



## 2023-2024 Viroqua Area Youth Hockey Registration is open!!

We are looking forward to the start of the 2023-24 season and are super excited to get back on the ice! Here is our **VAHA FAQ and Registration Guide**, it includes our registration fees, fundraising and volunteering information, equipment rental information and much more!

Some important information to highlight for this year's registration:

- Save 10% on Registration Fees by registering by **September 1, 2023!**
- If you have more than 1 player, please make sure to register them at the same time in Sportsengine. This will prevent a double charge for Fun night tickets.
- Each family will have the option, again this year, to buy out of the volunteer hours (\$400) and car wash fundraiser cards (\$160). More information about these fundraisers can be found in the FAQ Sheet below.
- After you register with USA hockey you must go back to your original Sportsengine Registration tab to finish the VAHA registration process (more information on this below).

### How do I register my skater?

Registration for all players, all levels, returning and new, opens online August 1, 2023. The process starts on the [Viroqua Thunder website](http://www.viroquathunder.org), click the 2023-2024 VAHA Registration Link on the website or click here. Please read through our FAQs below the registration information!

### New and Returning Players: Mites, Squirts, Peewees and Bantams

Visit [Viroqua Thunder website](http://www.viroquathunder.org) (www.viroquathunder.org) and register your skater(s). While registering, you'll be prompted to visit USA Hockey to register your skater with that organization (required for registration).

### Important Dates:

Registration opens August 1, 2023

Early bird registration ends September 1, 2023

Registration closes September 15, 2023

### Learn to Skate program

**(For skaters at least 4 years old by Dec. 31, 2023 to 3rd Grade)**

This program is for those brand new to hockey! We will send out more information as we work through the calendar, logistics and fees for our Learn to Skate and Try Hockey for Free programs.

# FAQs

## What level is my player?

- Learn to Skate season (Dec-Feb): new skaters at least 4 years old (by Dec. 31, 2023) and older
- Mites: born 2015-2019
- Squirts/U10: born 2013-2014
- Peewees/U12: born 2011-2012
- Bantams/U14: born 2009-2010

## How much does registration cost ?

(Total registration= VAHA Fees + USA hockey +Sports Engine CC Processing Fees)

REGULAR SEASON REGISTRATION					
Level	1st Time Player	Returning Player	Early Bird (Register by 9/1/23)	USA Hockey Membership	Equipment Rental*
U8/Mite	\$50	\$195	\$175	Varies by birth year	\$25
U10/Squirt	\$50	\$350	\$315	Varies by birth year	\$25
U12/PeeWee	\$100	\$390	\$350	Varies by birth year	\$25
U14/Bantam	\$100	\$410	\$370	Varies by birth year	\$25

\* Sticks and Skates are not included in the equipment rental

### You have two options to pay your registration fees:

- 1- Pay in full at time of registration
- 2- Select Payment plan and pay ½ of the registration fees at time of registration and pay the remaining amount on **November 15th, 2023**. (The early bird registration discount still applies if you register before September 1st!)

Fun Night Tickets must be paid in full at registration.

**USA Hockey membership fee** Registration with USA Hockey is required and there is an additional fee paid directly to that organization (separate from your VAHA Registration fees). See chart below for USA hockey registration fees.

Each participant registering to play or coach will pay the USA Hockey fee. USA Hockey registration must be completed for all players, coaches and volunteers.

You will pay these fees at time of registration within our sportsengine registration process.

## ***USA Hockey Registration fee***

The USA Hockey Registration fees are listed below. The [Affiliate fee](#) (if applicable) varies by Affiliate. If a participant plays and coaches, he/she pays only one registration fee.

### Fees by Birth Year

2017 & Younger	\$15.00
2016-2015	\$50.00
2014-2011	\$61.00
2010-2005	\$70.00
2004 & Older	\$46.00

## **Do you offer any registration discounts?**

Yes, if you register by 9/1/23, you will receive a 10% discount! Early registration helps us prepare for the upcoming season, please take advantage of this discount.

## **What are the volunteering, and fundraising requirements?**

To help subsidize our costs, VAHA requires our membership to support our youth hockey program through volunteering and fundraising throughout the year. With your help we are able keep registration fees down while offering a quality program. To do this, we hold numerous fundraisers including brat sales, Fun Night fundraiser, golf fundraiser and also sell Kwik Trip car wash cards. The support from each youth hockey family plays a major part in our program's success, see below for detailed information on our fundraising and volunteering requirements.

### **Fundraising Requirements:**

#### Car Wash Card Fundraiser

Each family is required to sell 10 Kwik Trip car wash cards. Each card has 5 Car Washes for \$36 (\$51 value per card). The car wash cards will be available for pick up at the arena office at the beginning of the season. Money collected for this fundraiser must be submitted to the arena office by December 31, 2023.

You may choose to "opt out" of this fundraiser at time of registration by choosing **Car wash card buyout, you will be charged \$160.**

#### Fun Night Tickets

Each family is required to purchase 2 Fun Night Fundraiser tickets at \$50 a piece, this will be included in your registration fees. Fun night tickets will also be available to pick up early in the season at the arena office, more information will be sent out via email leading up to the Fun night Fundraiser on November 11th.

## **Volunteer Requirements:**

Each youth hockey family is required to perform a minimum of twenty hours, with exception of first year families, who are required to meet a minimum of 10 hours. Volunteer service opportunities will be available to all members through the parent reps and the arena office. Some examples of things that need to be done on an annual basis are: cleaning, organizing, helping with home tournaments, setting up and taking down the ice arena, maintenance projects including painting, landscaping/lawn care, carpentry work, and other building maintenance.

Each family is also responsible for cleaning the arena. The membership committee will create a cleaning schedule and will post it on the bulletin board in the Arena lobby. You will be assigned a week and an area of which you are responsible for cleaning. These hours count towards your volunteer service hours requirement.

Completion of twenty hours per family is the responsibility of each individual family. THE RESPONSIBLE FAMILY WILL BE BILLED \$20.00 PER HOUR FOR WORK NOT PERFORMED. Each family has the option of "buying out" of the volunteer hours at time of registration, the fee for this is \$400 and is included as an option in the sportsengine registration.

Volunteer service hours are recorded using the Volunteer Hours Form located in the Arena Lobby or on the website. <http://www.viroquathunder.org>. It is the family's responsibility to submit the form by either placing it in the collection box in the lobby or by mail to the arena office. (Viroqua Community Arena, P.O Box 55, Viroqua, WI 54665)

Service hours need to be completed prior to April 30th and submitted by June 30th to count towards fulfillment of the previous season. Opportunities do occur throughout the calendar year.

At each home game and home tournament game teams must provide a scorekeeper, time clock person, concession worker, and two penalty box workers. Hours worked for each skater's home games are **NOT** counted towards the fulfillment of the 20 service hour requirement.

The team representative will be responsible for assigning individuals to work at each age level game in the home tournament. This includes all games in the home tournament, not only VAHA games. Tournament games count towards service hours.

## **Are there any other additional fees?**

Yes, there are a few other additional fees that vary depending on what the coach/team would like to participate in. Here is a list of a few other items that you may need to pay for:

### **Additional Fees:**

- Coach/Parent Rep Gifts
- Fun Night team basket
- Tournament fees and travel expenses

## **We are a new hockey family, how do we learn more?**

Visit the Viroqua Area Hockey Association website at <http://www.viroquathunder.org/>

To access the VAHA Policy Handbook, <http://www.viroquathunder.org/index.html?Handbook>

For the VAHA ice schedule, [http://www.viroquathunder.org/index.html?All\\_Events](http://www.viroquathunder.org/index.html?All_Events)  
Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association (WAHA) website at <http://www.waha-hockey.com/>  
USA Hockey, <https://www.usahockey.com/newparents>  
Also feel free to contact any VAHA board member, <http://www.viroquathunder.org/index.html?Contacts>

## **What is VAHA's refund policy?**

It is part of our Association's mission to encourage all players to finish the season if they can.

VAHA will refund fees for players that cannot continue the season due to injuries, moving out of the Viroqua Area Hockey Association area or other special circumstances.

Player families are responsible to notify the Arena Manager to request refunds due to injuries or moving from VAHA and must do so within 30 days of player resignation or may forfeit their refund. All other requests for a refund must be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing for approval.

Fees refunded when a player cannot continue the season are determined on a pro-rated basis. For example, if the regular season is 20 weeks long, and a player resigns at 15 weeks, their refund will be calculated by taking the 5 weeks they missed divided by 20 to get a 25% refund. If the skater fees were \$360.00 the refund would be \$90 ( $\$360 \times .25$ ).

## **What equipment does my player need?**

All players must wear full equipment including:

- Helmet
- Gloves
- Shoulder Pads
- Elbow Pads
- Breezers
- Shin Guards
- Hockey Skates
- Practice Jersey
- Hockey Socks
- Hockey Stick

All players must purchase Viroqua Thunder Hockey Socks for games, these can be purchased at the Concession Stand.

Game Jerseys will be provided to each player at no additional cost, they need to be washed and returned at the end of the season.

USA Hockey offers parents a guide to putting on equipment. Watch at: [How To Dress a Youth Hockey Player](#)

For Learn to Skate participants, a helmet, hockey gloves and skates are all you need, the rest of the equipment will be provided and included in the registration fees.

## **Can we rent equipment?**

Yes! For just \$25 you can rent all equipment with the exception of Skates, Hockey Gloves, and Hockey Stick

For more information on equipment rental, contact Phoebe Engh @ 608-632-3056

### **When is the weekly practice schedule for my team?**

#### **TENTATIVE VAHA WEEKLY PRACTICE SCHEDULE\***

	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
LEARN TO SKATE						8:30-9:30am
MITES			5:15-6:15pm			9:30-10:30am
SQUIRTS	5:15-6:15pm			5:15-6:15pm		
U12 Girls		5:15-6:15pm	6:15-7:15pm		6:30-7:30pm	
PEEWEEES	6:30-7:30pm	5:15-6:15pm			6:30-7:30pm	
BANTAMS	7:45-8:45pm			6:30-7:30pm	7:45-8:45pm	

**\*Practice schedule subject to change based on coaching availability and may change to accommodate Highschool Hockey Games**

### **VAHA Contact Information:**

**Viroqua Community Area Manager:** Pam Soltau, vaha@mwt.net

**VAHA Registrar:** Tracy Trahan, vahaboard@viroquathunder.org

**Learn to Skate Program:** Pam Soltau, vaha@mwt.net

**Program Development:** Justin Halverson, vahapdev1@gmail.com

**Equipment Rental:** Phoebe Engh, phoebeengh@yahoo.com

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