



## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The North Carolina Force was founded in 2015. It began with two teams, U16 and U18, with the intent of providing professional instruction while also allowing for high school aged players concentrate on high school grades, friends and varsity sporting events. The program had immediate success and many of those players in that first year went on to play at the Tier 3 Junior level and at the Collegiate Club level. In addition the vast majority of NC Force players who have graduated the program have gone on to a college education. We believe our format has proven beneficial in keeping these high school seniors focused.

Over the past 5 years the NC Force has grown to include teams, sometimes multiple, at the U10, U12, U14, U16 AND U18 age groups and have recently added U16 AA and U18 AA skill level that are branded the GOLDEN BEARS, complete with separate jerseys colors and logos to indicate their skill level. At the younger age levels we added a U9 AA team into the system. This birth year team is still dedicated to the program format that NC Force has laid out that includes development that also has a focus on a better family lifestyle. We hope that this addition will show that kids can play at a higher skill level and still maintain other activities in their lives.

The NC Force Youth Program adopted the Name Golden Bears for its AA U16 and U18 age groups from a brief stint as owners of an Eastern Hockey League Tier 3 Junior team. The EHL Team did not have financial or team success however it is the only team in the Carolinas to put a player directly into Tier 2 Hockey. Devin Phillips, whose rookie season was 2019-20 with the Brooks Bandits of the Alberta Junior Hockey League and Ryan Finch whose rookie season in the Sask Junior Hockey League in Canada will be 2020-21.

The NC Force Program grew from 36 players in 2015-16 to 143 players in 2019-20 and we look forward to serving the needs of the Carolinas as a quality place for kids of all walks of life to play and grow as hockey players and good citizens. We continue to grow and the program will evolve its offerings and will go through growing pains. However we dedicate ourselves to maintaining our format, culture and vision.

Sincerely,

Paul Strand

## **II. CULTURE**

“Its amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit”

John Wooden

The NC Force believes fully in the coaching and teaching of former UCLA coach John Wooden. Wooden won 12 National Championships after spending many years working on his abilities. He understood that it's the little things you do day in and day out that makes you a good athlete, good teammate, good parent, good coach and good citizen. The NC Force tries to focus on the little things.

We believe that our focus on the little things allows us to produce a culture around our dressing room and on the ice of inclusion and support. Players, parents and coaches are encouraged to not focus on individual results, but instead on the results of the team. Everyone is important. We believe that because of this the NC Force has grown to have one of the most diverse programs in the entire country.

## **III. THE TIERING OF OUR TEAMS**

All of the NC Force Programs are Tier 2 Skill Level. We have three teams that have the AA designation, our U10 AA, U16 AA and our U18 AA. These designations are based on our understanding of Tier 2 hockey players and organizations in the Carolinas.

All other teams are without designation and will play a schedule against teams that have AAA, AA and A designation depending on the professional coaching staff's recommendations. Our expert knowledge and years of experience will always attempt to put our teams in position to succeed and to develop.

## **IV. TEAM FORMATION**

The NC Force Program strives to take players at a first come first serve basis if we have the ability to provide a team to play on. Historically we have taken players unseen and without knowledge of their ability. We have grown over the years and this has become more difficult. Not because we are changing our philosophy, but moreso as we try to figure out whether to add more teams as we have more interest or access to ice. This process is not always easy, Please have patience.

The U16 AA and U18 AA Golden Bears are selected by a combination of recruitment and tryout. Our tryout fee's cover the cost of the ice only and is not used to raise money for our program. Once tryouts have been announced and registration opened, if a team becomes fully recruited by the tryout date, the program will refund money of those kids who have not been selected and the tryout will be turned into a team practice. The nature of youth sports is one where recruitment has infringed on the tryout process and we do not want to give the impression that this is not the case.

## V. PRICING AND PAYMENT STRUCTURE

DIVISION	FEE	ACCEPTANCE	15-Sep	15-Oct	15-Nov	15-Dec	15-Jan
10U AMERICAN	\$2,050	\$550	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
10U NATIONAL	\$2,650	\$600	\$450	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
12U AMERICAN	\$2,950	\$600	\$510	\$460	\$460	\$460	\$460
12U NATIONAL	\$2,950	\$600	\$510	\$460	\$460	\$460	\$460
12U CAROLINA	\$2,950	\$600	\$510	\$460	\$460	\$460	\$460
14U AMERICAN	\$3,050	\$750	\$500	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$450
14U NATIONAL	\$3,050	\$750	\$500	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$450
14U CAROLINA	\$3,050	\$750	\$500	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$450
16U AMERICAN	\$3,050	\$750	\$500	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$450
16U NATIONAL	\$3,050	\$750	\$500	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$450
16U AA GOLDEN BEARS	\$3,700	\$750	\$590	\$590	\$590	\$590	\$590
18U AMERICAN	\$2,500	\$750	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$350
18U AA GOLDEN BEARS	\$4,000	\$750	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650

## VI. COACHING PHILOSOPHY AND STRUCTURE

The NC Force Program believes that hockey is simple and that each age group needs to be taught simple principles and corrected constantly by coaches who have the ability to identify any issues and are not afraid to be vocal in that correction. These principles are increased in speed and execution as the players graduate from each age group.

The Program uses three main professional coaches to accomplish this. Paul Strand, Matthew Strand and Devin Warfield all have extensive background in playing the game of hockey. Paul and Matthew have an extensive coaching background at all age groups and understand how to translate this to each age and skill level throughout the season. Devin Warfield has risen quickly and has exhibited a strong ability to teach the game of hockey. Devin has worked with the SE District as a coach for the U14 Festivals in Kent State as well as finishing the 2019-20 Season as the head coach of the EHL Golden Bears Junior team.

As the program has grown the NC Force/NC Golden Bears has kept the structure in place to allow for our professional coaches to have an impact with all teams, both in practice and on the benches, while also allowing for some teams to have additional head coaches to maintain game situations. Our professional coaching staff will be in attendance at the majority of practices of the entire program setting up, designing practice plans, running and assisting in each session. We strive for %100 however there are rare times all three of these coaches may be committed to other areas.

**VII. 2020-2021 HEAD COACHES**

DIVISION	HEAD COACH
10U AMERICAN	TOMMY COGAN
10U AA	GREG BAVISOTO
12U AMERICAN	LARRY LAURANTIUS
12U NATIONAL	MIKE LEE
12U CAROLINA	BRIAN MEHM
14U AMERICAN	DEVIN WARFIELD
14U NATIONAL	PAUL STRAND
14U CAROLINA	MATTHEW STRAND
16U AMERICAN	MATTHEW STRAND
16U NATIONAL	DEVIN WARFIELD
16U AA GOLDEN BEARS	PAUL STRAND
18U AMERICAN	MANNY ESTEVES
18U AA GOLDEN BEARS	BRUCE CRISP

**VIII. PROGRAM SUMMARY**

DIVISION	PRACTICES	LEAGUE	TOURNAMENTS	GAMES	# PLAYERS
10U A	20 SHARED	CHL	1	20-24	13-14
10U AA	30-34 SHARED/FULL	CHL	3	28-30	14-15
12U AMERICAN	30-34 FULL/SHARED	CHL	3	30-32	14-15
12U NATIONAL	30-34 FULL/SHARED	CHL	3	30-32	14-15
12U CAROLINA	30-34 FULL/SHARED	CHL	3	30-32	14-15
14U AMERICAN	30-34 FULL/SHARED	CHL	3	32-34	16-18
14U NATIONAL	30-34 FULL/SHARED	CHL	3	32-34	16-18
14U CAROLINA	30-34 FULL/SHARED	CHL	3	32-34	16-18
16U AMERICAN	30-34 FULL/SHARED	CHL	3	32-34	18-20
16U NATIONAL	30-34 FULL/SHARED	CHL	3	32-34	18-20
16U AA GOLDEN BEARS	40-44 FULL/SHARED	ECEL/CHL	NA	36-40	20
18U AMERICAN	20-22 SHARED/FULL	CHL/IND	TBD	23-25	18-20
18U AA GOLDEN BEARS	45-50 FULL	CHL/TBD	4	36-40	20

**\*\*\* CHL tournaments are extra \$\$ if necessary for teams wintin CHL divisions that have season ending tournaments.**

**\*\*\* 16U AA and 18U AA are National Bound Teams and will play in the District/State Tournament**  
**National** Qualifying teams will incur additional costs for practices and exhibition games scheduled in March/April in preparation for the National Tournament. The additional fee for a National Bound team will be set after the end of the season but is typically in the range of \$200-250 per player for a 20-player roster. The fee will be collected prior to the National tournament and is required.

**IX. Uniforms/Apparel**

**The NC Force charges separately for Jerseys/Socks/Track Suits and Pant Shells. The cost of these items are charged separately and in exact costs. The costs ranges from \$300-\$475 depending on the Jersey or track Suit needed. NC Force pays for this up front and invoices the parents individually. It is not a requirement to order a new jersey each season if the current one fits and does not conflict with someone on the new team each year as the players age up.**

**Players are encouraged to purchase the following for team colors:**

**NC Force – BLACK HELMET AND BLACK PANTS (OR BLACK SHELLS)**

**NC Golden Bears – GREEN GLOVES AND WHITE HELMET**