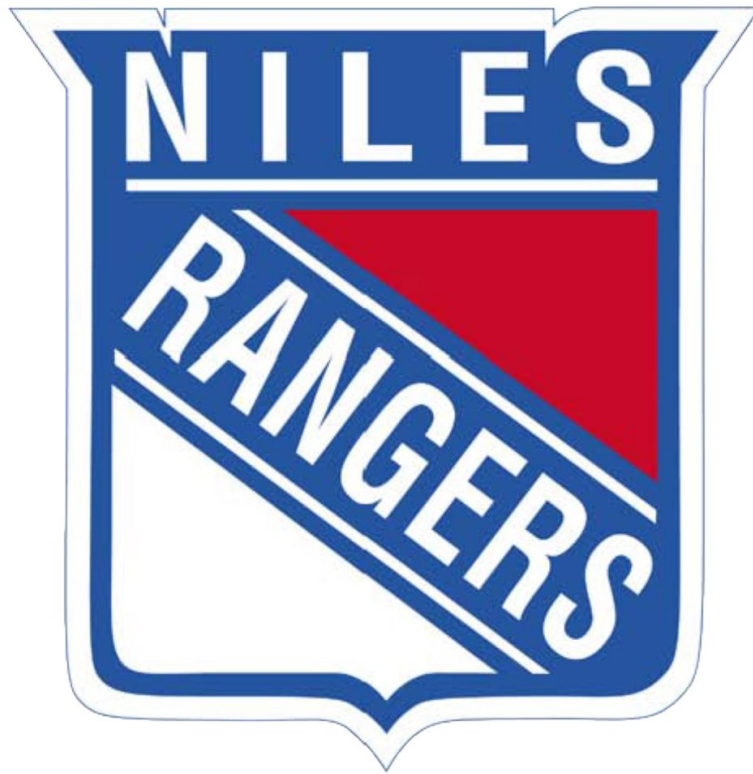


Niles Rangers Hockey



Niles Rangers Tier II Travel Hockey

Overview

For years, the Niles Rangers Hockey Club has proudly represented the Niles community in the Northwest Hockey League (NWHL), one of Illinois' largest Tier III youth hockey leagues.

We are proud to announce that our Squirt, Peewee, and Bantam tryout based Rangers teams moving forward will be playing in the Central States Prospects division starting in the 2026–2027 season! This will provide players with the opportunity to compete against some of the top Tier II youth hockey organizations in Illinois.

This guide is designed to help parents understand:

- What CSDHL Prospects is
- The Two Choice Rule
- Fees and Structure
- Tryouts
- Two development paths

The addition of Tier II does not replace our existing Tier III teams.

- Tier II (CSDHL Prospects): Competitive travel hockey for players ready to compete at the next level.
- Tier III (NWHL): Our developmental pathway for players to continue improving their skills while preparing to pursue Tier II opportunities in the future.

Both programs remain an important part of Rangers Hockey and are committed to helping every player develop at the appropriate pace.

The future of Rangers Hockey starts now, and we're excited to offer more opportunities than ever before for players to learn, compete, and grow.

Central States Prospects

The Central States Prospects Division is part of the Central States Developmental Hockey League (CSDHL), one of the premier Tier II (AA) youth hockey leagues in the Midwest.

Created in 2021, the Prospects Division provides more players with the opportunity to compete at the Central States level while continuing to develop their skills in a highly competitive environment.

How the Prospects Division Works

- Teams compete in a full Central States league schedule against other Prospects clubs throughout the Midwest.
- Rosters combine players from two birth years within each age group (for example, 2014 and 2015 players on the same Peewee team).
- The division includes Squirrels, Peewee, Bantam, and Midget age levels.
- Teams compete for league standings and qualify for their own Central States Prospects playoffs.

What's the difference between Tier II vs. Tier III?

The Central States Prospects Division gives players the opportunity to:

- Compete against stronger competition.
- Accelerate their hockey development.
- Prepare for higher levels of play.
- Experience organized travel hockey within one of the Midwest's most respected leagues.

AHAI Two Choice Rule

This rule applies to youth players at the 10U through 14U levels

Players may roster with only two Tier II Member Organizations or Clubs during this age range.

- The first official roster counts as a player's first choice. Moving to another Tier II team is the second choice.
- After that, players must remain with one of those two Organizations or Clubs.
- To join a third, families must apply to AHAI during the Tier II Choice Application window (usually mid-summer through early season).
- Exceptions: If a Member Organization folds or cannot field a team at a player's age level, the player may receive a new choice after filing with AHAI.

An official USA Hockey roster will not be approved by AHAI if it includes players who have exceeded their choice limit. Each Club is responsible for tracking the playing history of its athletes and confirming how many choices a player has used before adding them to a roster.

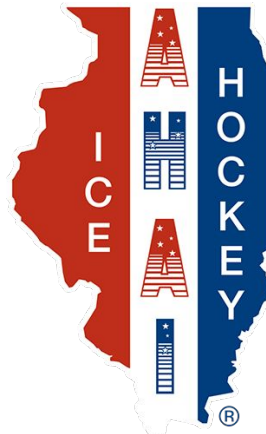


AHAI First Year at Tier II

Rules for Clubs

- For a clubs first year at the Tier 2 Level, these are the roster rules that our club will need to abide by from AHAI.
 - Any players who have played on a Tier 2 team at another club in the past and who would like to tryout for our program, would need to petition and get approval from the AHAI Tier 2 committee in order to register.
 - Playing in the spring season doesn't count as playing for a Tier 2 organization.
 - Players who have only played at the Tier 3 level so far in their hockey career (that have played in the NWHL/NSHL leagues) would be allowed to register for tryouts. In other words, players from other Tier 3 clubs who are interested in trying out with the Rangers are allowed!
 - Current Rangers players (who haven't played on a Tier 2 team yet) are encouraged to tryout.

Our goal is to ensure every family understands this commitment before tryouts.



Fees and Structure

Total cost for a CSDHL Prospects season contains a mixture of:

- Central States Prospects league fees (playoffs included)
- Referee, assignment, and service fees
- Two tournaments:
 - Glacier King Tournament (Wisconsin Dells, WI)
 - Wishbone Invitational (Local)

Not included in season fee:

- Jerseys
- Game socks
- Warm-up apparel
- Helmet decals

Tier II includes a greater time commitment than Tier III due to

- More league games
- Increased tournament play
- Coaches are encouraged to incorporate off-ice training throughout the season, but it is not required.

Important Dates

- Registration opens – Thursday, July 23rd, 2026
- Jersey Fitting – August 1st-2nd, 2026

Additional team expenses may include optional tournaments, apparel, or team activities.

Season Fee

Please see below for our pricing structure for the CSDHL Prospect divisions.

Birth Years	Playing Level Skaters	Resident	Non-Resident
2016-2017	Squirts	\$3,600	\$3,960
2014-2015	Peewees	\$3,800	\$4,180
2012-2013	Bantams	\$4,000	\$4,400

Birth Years	Playing Level Goalies	Resident	Non-Resident
2016-2017	Squirts	\$1,600	\$1,800
2014-2015	Peewees	\$1,700	\$1,900
2012-2013	Bantams	\$1,800	\$2,000

Hat Trick regular season payment plan details will be available at a later date.

Tryout Fee For All Player Levels
\$25

433306 - Code

01 - Squirts tryouts

02 - Peewee tryouts

03 - Bantam tryouts

Tryouts

The Niles Rangers are committed to making the tryout process accessible by offering Tier II tryouts at the low price of \$25 to all players and goalies.

All Tier II teams are selected through tryouts, which will be held August 15-16 at Iceland Ice Arena.

Teams will be posted Monday, August 17th on the Niles Rangers Website.

Players will be evaluated on:

- Skating ability
- Hockey skills
- Game awareness
- Overall readiness to compete at the Tier II level

Game Format

- Squirt (10U): 12-minute periods
- Peewee (12U): 13-minute periods
- Bantam (14U): 14-minute periods
- All games that are tied at the end of regulation will proceed to overtime.

Player Pathway

Players who are not selected for a Tier II roster will be encouraged to continue their development with a Rangers team in the Northwest Hockey League (Tier III).

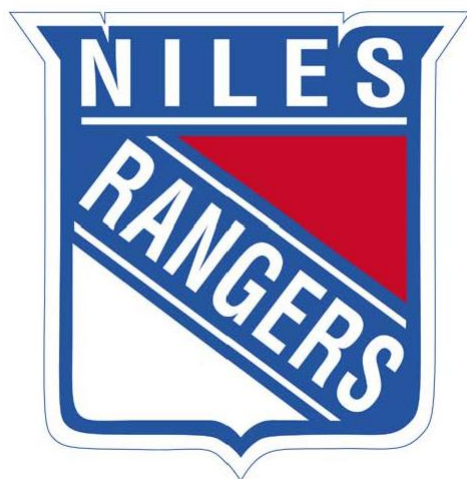
The Niles Rangers are committed to providing a clear development pathway, helping players progress from Tier III to Tier II as they continue to grow and improve.

Tryouts

Please see below for tryout information, all tryouts are held at Iceland Ice Arena.

Squirt	Peewee	Bantams
August 15th at 10:15 – 11:15 AM	August 15th at 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	August 15th at 12:45 – 1:45 PM
August 16th at 10:15 – 11:15 AM	August 16th at 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	August 16th at 12:45 – 1:45 PM

If your player is not selected for a roster spot at tryouts, and would like feedback, please set up a time with the head coach.



Bantam Checking Clinic

As we prepare for the upcoming season, it is important that all Bantam-level players who have not yet completed a checking clinic do so before the season begins.

This is a requirement and failure to do so will result in not being able to participate in any practices or games.

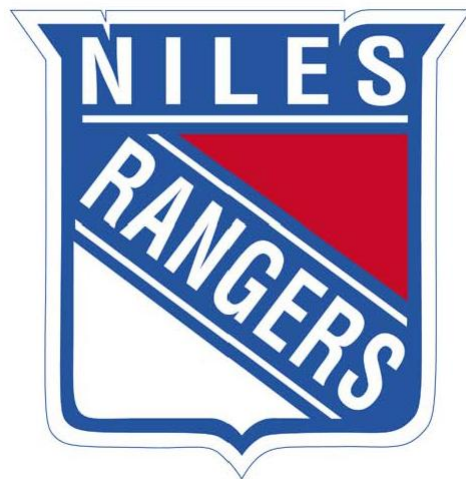
Bantam Checking Clinic

Clinic is three weeks long *players must attend two out of three days*

Date: Tuesday, September 1st, 8th, and 15th

Time: 7:05 PM

Location: Iceland Ice Arena



Vendor Information

To order jerseys, socks, decals, warm-ups, and other team apparel, please use the vendor information below. This vendor also serves as the official Rangers swag store.

Players must attend the jersey fitting days on either August 1st or 2nd to ensure accurate sizing for jerseys, socks, and warm-ups.

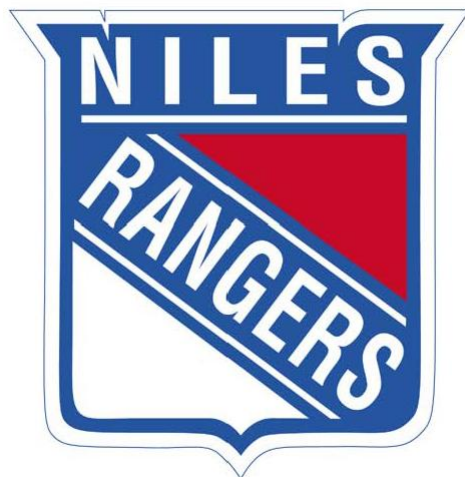
Purchasing the required uniform on the same day as the jersey fitting is essential to help guarantee everything arrives on time for the regular season.

Vendor Information

Offensive Zone Pro Shop

(708)-527-5383

<https://nilesrangers.itemorder.com/shop/home/>



Endless Opportunities

Tier II travel hockey provides players with opportunities to compete, develop, and prepare for the next level through a more challenging and structured environment.

Higher Level of Competition – Compete against some of the top Tier II programs in Illinois and throughout the Midwest.

Player Development – By playing at a higher level of competition, the game will be faster. This results in improved hockey IQ, faster decision-making, skating pace, and overall game awareness through consistent, high-level competition.

Greater Exposure – Play in a respected developmental league that provides increased visibility to coaches and future hockey opportunities.

A Clear Development Pathway – Prepare for higher levels of youth hockey, high school hockey, junior hockey, and beyond.

Growth Beyond the Game – Build accountability, discipline, teamwork, leadership, and a commitment to excellence both on and off the ice.

Our Vision

At Rangers Hockey, our goal is to provide every player with the opportunity to reach their full potential.

By offering both Tier II and Tier III hockey under one organization, we are committed to:

- Creating a clear pathway from Tier III to Tier II hockey.
- Providing age-appropriate development for every player.
- Building competitive teams while maintaining a strong community culture.