



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT GIRLS TRAVEL ICE HOCKEY

1. WHAT IS THE DELCO PHANTOMS? The Delco Phantoms is a Tier II travel ice hockey club contained within the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association (“AAHA”). Phantoms boys teams compete within the Delaware Valley Hockey League (“DVHL”) located primarily in the eastern half of Pennsylvania and Delaware. Phantoms girls teams compete in the Mid-Atlantic Women’s Hockey Association (“MAWHA”) with teams located primarily in eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Southern New York.

2. HOW IS GIRLS HOCKEY DIFFERENT FROM BOYS HOCKEY? The rules for girls and boys games are virtually identical. The primary difference starts at the 14U age level, when boys teams start playing check hockey and girls teams play non-check hockey. But “Non-Check” does not mean “Non Contact.” Girls rules permit incidental contact between opposing players so long as the players’ efforts are primarily directed at gaining possession of the puck, and girls are permitted to use their bodies to establish position around the puck.

3. CAN GIRLS PLAY ON BOYS TEAMS? Yes. District rules permit girls to be “dual-rostered” on both a girls travel team and a boys travel team. If a girl desires to play on both a Phantoms girls and a Phantoms boys team, she must attend both the girls tryout and the boys evaluation. The family will be charged the tuition for the more expensive team (usually the boys team) and will receive a 10% discount from the tuition for the girls team. She will be permitted to attend practices and games of both teams. Scheduling conflicts may arise and must be addressed to both teams’ coaches and resolved on a case-by-case basis. By accepting a roster spot on a girls’ team, the player is making a commitment to that team that is equal to the commitment that she is making to any other team she plays for including her boys’ team. If a player fails to give proper commitment to the girls’ team she may be removed from the girls’ team roster.

4. CAN BOYS PLAY ON GIRLS TEAMS? No.

5. HOW ARE THE TEAMS ORGANIZED? Girls travel ice hockey teams (like boys teams) are organized by age. Girls teams are denominated by numerical age. The player’s birth year is the key. It does not matter if her birth date is January 2 or December 30. There is no mid-year cut-off as there is in sports like baseball and softball. For the 2017-2018 season, the birth years and corresponding teams are:

2007 and younger - 10U  
2005 and 2006 – 12U  
2003 and 2004 – 14U  
2001 and 2002 – 16U  
1998, 1999 and 2000 -19U

6. CAN GIRLS PLAY ON A TEAM THAT IS AN OLDER AGE CLASSIFICATION? Yes. Players are permitted to “play up” on an older team. However, players are never permitted to “play down” on a younger team. If a player desires to try out for an older team, she must communicate that choice clearly to the coaching staff, and

attend the try out associated with the team she is trying to make. It will be in the discretion of the coaching staff whether to offer the player a roster spot on the older team.

7. HOW MANY TEAMS WILL THE PHANTOMS HAVE IN THE 2017-2018 SEASON? It depends on how many girls try out for the club, and what the ages and skill levels of the girls are. The Phantoms would prefer to have at least one team at every age level. However, final numbers will dictate team organizations, and it is possible girls will be asked to play up on older teams. Last year, the Phantoms had teams at the 19U, 14UAA, 14UA, 12U and 10U levels.

8. CAN GIRLS PLAY FOR THE PHANTOMS AND FOR THEIR SCHOOL TEAM? Yes. Occasional scheduling conflicts do arise and are handled on a case-by-case basis. The MAWHA game schedule is determined well in advance of the school league schedule, so players should alert their school coaches and schedulers of MAWHA games to minimize game conflicts.

9. WHEN ARE THE PRACTICES? Each team will typically practice twice per week (sometimes sharing the ice with another team), usually on a week night, between 5:30 PM and 9:00 PM. Practices are usually 75 minutes long. Younger teams usually receive earlier time slots. Practices are held at Ice Works, and occasionally at Wilmington Skate Center off of Route 202 in Northern Wilmington. Practice ice is provided by the club beginning in mid-August and ending in mid-February. Additional practice ice may be obtained on a team-by-team basis at an additional cost. Rostered players are expected to attend ALL team practices unless excused by the coach.

10. WHEN ARE GAMES? Games are played on weekends, beginning in early September and ending in late February/early March. Almost every weekend will have one or two games, and occasionally more. Teams will play both league games that are scheduled by MAWHA, and non-league games that are scheduled by the clubs. Teams will also attend a few weekend tournaments in which multiple teams compete at the same time.

11. WHERE ARE GAMES PLAYED? Home games are played at Ice Works, with a few games at the Wilmington Skate Center. Away games are played at various rinks in the mid-Atlantic region. Most rinks are within a two-hour drive in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland. There are also teams in southern New York and Long Island. Team managers will often try to schedule double-header games with more distant teams. Team parents typically work together to car pool or share rides to away games.

12. DO THE PHANTOMS PLAY IN TOURNAMENTS? Yes, each team will decide which tournaments to attend. Tournaments are held in various locations usually in the North East of the United States. Teams may also schedule non-hockey team building activities in order to build camaraderie and bonding between players and families.

13. IS THERE ADDITIONAL COST FOR TOURNAMENTS? Yes. Tournaments usually charge between \$1000 and \$1200 for team entry fees, which is divided by the number of players in attendance. Tournaments may also entail travel and lodging expenses. Individual teams can engage in fund-raising activities to help defray these costs.

14. ARE THERE PLAYOFFS? Yes. Both MAWHA and the Atlantic District hold playoffs for girls teams in late February and early March. Each team's league record will dictate whether it qualifies for playoffs.

15. DO I NEED TO BUY A UNIFORM? Yes. All new players are required to purchase a complete set of home and away uniforms consisting of jerseys, game socks and a pant shell. New players are also required to purchase a warm up suit. Players are also required to wear a black helmet with black hockey gloves. Total uniform cost is approximately \$300.

16. HOW MUCH DOES IT COST? For girls rostered on 14U, 16U or 19U teams, tuition will be \$1,900. For girls rostered on 12U or 10U, the tuition will be \$1,600. These rates are about \$300 less than comparable boys teams. Families with multiple players (boys or girls) receive a 10% discount off the youngest player's tuition. Tuition is payable in equal monthly installments beginning on May 1, and must be paid in full by September 1, 2016. If tuition is not paid in full by September 1<sup>st</sup>, the player may be suspended from all team activities until suitable financial arrangements have been made. NEW THIS YEAR: GOALTENDERS WILL RECEIVE A \$500 DISCOUNT OFF OF THEIR APPLICABLE TUITION.

17. WHEN ARE TRYOUTS FOR THE 2017-18 SEASON? The tryout schedule is as follows:

Age Groups 10U and 12U (Birth years 2005 and younger)

Mon 04/03 7:30 pm - 8:45 pm Ice Works Rink #4  
Wed 04/05 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm Ice Works Rink #4

Age Groups 14U and 16U (Birth years 2001-2004)

Wed 04/12 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm Ice Works Rink #4  
Thu 04/13 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm Ice Works Rink #4

Age Group 19U (Birth years 1998-2000) – To be determined.

Tryouts will be held at Ice Works. Teams will be formed immediately following tryouts and players will be notified immediately of their team assignments. If for whatever reason a player is not rostered on a team, the club will provide her with a release so that she can find another travel team if she chooses.

18. WHAT DOES IT COST TO TRY OUT? The tryout fee is \$100 which must be paid by cash or check on the first day of tryouts. A player who pays the tryout fee and accepts a roster spot on a Phantoms girls team will receive a \$50 credit toward her tuition.

19. HOW DO I SIGN MY DAUGHTER UP? Go to [www.delcophantoms.org](http://www.delcophantoms.org), click on the Girls Hockey link, print the registration forms fill them out and bring them to the first day of tryouts, along with the tryout fee. Girls will not be permitted to try out unless all registration forms and the tryout fee are provided.

20. WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS? Please contact the girls program coordinator, Mike Keenan, at 610-506-2427, or at [ekimhockey@hotmail.com](mailto:ekimhockey@hotmail.com), or the girls program liaison, Rick Miller, at 610-585-5168 or at [ricksmiller@verizon.net](mailto:ricksmiller@verizon.net).