



GLACIER HOCKEY ASSOCIATION 2021-22 HOCKEY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Our Mission

Glacier Hockey Association (GHA) is a non-profit, youth hockey program dedicated to providing a fun, safe, and rewarding learning environment to enhance the growth and development of young athletes through high-quality hockey programs. GHA strives to ensure that it accomplishes this mission by promoting each player's love of the sport through hockey instruction that emphasizes individual and team skill development. Our goal is to give our players the opportunity to participate to the best of their ability and develop as young athletes, while making the costs of our programs affordable to all families in the Flathead Valley.

Welcome to USA Hockey

GHA is a proud member of USA Hockey (www.usahockey.com) and a local affiliate of the Montana Amateur Hockey Association (www.mthockey.com). Founded in 1937, USA Hockey provides the foundation for ice hockey in the United States and today includes more than one million players, coaches, officials and volunteers. The goal is to help every player reach their full potential through fun, safe, and engaging programs that maximize skill

development, promoting a life-long love of the sport. USA Hockey provides the foundation for ice hockey in America with the primary emphasis on support and development of grassroots hockey programs like GHA. USA Hockey is the official representative to the U.S. Olympic Committee and the International Ice Hockey Federation.

Player Development is our Focus

GHA follows USA Hockey's American Development Model (ADM), a nationally renowned model for successfully developing American hockey players to ensure every kid will have a great chance to succeed. Beginning with a player's first steps onto the ice and carrying them through age 18 and beyond, USA Hockey's ADM provides players and parents with a blueprint to have the best possible youth hockey experience possible. ADM provides age-specific, age-appropriate skill development; proper practice-to-game ratios that encourages skill development; high performance practice and game programming; high-quality training programs for coaches; and a philosophy that encourages player development and a life-time love of the game. By implementing USA Hockey's ADM, GHA delivers more efficient and effective skill development, produces more skilled players, enhances player retention, and allows kids to reach their full hockey potential.

Benefits of GHA

- USA Hockey Certified coaches, volunteers, and officials.
- USA Hockey membership
- Game options in the Flathead, Montana, and British Columbia (Canada)
- Training sessions throughout the season
- Checking clinic (Bantam)
- Power skating instruction
- Edge Boss skill training (www.edgebosshockey.com)
- Practice ice for 6 months
- 20-45+ games per season
- All League fees (TSL and EKL fees)
- Registration fees for both local tournaments (GHA Battle of the Border & FVHA Winter Classic)
- Tiering and Banner/State Tournament fees
- USA Hockey Certified Refereed games

Age Classifications

DATE OF BIRTH	PROGRAM
2015 and younger	Learn to Play Hockey (L2PH)
2013/2014	8 or Under (Mite)
2011/2012	10 or Under (Squirt)
2009/2010	12 or Under (Pee Wee)
2007/2008	14 or Under (Bantam)
2002/2005	High School (Junior Varsity & Varsity)

*No USAH registration fee 2015 and younger (6 and Under)

Youth Programming

Learn to Play - Learn to play (ages 4 and older) teaches kids basic skating and hockey skills in a fun, safe environment. Players are introduced to the fundamentals of skating before progressing to stick handling, passing, and shooting. Kids learn these skills through fun skating drills and games taught by our certified USA Hockey coaches. Practices are 45 minutes twice a week, with four sessions offered per hockey season.

House League (YETI) - GHA is proud to partner with Flathead Valley Hockey Association (FVHA) to provide local hockey opportunities through our [Yeti House League](#) program. Yeti League is currently offered at the 8U/10U/12U age levels. Players participate in all team practices and play games locally in Kalispell and Whitefish (see below). Games are usually hosted at alternate facilities on Friday nights. There are two sessions of Yeti League per hockey season:

- Session #1 - October to Christmas Break
- Session #2 - First of January to Early March

Travel teams - GHA offers travel team options for 8U and older players interested in higher level competition in Montana and British Columbia, Canada. Our primary league is the East Kootenay League

(EKL) in British Columbia, Canada, with games played in towns throughout eastern British Columbia. Our secondary league is the Montana Amateur Hockey Association's Treasure State League (TSL) with games played throughout Montana. Together, these competitive leagues offer GHA players unparalleled exposure and experience playing hockey at national and international levels.

2021-2022 Practice and Game Schedules

Our practice and game schedule follows USA Hockey's nationwide blueprint, with the hockey season beginning in October (2021) and ending in March the following year (2022). No league games or practices are scheduled on US Federal holidays.

Practices

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mites (6:00-6:55pm)	L2PH (5:00-5:45pm)	Mites (6:00-6:55pm)	L2PH (5:00-5:45pm)	Yeti games (5:00-9:00pm)
14U/19U Girls (6:55-7:50pm)	Squirts (5:45-6:40pm)	Peewees (6:55-7:55pm)	Squirts (5:45-6:40pm)	
JV/HS (8:05-9:00pm)	Peewees (6:40-7:40pm)	Bantams (8:10-9:00pm)	Bantams (6:40-7:40pm)	
	Bantams (7:55-9:00pm)		JV/HS (7:55-9:00pm)	

Games

- **Mites** - Two local tournaments plus Yeti League (minimum of 20 games, including Yeti League).
- **Squirts** - League Play in either TSL or EKL and two local tournaments plus Yeti League (average of about 32 games, including Yeti).
- **Peewees** - League Play in TSL and/or EKL and two local tournaments plus Yeti League. (average of about 32 games, including Yeti).
- **Bantams** - League Play in TSL and EKL and two local tournaments (average of 44 games per season).

- **High School** - League Play in TSL and/or EKL (average of 30 games per season).

2020/21 Coaches

	Head Coach	Assistant Coach	Assistant Coaches
L2PH	Riley Polumbus	Ryan Ulvin	
Mites	TBD	Ryan Ulvin	
Squirts	Neal Buffington	Dave Schmid-Sommer	Matt Daniels
Peewees	Joel Christiansen	Bill Cubbage	Dave Perisho, Dave Schmid-Sommer, Matt Schwartz
Bantams	Mike Alves	Michael Bourque	Brooke Bogart
JV/HS	TBA		

2020/21 Managers

Program	Managers
L2PH	TBD
Mites	Stefanie Swenson
Squirts	Elizabeth King, Kate Daniels, Rich Wagner
Peewees	Kelsey Schmid-Sommer, Courtney Ulvin
Bantams	Aaron and Angie Wallace
JV/HS	Kim Morisaki, Lesley Thompson, Kalie Adoretti, Christy Eisinger