



## **Montana Yeti**

### **2024 - 2025 Season**

### **Teams**

**12U AA Development**

**14U AA Tiered**

### **Description**

Montana Yeti program is Tier II/AA program based out of Helena, Montana, operating under the management and oversight of the Helena Area Youth Hockey Association (HAYHA). The goal of the Montana Yeti program is to continue to strengthen Montana hockey and its players by developing more players through higher level AA training and competition. The program is intended to bring the top players together from across the state to develop with 28+ hours of summer training and 4 weekends of tournaments/games. These events will be pre-season, post-season and holiday weekends and do not interfere with players TSL schedules. Players will build life-long friendships and compete together as a strong AA championship team. For the 2024-2025 season, the Montana Yeti program intends to field the teams listed above.

### **Coaching Staff**

Good coaches are the key to maximize player development and love of the game.

#### **Player Development – Scott Cunningham**

Coach Cunningham has been coaching junior level hockey for 25 years. He is a two-time national champion and seven-time coach of the year. He coached high level junior hockey in Alberta, coached many players who went on to play Division 1 and three players he coached went on to the NHL (Cale Makar, Jeff Malott, Pat Dwyer) all while coaching championship youth divisions as well. While in Helena, coaching the Helena Bighorns Junior team, Cunningham collected a record of 466-97-6 from 2004-2014 and nine trips to the USA Hockey National Tournament. Returning to Helena to coach the Bighorns for the 22/23 Season with a record of 36-8-1 and a trip to the Fraser Cup Championship. Scott is excited to bring his expertise to the Montana Yeti program.

### **14U Head Coach - Will Parr**

Coach Parr grew up playing hockey in northern Minnesota and played Junior A Hockey (USHL) in Topeka, Kansas. Coach Parr has coached the Helena Peewee A team the last two seasons, Montana Yeti 12U AA and he has also coached various training camps in Minnesota.

### **12U Head Coach - Bob Richards**

Coach Richards grew up playing hockey in Michigan. He played Junior A hockey for the Helena Bighorns before moving on to play Division I college hockey for Wayne State in Detroit, Michigan. He has many years coaching junior hockey and other youth hockey levels, including Montana Yeti 12U AA. Bob is a USA Hockey Certified Level 4 coach, referee and current head coach of the Helena Squirt A team. He spends much of his free time volunteering as a coach and board member for HAYHA.

### **Assistant Coaches – TBD**

## **How You Carry Yourself as a Yeti Player and Parent**

Montana Yeti is committed to having rostered players play for their home teams during the regular season and therefore will only schedule pre, post and holiday weekend games and tournaments. Montana Yeti also has a rule that no Yeti apparel be worn when you are with your home teams. For example, if you are a Helena Bighorn, you wear Helena Bighorn apparel, wear Bighorns warm-ups, hats, coats, etc. When you are with Yeti, you are Yeti and dress accordingly. Our players are also expected to treat their fellow teammates, coaches and opponents with the utmost respect.

### ***USA Hockey Sponsor Organization Umbrella***

As a Division within HAYHA, all parents, guardians, players, coaches, managers and volunteers are to abide by all of USA Hockey, MAHA, and HAYHA policies and procedures.

## **Tryouts in Helena - May 3-4**

Open tryouts will be held for Montana Yeti teams. Tryouts will be announced publicly through the HAYHA website, and information circulated among all MAHA affiliates. Any age-appropriate Montana resident registered with USA Hockey is permitted to participate in tryouts. No out of state players may participate, and no “play-up” requests will be granted.

Tryouts will be held at Steed Arena, at 400 Lola Street, Helena, MT, at a cost of \$100 per player. Tryout schedule is as follows:

#### **12U:**

Friday 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Skills  
Saturday 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Game  
Saturday 1:15 - 2:45 p.m. Game

#### **14U:**

Friday 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Skills  
Saturday 10:45 - 12:15 p.m. Game  
Saturday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Game

## **Team Selection**

Teams will be announced within 1 week of tryouts being completed with players being listed under one these designations:

- Rostered: You made the team and are put on the official roster.
- Training: You are not on the roster yet but coaches would like you at all training weekends and you have a chance to make the final roster which will be set after the final training weekend after August 11.
- Not Selected: Did not make the roster or training.
- Did Not Tryout: You couldn't make tryouts due to injury, illness or other sports commitment. You are invited to the first training weekend to receive a tryout. Tryout amount plus summer training amount will be due before you get on the ice.
- Remaining Roster spots will be developed throughout the summer training weekends. Final Rosters will be announced no later than August 18th. Montana Yeti reserves the right to add players to the roster up until the December 31 deadline.

## **Summer Development in Helena**

Rostered players and training players will develop together over four weekends this summer. Each weekend has 7 hours of development for a total of 28 hours. Montana Yeti understands multi-sport athletes and family vacations will mean players will miss some weekends. There are no discounts given if you miss a weekend. Steed Arena in Helena offers dry camping for Yeti families. See their website to make reservations ([steedarena.com](http://steedarena.com)).

- June 21 - 23
- July 12 - 14
- July 26 - 28
- August 9 - 11
- August 23 - 25 - Final rostered players only. Yeti hosting games in Helena this weekend.

## **Summer Training Schedule**

### ***Friday Evening***

12U 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

14U 6:45 - 8:15 p.m.

### ***Saturday Morning***

12U: 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

14U: 10:45 - 12:15 p.m.

### ***Saturday Afternoon***

12U 2:15 - 3:45 p.m.

14U 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

### ***Sunday Morning***

Forwards 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Defense 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

### ***Sunday Afternoon***

12U: 12:15 - 1:45 p.m.

14U: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

## **Tournaments and Games**

Tournaments and games will be pre and post season and holiday weekends. We will always try to have a one hour practice prior to tournaments (on Thursday evenings or Friday mornings) to shake out the legs and re-acquaint the team. *This list is subject to change.*

### **12U AA estimated 16 - 20 games**

August 23 - 25, 2024: Exhibition Games in Helena - requires parent volunteering

October 25 - 27, 2024: Boise Tournament

December 27 - 29, 2024: Frozen Friendlies Tournament in Helena - requires parent volunteering

March 28 - 30 or April 4-6, 2025: Wild West Shootout, Bismarck, ND

### **14U AA Tiered estimated 27 - 29 games**

August 23 - 25, 2024: 4 games in Helena - requires parent volunteering.

September/October: TBD. 8 away games traveling out of state two different weekends.

October 25-27, 2024: 4-5 games at Boise Tournament.

November 27 - December 1, 2024: 4-5 games in Littleton, Colorado or Seattle CanAm Tournament.

Christmas Break: 3 games to decide which Montana team goes to Nationals.

April 4-6, 2025: 4-5 games at either Nationals or Bismarck Tournament.

## **Player Fees**

- Tryouts = \$100. Due at time of registration.
- Summer Training = \$700. \$350 due 5/15 and \$350 due 6/15.
- 14U Rostered Fees = \$1100. \$550 due 8/15 and \$550 due 9/15.
- 12U Rostered Fees = \$800. \$400 due 8/15 and \$400 due 9/15.

Fees include estimated coach travel expenses, tournament entry fees, jersey rental. Also the following apparel items to be kept by the player – hockey socks, warm-ups, hat. Additional apparel can be purchased.

## **Refund Policy**

When the Summer Training and Final Rosters are selected, and payment is made there is no refund as that is final acceptance of the Summer Training Sessions and Roster spot. Payment plan has been established to alleviate financial burden.

We understand injury, sickness and/or death in the immediate family can occur. If these instances arise and cause the disruption of a player's ability to participate in a significant portion of the season, HAYHA and Montana Yeti will review the circumstances with the individual family to determine what level of pro rata refund may be appropriate on a case by case basis.

## **Informational Meeting**

Google Meet - March 14th at 7:30pm

- Meeting Link: [meet.google.com/vqw-frnd-dza](https://meet.google.com/vqw-frnd-dza)
- Call In Number: 302-364-9796
  - Meeting Pin: 296 568 437#

## **Registration Link for Tryouts**

HAYHA will host registration at [www.hbyha.org](http://www.hbyha.org)

## **Contacts**

Managers - [mtyetihockey@gmail.com](mailto:mtyetihockey@gmail.com)

Will Parr - 14U Head Coach

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Bob Richards - 12U Head Coach

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