

Jr. Lynx Program Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the purpose of the Jr. Lynx Program?

The Jr. Lynx Program (JLP) was started to provide hockey-playing girls from the west side of Madison and surrounding areas an opportunity to meet and play with their future high school teammates. The Madison Metro Lynx are a WIAA (high school) girls' co-op team serving the high schools of Middleton, Madison Memorial, Madison West, Edgewood, Verona Area, Dodgeville, and Mount Horeb. The girls who eventually play on this varsity and junior varsity high school team begin their youth hockey careers with various WAHA associations, including Middleton, West Madison, Verona, and Dodgeville.

This is in contrast to boys' high school hockey, where WAHA boundaries are generally drawn along the same geographic lines as WIAA boundaries. That is, Verona youth hockey takes in all youth players residing in the Verona Area School District; Middleton youth hockey takes in all youth players residing in Middleton School District; and so forth. Boys playing youth hockey grow up, play, learn, and develop with their future high school teammates. Girls playing youth hockey may only play with a few (if any) of their future teammates over the course of almost 10 years in youth hockey. Only when they enter 9th grade do they finally have the opportunity to play with the like-skilled skaters with whom they will share a locker room for the next 4 years.

****The JLP aims to bring the future Lynx co-op skaters together with an emphasis on recreational play and socialization.**

2) Who is eligible for the JLP?

The JLP welcomes all U8 (birth year 2017-18), U10 (birth year 2015-16) and U12 (birth year 2013-14) girls who might one day play for the Madison Metro Lynx. Verona Wildcats Youth Hockey Association will be hosting this team, and we welcome girls from Middleton Cardinals, West Madison Polar Caps, Verona Wildcats, and Dodgeville Ice Wolves youth associations. Girls of any skill level from both all-girls and coed WAHA teams are welcome to join us.

We still encourage all U8 girls to participate in various WAHA-sponsored Girls' Jamborees throughout the season at no extra cost. We are not associated with the jamboree teams.

3) What is the time and cost commitment for the JLP?

We understand that the hockey season is long and time-consuming. We also understand that not everyone will be able to attend every ice session or social event. **Therefore, the cost to participate in the U10/U12 JLP will be \$160. First year girls in the JLP program will receive a free jersey. Returning girls will use their jersey from last year (swap out for a bigger size if needed) or purchase a new one.** We plan to hold one practice session per

week on Sunday evenings, with the occasional Friday ice time instead. Our “season” runs generally from October to February. This will give most girls the opportunity to skate without a conflict with their primary regular season teams.

The cost for the U8 JLP will be \$120. New this season, girls at the U8 level will receive a jersey! We plan to host roughly 10-12 practices on either Friday or Sunday evenings, from November to February.

In order to further the socialization goals of this Program, we also plan to have various off-ice activities such as stickhandling workshops and ice-cream socials. There may be additional costs for organized outings such as Badger games, Lynx games, etc. Those will all be optional to attend.

4) Will the JLP compete in official games?

No. The Jr. Lynx Program is not being offered as a stand alone hockey team, but rather as a supplemental recreational opportunity for girls already registered on a WAHA team. Therefore, the JLP will not be eligible to compete in official games or tournaments.

We recognize that many primary teams will play more than 40 games this season. Aside from the logistical impracticality of scheduling around possibly more than 10 different team schedules, we do not want to add to the significant time burden associated with hockey. Feedback from parents indicates that getting to know their players future high school teammates and making those connections is the most important feature of this program.

5) How does participation in the JLP affect a skater’s regular season team?

It does not. The JLP is not a WAHA co-op, nor is it a cross-roster team. **You will not be rostered on a team with this program.** It is purely a recreational opportunity for future Lynx skaters. We expect any conflicts between the JLP and WAHA teams to be resolved in favor of the WAHA team. Primary responsibility for skating/hockey development will remain with the skater’s regular season team.

6) What about DIBS?

No DIBS!! Because this is a recreational program, we will not require parents to fulfill further “volunteer” commitments. However, we welcome any and all help with planning and organizing the social events. Please use these ice sessions to get to know the parents you’ll be socializing with at high school games!

7) What will a JLP ice session look like?

Fun! We have experienced coaches who love to teach skills and develop hockey players in a positive, competitive atmosphere. We know that kids want to learn, compete, and be

challenged, and we know that long-term development is more important than short-term gains. The JLP is the future Lynx, and we want these skaters to build both the skills and relationships that will last them through high school and beyond.

We have a great relationship with the Metro Lynx coaches and players, and they have committed to coming to practices and events and build bonds with our JLP players. Expect to see high school players out on the ice with your girls!