



ANCHORAGE HOCKEY
ASSOCIATION

AHA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

HELPING EVERY KID PLAY THE GREATEST GAME ON ICE

2025 TURKEY SHOOTOUT

AN ALASKAN THANKSGIVING TRADITION



2025 CHAMPIONS

10A: Palmer Pioneers

10B: Palmer Pioneers

12A: AHA Comets

12B: Copper River

14A: Mat-Su Eagles

14B: Kodiak

16A: AHA Comets

16B: Delta Huskies

18A: Hockey Club Fairbanks

18B: Kodiak

After 189 games spread over 4 days and 10 divisions, we're proud to congratulate our 2025 Turkey Shootout Winners!

Teams traveled from all over Alaska to Anchorage to participate in the 2025 Turkey Shootout. It was another one for the record books. The weekend was filled with great competition, hard work, victory and defeat.

This tournament offers A and B level divisions for recreational teams, run in a world class tournament format. Fans walked away with a great experience including music, an MC and medals for both teams after all championship games held at Ben Boeke Ice Arena on Championship Sunday.

Congratulations to everyone who came to compete and to all the winners on a job well-done!



ANCHORAGE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



AHA TEAM SPOTLIGHT

A TEAM TRIP TO REMEMBER

LAS VEGAS 2025

ONE FOR THE MEMORY BOOKS



12U MAJOR | KULLBERG

HC | Kirk Kullberg

AC | Colby Swenor & AC | Nick Arnold

While red-eye flights, rental cars, stay and play hotels, and conference room knee hockey have their place and serve their purpose, the North Star 12U Major coaching staff wanted this trip to the Las Vegas Showcase to be different and memorable for the players and their families. The team manager, Ashley Withrow, found a sprawling 12-bedroom compound that would comfortably sleep the team and their respective family members. The compound included a basketball/tennis court, large pool including a grotto waterfall with a waterslide, hot tub and a ping-pong table to host a double elimination ping-pong tournament (Chase Stone is our ping-pong Champ!).



LEARNING, GROWING, AND PLAYING TOGETHER



SUNS OUT, GUNS OUT!

Coach Kullberg noted that "When we pulled up, I told Coach Swenor that I hadn't seen a compound like this one since I served in Iraq!" "This compound was perfect that allowed for our team to be together rather than isolated hotel rooms", noted Coach Swenor. The team arrived early to allow the kids to get rested, on-ice practice and enjoy all the amenities the compound had to offer (mainly swim and waterslide!).

There was no shortage of highlight moments experienced on the trip.

The team was able to attend the NHL hockey game between the Vegas Golden Knights and New York Islanders that ended in a shorthanded overtime goal by the New York Islanders.

Coach Arnold noted that "The team has made an emphasis on winning faceoffs and was cool to see it on the biggest stage when the Knights lost a faceoff, on the power play, that directly lead to the short-handed game winner for the Islanders."

After a pool day and the Vegas Knights game it was time to get down to business. The compound allowed for team meals, video review, and plenty of outdoor space for the smell of hockey gear to fade into the Nevada Desert while drying out. The boys had a five-game schedule against teams ranked 30 through 77 nationally and knew they had their work cut out for them. Coming in as an invited team from outside on reputation alone (ranked 126) meant they had to earn their keep.

One of the memorable games was walking into the rink and the kids (and coaches) were surprised and excited to learn that they had the opportunity to play against the San Jose Jr Sharks 12U AAA hockey team, coached by 2025 Hockey Hall of Fame inductee, Joe Thornton!





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Joe came as advertised and made time to chat with the coaching staff prior to the game. Coach Kullberg noted that Joe was super nice, personable and gave high praise of our North Star squad after the hard-fought battle ending in the Sharks favor and he was more than willing to take a post-game picture with the team!

Over the course of the weekend the North Stars played competitive games against the Tri-Valley Bulls, Vegas Jr. Knights, San Jose Jr. Sharks, Indiana Elite, and the Arizona Bobcats and ended with a 1-4 record.

After a great weekend of hockey and close games, the North Stars received positive feedback from the showcase director and were invited back for future showcases.

“One major benefit of the showcase format is a schedule that is set in advance. With no potential crossover or championship games, a team like ours can plan travel well in advance.” Added Coach Kullberg. “That helped us a ton. We hope to be invited back again to compete in this well run and highly competitive event.”

By staying together as a ‘family’ the team was able to keep food costs down to \$17/day per person. “You can’t even get a burger in Vegas for that price!” Swenor added. “On top of a cost of \$488 per player for the entire stay at the compound, there is just no better way to do this. This trip was the best growth trip we have been a part of, hands down. A truly special experience for players, parents and the coaching staff.”



STATEWIDE LOTTERY



Win **Big.** Give **Back.**

Lotto Alaska | *Committed to Investments in Alaskan Communities*



- Giving Back to the Community
- Creating Opportunity
- Rewarding Our Players
- Operational Integrity



*Lotto Alaska is a Proud
Supporter of the AHA
Training & Development Center*





ALASKA FIREBIRDS

JOIN THE 'FLOCK' - SPRING TRAVEL TEAMS | 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U



The Firebirds were Founded in 1990 as Alaska's first all-girls youth hockey organization. In 2024 the Firebirds flew once again as an Elite Spring travel team for girls throughout Alaska!

In 2026, the Firebirds are proudly expanding again with a 16U team and enhanced on-ice development, off-ice training, mentorship, and guidance through the college recruitment process.

BECOME PART OF THE FLOCK

Tryouts will determine rosters for the Cammi Granato Tournament in Vancouver, BC (May 8-10, 2026).

10U (2015-16) • 12U (2013-14) • 14U (2011-12) • 16U (2009-10)
Saturday, Jan 3 – Jan 4 | Anchorage & Fairbanks
Ben Boeke and Polar Ice Rinks

REGISTER NOW >



Coaching announcements will follow

[Register Here](#)





ANCHORAGE HOCKEY
ASSOCIATION

WHAT'S COMING UP

READY OR NOT, DECEMBER IS HERE!!!

The holidays are here and the hockey season is in full swing. Next up for AHA is the Winterfest Outdoor Hockey Tournament and the Sully Showdown for our Mite Program!

WINTER FEST (OUTDOOR) TOURNEY!

December 12-14, 2025

Mulcahy, E 20th & 10th and E Outdoor Rinks

Get out the mittens, jackets, firepits and your cheering voices! The most unique tournament of the year is coming up quickly. AHA is hosting two teams from outside of Alaska this year with visiting teams coming from Portland and Seattle for Winter Fest!

Anchorage Hockey Association will host the Winter Fest Outdoor Hockey Tournament December 12-14, 2025. Games will be played at the Mulcahy Outdoor rinks (outside Ben Boeke), the Park Strip (10th & E) and Tikishla (E. 20th). Local teams may play games during the week in order to fit all the games in.



2025 SULLY SHOWDOWN!

December 12-14, 2025

Sullivan Arena

Get ready for an exciting weekend on the ice at the 2025 Sully Showdown 8U Jamboree!

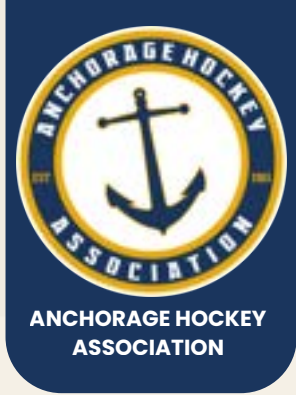
This event features the Red, White, and Blue divisions, bringing together our youngest players for a fun and competitive hockey experience.

Each team will be scheduled for approximately four hours of games, giving players plenty of opportunities to compete, learn, and enjoy the game.

Referees will be provided for all games to ensure fair play and a great experience for everyone.

Join us for a day full of hockey, teamwork, and community!





MARK YOUR CALENDARS

UPCOMING EVENTS

SULLY SHOWDOWN

DECEMBER 12-14, 2025
SULLIVAN ARENA

WINTERFEST OUTDOOR TOURNAMENT

DECEMBER 12-14, 2025
10TH & E, TIKISHLA, & BONNIE CUSACK OUTDOOR RINKS

GIRLS 10 AND UNDER FUN SKATE

DECEMBER 14, 2025 @ 12:15 PM - SULLIVAN ARENA

COACH CERTIFICATION DEADLINE

DECEMBER 15TH

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

DECEMBER 13TH @ 6 PM - AHA TRAINING CENTER

ALASKA STATE SELECTS

DECEMBER 19-21

GAMES TO WATCH FOR

12 MINOR NS STECYK VS. WIGREN

DECEMBER 10TH 2025 | 6:15 PM | BEN BOEKE 2



HCF 14 GIRLS VS. NS 14 GIRLS

DECEMBER 12TH 2025 | 6:45 PM | DEMPSEY 2



16U COMETS PAPROCKI VS. 16U COMETS DUNNE

DECEMBER 13TH 2025 | 2:30 PM | MULCAHY OUTDOOR



14B WELCH VS. AHA COMET GIRLS

DECEMBER 11TH 2025 | 2:30 PM | 10TH AND E OUTDOOR

