through March 31 of that year's hockey season. Most teams are finished before lacrosse, soccer and baseball start in early March. Some coaches like to do training in the off season. Dryland is determined by each team's coach. WAHA encourages all hockey players to participate in multiple sports for optimal athletic development.

WHEN DO THE REGULAR SEASON GAMES BEGIN?

PAHL hockey games start in October. Dates and times TBD.

TOURNAMENTS?

Teams can arrange for 2 optional out of town tournaments per season, within a 3-hour drive radius from Wheeling, WV. WAHA recommends keeping at least one of the two tournaments within driving distance to cut down on over night expenses. Tournament fees are not included in season player fees and becomes the responsibility of participating families. The team manager collects the fees and turns into the WAHA Treasurer who will cut a check to the tournament, all in an effort to keep the payments transparent and protect the team manager from any undue accusations. Additionally, player families are responsible to pay for coaches lodging expenses if coaches do not have a child on the team.

DO I HAVE TO BUY A PERSONALIZED JERSEY, HOCKEY BAG AND TRACK SUIT?

No. Optional Wheeling Nailers tracksuits and merchandise are available for individual purchase at authorized merchants, including Wheeling Nailers front office and Hole 'N Run. Use of game and practice jerseys are provided for by WAHA. Players are never required to wear team apparel to games or other functions.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DECIDE TO LEAVE MY TEAM TO PLAY ELSEWHERE?

All players need to be paid in full before being released from an active roster. Roster moves and releases require WAHA board approval.

WE WANT TO HOLD A FUND RAISER FOR OUR TEAM, NOW WHAT?

All fund raisers need to be approved by the WAHA board and be available for all Wheeling Jr. Nailers teams to participate in. All inquiries and requests to wheelinghockey@gmail.com .