



Dear LAHA Families,

Registration for the 2026-2027 season is officially open!

Whether you're returning for another season or joining LAHA for the first time, welcome. We're looking forward to another great year of hockey, and we're excited to get everyone back on the ice.

As registration opens, we also wanted to take a few minutes to share some of the work your board has been doing over the past several months and explain a few of the changes you'll see this season.

We've spent a tremendous amount of time evaluating our programs, participation numbers, finances, and the direction of youth hockey in Oregon. We aren't making changes simply to address today's challenges—we are aiming for needed, thoughtful decisions that strengthen LAHA in the years to come.

As we looked at the areas where LAHA can have the greatest impact, one thing became clear- The Rink Exchange and LAHA serve different, but equally important, roles in youth hockey.

The Rink Exchange has built an outstanding season-round program where players can discover hockey, learn the fundamentals, build confidence, and develop a love for the game. That's an absolutely essential part of growing hockey in our community.

We believe the strongest hockey community is one where organizations support one another. The Rink Exchange introduces players to the game, and LAHA builds on that foundation by providing opportunities for players to continue growing. Together, we're creating a pathway that allows kids to discover hockey, develop as players, and continue pursuing the sport right here in Eugene.

LAHA's focus is on players who are ready for the next step.

We will provide an environment where players continue developing their skills, challenge themselves through more competition, and prepare for the next steps in their hockey journey. We believe competition is an important part of development, and you'll see that philosophy reflected throughout our programs this season.

At the 8U and 10U levels, we'll continue emphasizing fun, skill development, confidence, and a positive introduction to competitive hockey.

At 12U, we'll continue with our traditional team structure while preparing players for the increased expectations they'll encounter as they move into the older age divisions.

At the 12U, 14U, and 18U levels, we'll be introducing a new competitive development model. Because players develop at different rates, we need a model that reflects that. Therefore, Practice Players will be an important introduction into our program. These players will practice alongside the team, receive the same coaching, and grow and develop throughout the season but will not travel or play in state games. We also know that development doesn't happen through practice alone. Players need game experience, too. We'll be working throughout the season to schedule friendly games for our Practice Players using a flex-roster model, giving them opportunities to compete, continue building confidence, and apply what they're learning on the ice.

All players should register as a **State-Play Player** prior to evaluations on September 19 – **save the date!** Following evaluations, players will be placed on either a State-Play roster or as a Practice Player. If your player is placed as a Practice Player, any overpayment will be credited or refunded.

As players age and develop, so do the demands of the game. Off-ice training is an important part of preparing athletes for those demands, allowing them to intentionally develop strength, mobility, speed, injury prevention, and overall athletic performance alongside on-ice learning. Another exciting addition this season is our partnership with [Treeline Training](#). Beginning this season, all 14U and 18U players will participate in a required weekly off-ice training session as part of their development program. In addition to the weekly team training session, every 14U and 18U player will receive a full gym membership that can be used outside of scheduled training sessions. Players and coaches will also have access to strength and conditioning metrics allowing them to track progress, measure growth, and celebrate improvements throughout the season. Treeline's strength and conditioning trainers will be SafeSport-trained, background checked, and experienced in working with youth athletes. This partnership adds another important dimension to our competitive development program and provides our players with tools that will benefit them both on and off, the ice.

We would also like to touch briefly on fundraising because we know it's a concern for many families. One of the questions we've heard most often is whether individual teams will be able to fundraise. It's something we'd like to facilitate, but we also have a responsibility to make sure we do it within the constraints of nonprofit law. To that end, we've begun consulting with legal counsel to better understand the legal requirements surrounding

team-specific fundraising versus general club fundraising. Before we implement any new program, we want to be confident it's fair, transparent, compliant, and sustainable. We'll continue sharing updates as that work moves forward.

At the same time, we're pursuing larger, association-wide fundraising opportunities that have the potential to make a significant impact for the organization as a whole. Many of you saw the beginning of that effort through our recent partnership serving concessions at the Zach Bryan concert at Autzen Stadium. We're hopeful that partnerships like these will continue through football, basketball, concerts, and other events throughout the year. Those opportunities depend on volunteers. If you're willing to obtain a Food Handler Card and OLCC Service Permit, we'd love to add you to our volunteer list, and the University of Oregon will reimburse the costs of obtaining those permits. The more approved volunteers we have, the more opportunities we'll be able to accept—and the more we can invest back into our association and our players.

We'll also be hosting an informational meeting before evaluations to walk through the season, explain the new program structure, and answer questions. Please join us for a virtual community meeting on August 4th @6:00 pm. A Microsoft Teams link will be emailed in advance. Please submit questions prior to the meeting to: President@laha.org.

To help us prepare for the season—including team formation, coaching assignments, practice planning, and jersey ordering—we ask that:

12U, 14U, and 18U: Register by **August 16 at 11:59 p.m.** Registrations received after that deadline will still be accepted but will incur a **\$300 late registration fee**.

8U and 10U: Register by **August 31 at 11:59 p.m.** Registrations received after that deadline will still be accepted but will incur a **\$100 late registration fee**.

Thank you for your continued support of LAHA. On behalf of our entire board, thank you for trusting us with your players. We're looking forward to another great season and can't wait to see everyone back at the rink.

With Appreciation,

-The Lane Amateur Hockey Association Board of Directors