

SMOKY  
MOUNTAIN

WILD



HOCKEY CLUB PROGRAMMING



# WELCOME TO SMOKY MOUNTAIN *WILD*

The Smoky Mountain Wild brand is a new spin on a tried, tested and true organization that becomes the newest addition to the exciting and vibrant youth hockey community in Knoxville, Tennessee.

We are thrilled to launch this new hockey club that will continue providing our young athletes with a platform and opportunity to develop their skills, build lasting relationships and experience the thrill of competition.



# INTRODUCING OUR CLUB

Our mission is to promote the growth of youth hockey in the Smoky Mountain region that creates a fun, safe, and supportive environment for players of all skill levels.

We are dedicated to fostering a love of the game and helping young athletes reach their full potential, both on and off the ice. With experienced coaches, a committed facility, and a dedication to excellence, we are confident that Smoky Mountain Wild is the premier destination for youth hockey players in the region. Join us on this exciting new journey and discover the joy of hockey with Smoky Mountain Wild!

## MISSION:

The Knoxville Amateur Hockey Association (KAHA) in partnership with Cool Sports strive to provide a safe, competitive and fun-filled experience for our youth players that gives them a platform to develop on the ice and prepare them for lifelong success outside the rink.

## OUR MOTTO:

At Smoky Mountain Wild, our motto is more than just words - it's a way of life on and off the ice! #workhard, #havefun, #beagoodteammate is our guiding principle for creating a positive and rewarding experience for our young hockey players.



# WORK HARD. HAVE FUN. BE A GOOD TEAMMATE.

We believe that hard work is essential to success, both in hockey and in life. Our coaches are dedicated to helping our players develop their skills, build their endurance, and reach their full potential on the ice.

But we also know that hockey is meant to be fun! We encourage our players to enjoy the game, make new friends, and create memories that will last a lifetime. From post-game parties to team outings and community outreach we believe that having fun is just as important as working hard.

Finally, being a good teammate is crucial to achieving success both on and off the ice. We teach our players the importance of respect, sportsmanship, and teamwork while encouraging them to support one another on and off the ice.

So, whether you're a seasoned player or just starting out, come join us at Smoky Mountain Wild to experience the joy of hockey with our fun-loving and hard-working team!





# OUR FACILITY

Cool Sports, TN is a sports facility that offers a wide range of amenities for both athletes and spectators alike. Its premier attraction is the Icearium, a premier ice rink that features:

## COOL SPORTS

With approximately 90,000 square feet of recreational fun, Cool Sports has become East Tennessee's total sports destination.

## NHL-SIZE ICE RINK:

The Icearium features a regulation-sized NHL rink measuring 85 X 200 feet.



# SUPPORTING PARTNERS

We are proud to partner with youth hockey organizations across the country to support the development and growth of young athletes. Our partners provide top-notch coaching and training programs, as well as opportunities for players to compete and showcase their skills on the ice.

Through our collaboration, we aim to inspire the next generation of hockey players and promote the values of teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship. Together, we are committed to building a strong and vibrant hockey community that will thrive for years to come.



The Wild are proud partners of D1 Training, a locally owned and operated training facility with a satellite location inside Cool Sports. D1 Training is a non-traditional fitness training facility that has trained over 100 NFL Draft Picks and was named a Top 30 Gym by Men's Health.



Warrior Sports is an American sports equipment manufacturer based in Warren, Michigan. The official equipment and apparel partner of the Smoky Mountain Wild.



Cool Sports is a licensed retail partner of Pure Hockey, the largest hockey retailer in the United States. Our customers can place orders online or in-house at the rink and have access to an enormous catalogue of equipment.



Crossbar is a league and club scheduling/management platform used by hundreds of sports teams and programs across the Nation.



The Southern Youth Travel Hockey League (SYTHL) is a competitive youth ice hockey league consisting of teams from various cities in the southern United States. The league was founded with the goal of providing a high-quality and competitive hockey experience for youth players in the region.

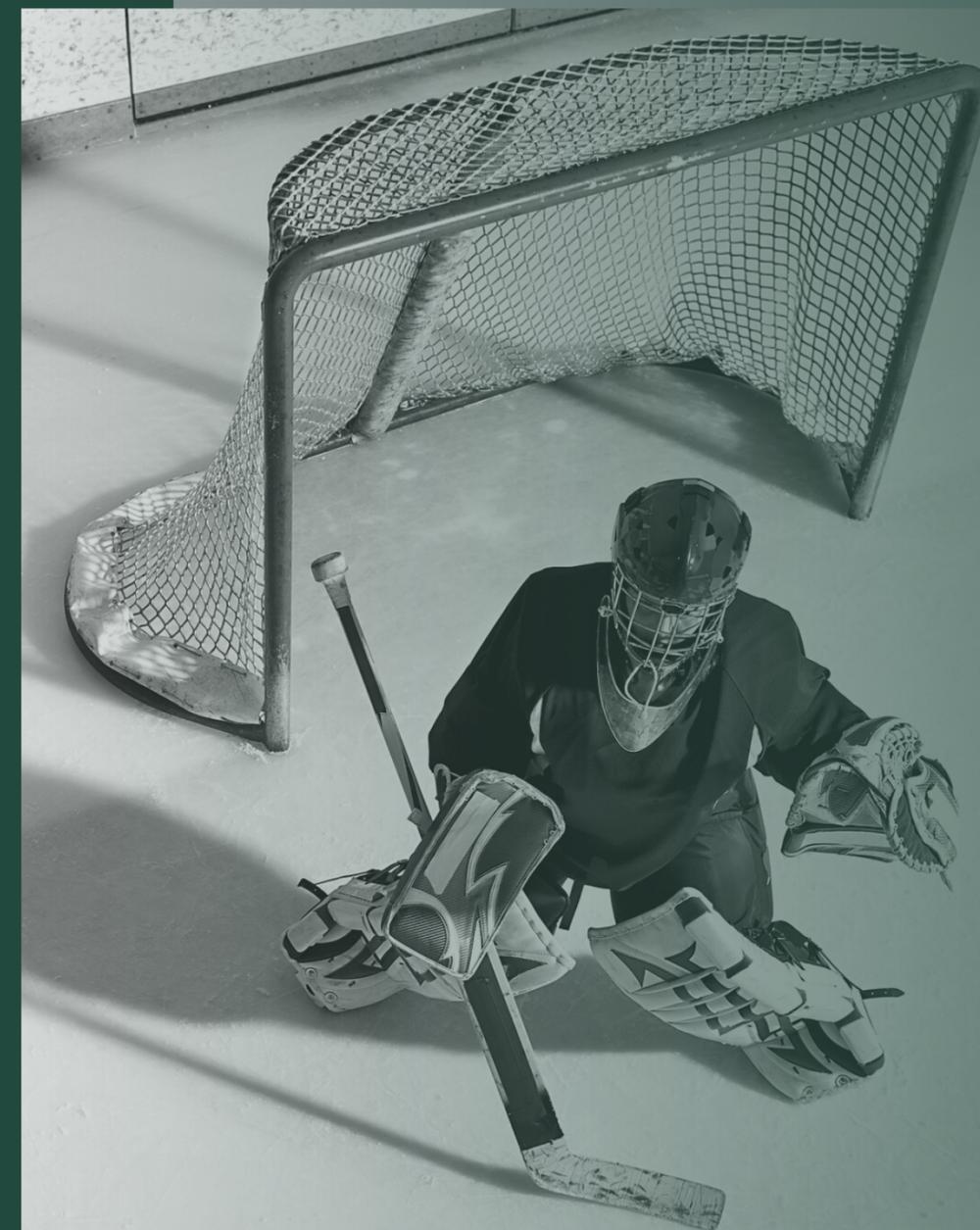


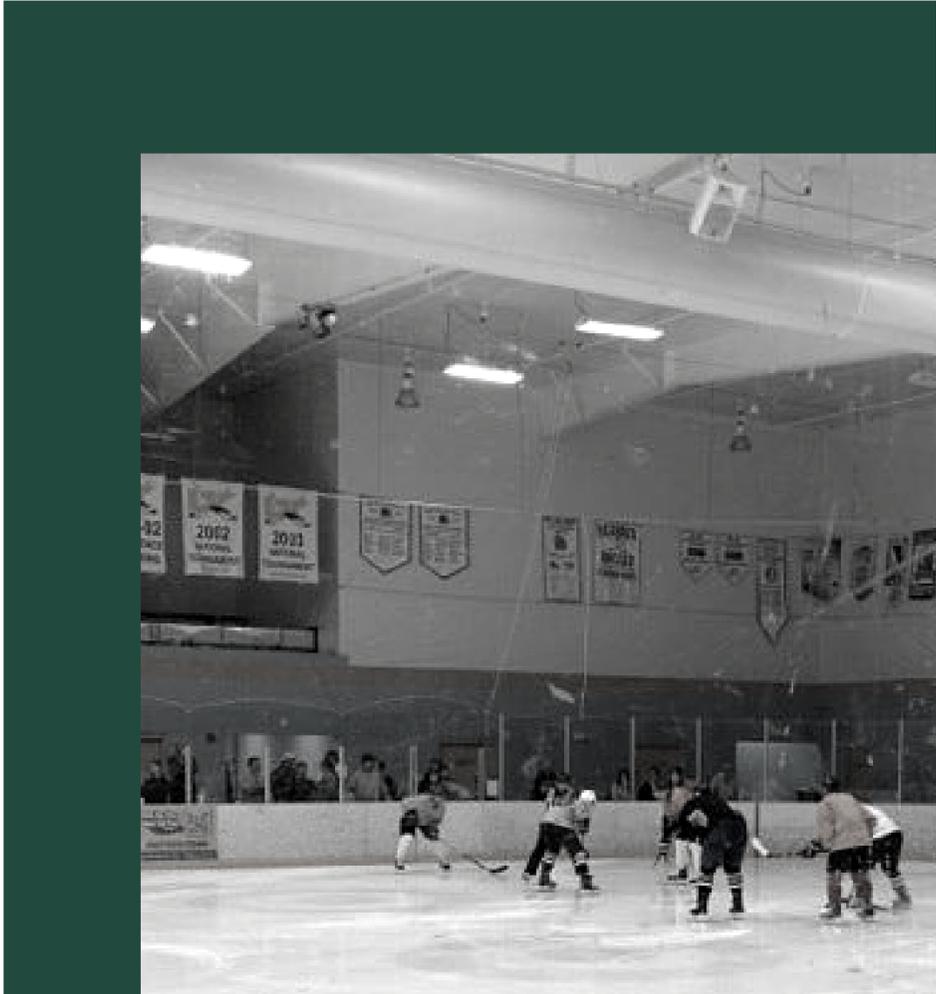
Southeastern Showcase League (SESCL) is a new competitive league for USA Hockey Elite Tier II teams to play where not only is competition stressed but also the principals to keep players from missing school and parents saving money on travel and lodging.

# SMOKY MOUNTAIN *WILD* PREP TEAMS

Our Smoky Mountain Prep program at age groups 10U to 14U will compete in the Southern Youth Travel Hockey League A2 Division (SYTHL). In addition to all players participating in the local Cool Sports Rec/House league, the Prep group will practice bi-weekly and play in at least two tournaments out of town.

Prep is designed to either give players and their families a taste of the travel experience without the large-scale commitment or an opportunity to spend a season furthering development to position themselves to make a travel roster. Prep Tryouts for 10U - 14U occur in August while our 8U tryouts are in October.





# WILD PREP TRYOUTS

Youth hockey tryouts are an essential part of the player selection process designed to evaluate a player's skill level, athleticism, and ability to work as part of a team. Participants and families can expect a challenging and competitive environment upheld by our panel of independent evaluators who grade/score each player equally before rosters are selected.

## PREP TRYOUTS 23-24 SEASON

Prep tryouts are scheduled for Sunday, August 6th beginning at 1:00 pm for 10U, 12U & 14U.

Mite (8U) Select Tryouts will be Sunday, October 22nd. Tryout sign ups will be available on the Cool Sports website.



# SMW 2023-2024 PREP FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

*\*Personal travel fees are not included and are each player's responsibility*

## 8U PREP

8U players are required to play Rec League in order to participate in Preps. Players will play in the Mighty Mite Rec League. See below for Prep League additions.

### **INCLUDED:**

12 SMW shared practices  
Rec League Fees Included  
3 - 4 Tournaments (out of town)

### **INVESTMENT:**

8U PREP - \$1,000

### **EXTRAS:**

Jersey/Sock/Tracksuit (not included)  
Branded Equipment  
(can be purchased separately)  
D1 Led - Dryland Training (Add-On Fee)

## 10U - 14U PREP

ALL players are required to play Rec League in order to participate in Prep. See below for Prep Program additions.

### **INCLUDED:**

12 SMW shared practices  
Rec League Fees Included  
4 - 5 SYTHL league weekends including 1 at home (4 games each) 1 league championship weekend (4 games)  
2 - 3 Tournaments (out of town)

### **INVESTMENT:**

10U PREP - \$2,000  
12U PREP - \$2,250  
14U PREP - \$2,500

### **EXTRAS:**

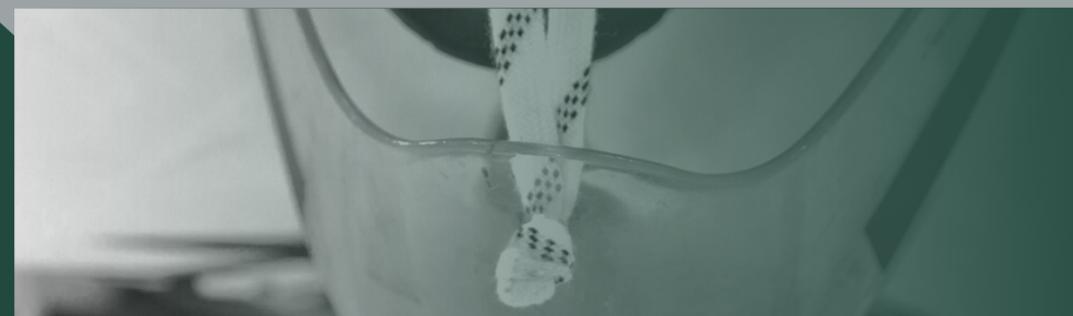
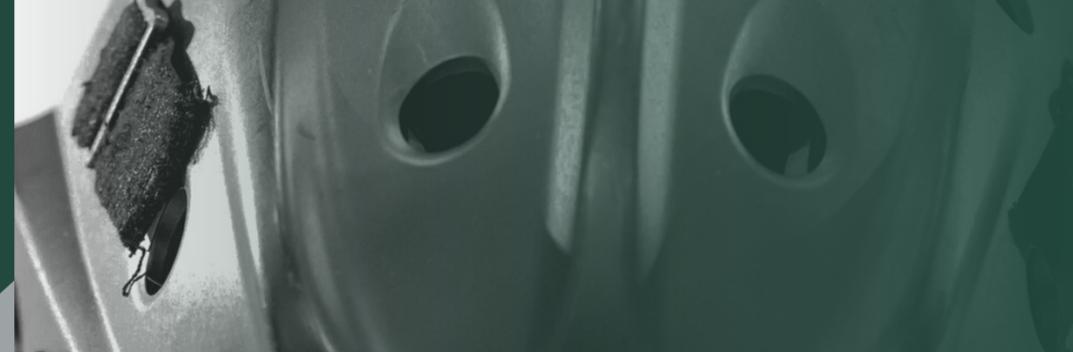
Jersey/Sock/Tracksuit (not included)  
Branded Equipment  
(can be purchased separately)  
D1 Led - Dryland Training (Add-On Fee)

# SMOKY MOUNTAIN *WILD* TRAVEL TEAMS

Classified as Tier II by USA Hockey, our Smoky Mountain Wild teams from 10U to 18U compete in the Southern Youth Travel Hockey League (SYTHL) and Southeastern Showcase League. League play includes four league weekends per season in addition to the league championship in February. Opponents in the SYTHL range from Huntsville/Birmingham, Nashville, Atlanta and some other geographical regions in the South East.

Wild travel teams also compete in four to five tournaments per season in addition to exhibition or friendly games against targeted opponents based on skill level and scheduling.

The number of Tier II travel teams KAHA will declare each season is dependent on volume and skill level of age appropriate players attending tryouts. We strive to ice AA teams at each age level but ultimately caliber declarations are decided by tryouts. Tryouts for each season are typically held early June.





# WILD TRAVEL TRYOUTS

Youth hockey tryouts are an essential part of the player selection process. They are designed to evaluate a player's skill level, athleticism, and ability to work as part of a team. Participants and families can expect a challenging and competitive environment upheld by our panel of independent evaluators who grade/score each player equally before rosters are selected.

## TRAVEL TRYOUTS 23-24 SEASON

Saturday, June 10th & Sunday, June 11th  
Tryouts held at Cool Sports. Individual age group  
tryout times TBA.



# SMW 2023-2024 TRAVEL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

*\*Personal travel fees are not included and are each player's responsibility*

## 10U A TRAVEL

### GAMES & PRACTICES:

40 - 50 Estimated Games  
2 SMW practices per week  
16 - 24 SYTHL Travel League games  
4 Tournaments (including leveling)  
D1 Led - Dryland Training

### INCLUDED:

Paid Head Coach per team - *(if suitable candidate)*, Video/Classroom Sessions - *(at coach discretion)*, Goalie specific training available, Practice jersey and socks, SYTHL league fees, KAHA operating expenses - website, insurance, etc.

### INVESTMENT:

Season Fees	\$2,800
Uniforms	\$200
Equipment	\$350
Apparel	\$250
<b>Total Due to KAHA:</b>	<b>\$3,600</b>

## 10U AA TRAVEL

### GAMES & PRACTICES:

40 - 50 Estimated Games  
2 SMW practices per week  
16 - 24 SYTHL Travel League games  
4 Tournaments (including leveling)  
D1 Led - Dryland Training

### INCLUDED:

Paid Head Coach per team - *(if suitable candidate)*, Video/Classroom Sessions - *(at coach discretion)*, Goalie specific training available, Practice jersey and socks, SYTHL league fees, KAHA operating expenses - website, insurance, etc.

### INVESTMENT:

Season Fees	\$2,800
Uniforms	\$200
Equipment	\$350
Apparel	\$250
<b>Total Due to KAHA:</b>	<b>\$3,600</b>

## 12U AA TRAVEL

### GAMES & PRACTICES:

35 - 45 Estimated Games  
2 SMW practices per week  
16 - 24 SYTHL Travel League games  
4 Tournaments (including min. 1 at home)  
D1 Led - Dryland Training

### INCLUDED:

Paid Head Coach per team - *(if suitable candidate)*, Video/Classroom Sessions - *(at coach discretion)*, Goalie specific training available, Practice jersey and socks, SYTHL league fees, KAHA operating expenses - website, insurance, etc.

### INVESTMENT:

Season Fees	\$3,000
Uniforms	\$200
Equipment	\$350
Apparel	\$250
<b>Total Due to KAHA:</b>	<b>\$3,800</b>

*NOTE – all Smoky Mountain Wild goalies are half price not including apparel and equipment.*

# SMW 2023-2024 TRAVEL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

*\*Personal travel fees are not included and each player's responsibility*

## 14U AA TRAVEL

### GAMES & PRACTICES:

56 Minimum ice hours per athlete  
40 - 50 Estimated Games  
2 SMW practices per week  
16 - 24 SYTHL Travel League games  
4 Tournaments (including min. 1 at home)  
D1 Led - Dryland Training

### INCLUDED:

Paid Head Coach per team - *(if suitable candidate)*, Video/Classroom Sessions - *(at coach discretion)*, Goalie specific training available, Practice jersey and socks, SYTHL league fees, KAHA operating expenses - website, insurance, etc. Knoxville High School Hockey League season included

### INVESTMENT:

Season Fees	\$3,200
Uniforms	\$200
Equipment	\$550
Apparel	\$250
<b>Total Due to KAHA:</b>	<b>\$4,200</b>

## 16U TRAVEL

### GAMES & PRACTICES:

56 Minimum ice hours per athlete  
35 - 45 Estimated Games  
1 SMW practices per week  
16 - 24 SYTHL Travel League games  
4 Tournaments (including min. 1 at home)  
D1 Led - Dryland Training

### INCLUDED:

Paid Head Coach per team - *(if suitable candidate)*, Video/Classroom Sessions - *(at coach discretion)*, Goalie specific training available, Practice jersey and socks, SYTHL league fees, KAHA operating expenses - website, insurance, etc. Knoxville High School Hockey League season included

### INVESTMENT:

Season Fees	\$3,300
Uniforms	\$200
Equipment	\$550
Apparel	\$250
<b>Total Due to KAHA:</b>	<b>\$4,300</b>

## 18U TRAVEL

### GAMES & PRACTICES:

56 Minimum ice hours per athlete  
45 - 55 Estimated Games  
2 SMW practices per week  
16 - 24 SYTHL Travel League games  
5 Tournaments  
D1 Led - Dryland Training

### INCLUDED:

Paid Head Coach per team - *(if suitable candidate)*, Video/Classroom Sessions - *(at coach discretion)*, Goalie specific training available, Practice jersey and socks, SYTHL league fees, KAHA operating expenses - website, insurance, etc. Knoxville High School Hockey League season included

### INVESTMENT:

Season Fees	\$3,600
Uniforms	\$200
Equipment	\$550
Apparel	\$250
<b>Total Due to KAHA:</b>	<b>\$4,600</b>

*NOTE – all Smoky Mountain Wild goalies are half price not including apparel and equipment.*

# MEET THE *WILD* LEADERSHIP TEAM

MC



**MIKE CRAIGEN**

## **Hockey Director, Cool Sports**

Mike has been the hockey director at Cool Sports since 2017 and brings layered experience in coaching, playing, and administration. He played Major Junior hockey with the Sarnia Sting of the OHL and coached the Knoxville Ice Bears for seven seasons leading them to an SPHL Championship in 2016. He oversees all hockey programming at Cool Sports. Mike was raised in Buckhorn, Ontario, Canada and now resides in Knoxville with his wife Haley and sons Chunk and Charlie.

MO



**MARCUS ORTIZ**

## **Asst. Hockey Director, Cool Sports**

Marcus joined Cool Sports in 2022 after playing professional hockey in the East Coast Hockey League and Southern Professional Hockey League. Marcus played Division 3 NCAA hockey at SUNY-Fredonia before turning pro in 2017 with the Ice Bears. He also works as a family advisor and owns MO2V8 Hockey Systems. Coach Ortiz led the 10U travel team and the 14U SYTHL champions last season. He is from Texas and now lives in Knoxville with his wife, Ivy.

TS



**TIM SINISAC**

## **Travel Director, KAHA**

Tim played Major Junior hockey in the Canadian Hockey League before joining the Knoxville Speed of the United League in 2001. He is involved in programming, scheduling, and budgeting for the Smoky Mountain Wild travel teams and has volunteered with KAHA for 10 years, coaching all age groups. Tim coaches two teams per season and has two sons, Daydrian and Waylon, in the program. He lives in Lenoir City with his wife, Melissa.

RL



**ROB LINK**

## **President, KAHA**

Rob Link, originally from Pittsburgh, has been involved with KAHA since 2005 as a Level 5 coach for all levels of youth hockey. He helped start a disabled hockey program in Knoxville and secured a \$25,000 grant from USA Hockey and Labbatt Brewing for the Knoxville Sled Bears. Rob has served in several positions at KAHA, including president since 2020, as well as High School League Director, ACE Director, and Sled Hockey Director.

# WILD

## APPAREL & EQUIPMENT

Our Prep players can purchase apparel & branded equipment separately. ALL Travel Teams have the additional costs of uniforms, equipment, and apparel included in their travel fees.



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