

# Rec-League Program Information & FAQ's



Our Philosophy-To develop great people through hockey and build an environment that reflects fun, pride, teamwork, sportsmanship and integrity. Our program follows USA Hockey Models for developing Hockey skill and life lessons throughout the program.

Our youth programs are recognized as a [Model Club Association through USA Hockey](#) and we are dedicated to age-specific skill development, in accordance with USA Hockey's American Development Model.

**Welcome to the Rec-league!** With the addition of the Great Park Arena in Irvine, we have split the league geographically into the following divisions: **West (Lakewood & Westminster) - East (Anaheim & Yorba Linda) - South (Great Park Ice)**

*It's all about development*-USA Hockey's age-appropriate, age-specific programming promotes the integration of high-performance cross-ice practices and games into youth hockey. This programming enhances player's skills, creativity and participation, while also creating a positive environment for every child to play, love, excel and reach their full potential.

## What is the goal for The Rinks & Great Park Ice Hockey programs?

As a USA Hockey Model Association, we ultimately want practice and game programming that emphasizes engagement, competition, skill repetitions & FUN. These are the core values of USA Hockey and are the values we will implement into the In-House program.

## More Puck Time

One of the biggest emphases of the ADM ([American Development Model](#)) is maximum puck touches. To develop a player's skill, he/she must maximize their puck touches in games, practices and clinics. While we have done a good job in non-game environments, games still have too much of a gap in skill that results in the stronger players getting all the touches.

## Age-Appropriate Training

While all our players are in respective leagues based on birth year, we still have players coming right out of initiation, Learn to Play, essentially less than six months of experience competing with players at the club level with five years' experience.

## How does this relate to In-House Rec Hockey?

We want all players to play at the appropriate skill level. Some players may be the same age, but some have skated for 6 years and some have skated on for 6 months. We believe balancing divisions by skill would enhance players' growth, engagement, competition and allow players to reach their full potential.

## Increased Repetitions and Like Competition

Often, we see a clear disinterest from lower level players because they don't have the ability to make a difference in competition. Rather than rising to the challenge they shut down and lose confidence. We feel having players of like skill level together will result in more puck touches, frequent battles for the puck, hockey decision-making and confidence.

## Split Upper/Lower divisions depending on enrollment. How do we decide to place a player in an upper or lower division?

Many factors come into the decision, but the main points are skating, puckhandling, competitiveness, and where the player will be able to have success. If we feel a player will develop better in a certain situation, we will place them appropriately. Things can change and this process will be fluid to allow players to move divisions depending on their skill progression.

The ADM will give your child the *best* opportunity to be successful in hockey over the long run. It's more important to be the best midget player than the best mite or squirt player!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the Hockey Department.



## Rec-League FAQ's

- Frequently asked questions to assist with your ice hockey journey-

Q: How many seasons do offer a year and what is the length of season?

A: We currently run two seasons per year. Fall/Winter that begins in September and a Spring session in April.

Q: How do I know what division my child plays in?

A: We follow USA Hockey Age Classifications. (see website for details for your current season)

Q: Do boys and girls play on the same team?

A: Yes, all our programing is coed.

Q: Where are practices/clinics and games held?

A: The Rinks offers our Youth Rec League in three different divisions:

- East – Anaheim ICE, Yorba Linda ICE
- West – Lakewood ICE, Westminster ICE
- South – Great Park Ice

East/West/South division practices and clinics will take place at each league's specific rinks, and games will rotate amongst all the Rinks including Great Park Ice depending on ice availability.

Q: May I request to be placed with a specific player or coach?

A: No, teams are selected by The Rinks & Great Park Ice hockey departments with a strong emphasis on parity and overall player progression. If you a special request, you will need to speak with the Hockey Manager from your division.

Q: What is the Draft Skate Evaluation?

A: The Draft Skate is our attempt to evaluate all players and draft teams evenly and competitively within each division. This may be followed up with a jamboree style of games to make final player and team evaluations.

Q: When are practices/clinic and games?

A: Events can take place during the week and on the weekends. If an event is during the week, they usually do not start till after 5pm. Events on the weekend can start at 7am and take place as late as 7pm. Most of our program scheduling happens on the weekends.

Q: How do I know if my child is ready for Rec League Hockey?

A: It's important to have strong fundamentals such as; skating and puck handling skills prior to making the jump to league play. If you are unsure of whether your child is ready or not, the hockey department can provide an accurate evaluation to guide you and your child to the Next Steps and the appropriate program.

Q: Do jerseys and socks come with registration?

A: No, all players will have an additional cost for jersey and socks. More information can be found on the website or through our hockey department staff.

Q: Do I need a Rinks league jersey?

A: Yes, all players will need to have a Rinks home & away jersey, using a other (Jr. Ducks or any other Ducks jersey) jerseys will not be allowed and cannot be used a substitute for a Rinks jersey. You may use your Rinks jerseys season to season.

Q: How do I order the jerseys and socks?

A: We offer sizing at the draft skates and at the program offices. Jersey production time is generally 2 - 3 weeks. More information is posted on the Rec League website with instructions.

Q: Will my team have individual team practices?

A: Yes, teams will have a combination of practices and skills development clinics depending on ice availability. As a USA Hockey Model Association, we ultimately want practice and game programming that emphasizes engagement, competition, skill repetitions & FUN

Q: Can my child play club and rec league?

A: Yes, However the Hockey Department reserves the right to move players up a level as they see fit. Using rec league to gain added touches is wonderful, playing rec league to pad stats will not be permitted.

Q: What is Pointstreak and how do I use it?

A: We use Pointstreak as our scheduling and statistics platform to schedule all games, practices, clinics and record games and player stats.

1. <http://stats.pointstreak.com/players/players-leagues.html?leagueid=441>
2. Look for your division
3. Go to schedule on the left side of the page
4. Click on team name
5. Go to team schedule on left side again to see full team schedule

Q: How do I know when my child is ready for travel or club hockey?

A: It's not a race. Be sure your player has strong fundamentals, skills and confidence before putting them in a competitive environment. Our staff can assist you with this evaluation and suggestions. Our organization offers all the next steps of progression ready for you. (*Jr Ducks, Lady Ducks, OC Hockey Club, Anaheim Ducks High School Hockey and much more*)

Meet our Rinks Hockey Management Team. Please feel free to contact our hockey staff for anything you need.

### The Rinks & Great Park Ice Hockey Department

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