

ARLINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL HOCKEY CLUB

The Arlington Middle School Hockey Club held its inaugural season in 2006-2007 at the Capitals Ice Center rink at Ballston Mall in Arlington, Virginia. The Club strives to exemplify the principles and philosophies of USA Hockey and, through coaching excellence, to develop the finest youth hockey players possible and to prepare them for competing at the high school level.

The Club's purpose is to provide a competitive hockey experience for Arlington residents with children in Arlington Middle Schools. The Club offers the opportunity for Arlington Middle School Hockey players and their families to know each other and prepare for the Arlington High School hockey team(s). Due to the limited game schedule, the Club program is intended to supplement the player's other hockey experience and strongly encourages player participation in either a travel or house program. The Club plays a competitive and limited game schedule against other middle schools and similar age teams. Games include checking.

Tryouts for the Club will be in September of every year and are open to all middle school age players (6th, 7th and 8th graders) residing or attending school in Arlington. All players must be USA Hockey registered in order to be eligible for tryouts.

The Club plans to have a roster of 15 skaters and a minimum of 2 goalies and, generally, plans to hold between 10-14 practices and 10-14 games.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Arlington Middle School hockey team considered a “supplemental” hockey experience?

The Washington DC area has a variety of excellent house and travel hockey programs that accommodate children of all levels from beginner through national and international competition. The Arlington Middle School Hockey Club was formed to allow children in Arlington to participate on a competitive team that includes their fellow Arlington classmates. While not required, due to the limited game schedule and level of competition, we highly recommend that your child also participate in an additional hockey program.

Two excellent hockey house and travel hockey programs can be found at the following web sites:

Kettler Ice Rink, Ballston VA – <http://www.capitalsicecenter.com>

Reston Raiders Hockey Club - <http://www.restonraiders.com>

NOVA Ice Dogs – <http://www.nova-icedogs.com>

If my child has never played hockey before, is the Arlington Middle School Hockey Club a good fit?

For most players, Arlington Middle School Hockey is a supplemental and competitive hockey experience to other hockey teams. All of our players and the majority of our opponents have ice hockey experience playing on house or travel hockey teams in the Washington DC area. Game play also includes checking. Therefore, prior ice hockey experience is necessary and, for safety reasons, it is also highly recommended that your child participate in a checking clinic.

If your child has never played hockey before it is highly recommended that he/she sign up for a house hockey league (see above references).

If your child has never ice skated before, but wants to play hockey, the Reston Raiders Hockey Club has an excellent initiation program for children new to ice skating and hockey. This program is specifically geared towards providing a positive experience for children new to ice skating and hockey. Most of the current Middle School players started playing hockey through this initiation program. The web site for the initiation program is <http://www.restonraiders.com/Page.asp?n=4168&snid=4521486&org=restonraiders.com>.

Is my child eligible if we live in Arlington County, but go to a Middle School that's not in Arlington County?

Yes. All residents for Arlington County are eligible.

Is my child eligible if we live don't live in Arlington County, but go to a Middle School in Arlington County?

Yes. All children going to a public or private middle school in Arlington are eligible.

When are tryouts?

Tryouts are typically in September. For the 2007-2008 season, tryouts will be held on September 9 at 6:45 to 8PM and September 16 at 6:45 to 8 PM at Kettler Ice Rink.

What is required to participate in tryouts?

There is a \$50 fee for tryouts to pay for ice time and equipment plus the following: 1) USA Hockey registration (available on their web site), 2) checking clinic or experience, and 3) signed participation form.

More specific information will be posted on the web site as tryout schedule is available. -

How many practices and games? Where are the practices and games located?

We hold between 10-14 practices and 10-14 games. Practices are located at Kettler Ice Rink in Ballston Mall. Games are located all across the Washington DC area.

How much does it cost?

Final costs depend on a variety of factors. However, the cost are typically \$350 - \$400 plus the cost of two uniforms (one home and one away) at about \$70 each. Total cost per player was between \$490 - \$540 for the first season.

Uniforms stay the same and can be reused if you child plays on the team for multiple years.

How do I register for tryouts?

There will be a Preregistration e-mail on the website: <http://www.hockeyarlington.com>. Additionally, please e-mail Tom Sgroi at sgroiti@state.gov by September 2, 2007 if you are interested in trying out for the Middle School team.

For more information, see the Arlington Middle School Hockey Website at: <http://www.hockeyarlington.com>

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