



2 Ice Circle • Sault Ste. Marie • Michigan 49783
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Dear 2026 Spring League Participant,

We are so excited that you have decided to join us for our Youth Spring League 2026! I wanted to make sure you are aware of our communication preferences, RecDesk. This will be where a majority of the communications will take place, along with our Facebook page (Big Bear Arena – Chi Mukwa).

General Information:

WEEKLY:

Schedules are being finalized however below are the days/times of the week each division will be scheduled:

Mondays & Wednesdays:

8U: 5:45pm-6:35pm OLY CROSS-ICE
13U: 6:30pm-7:20pm NHL
18U: 7:30pm-8:20pm NHL

Tuesdays & Thursdays:

6U: 5:45 pm -6:35 pm OLY CROSS-ICE
10U: 6:30pm-7:20pm NHL
6:45pm – 7:35 pm OLY

FIRST WEEK:

The first week of Youth Spring League will consist of instructional drills with the Lake Superior State University D1 Men’s Hockey team. The coaches will use this first week to evaluate the players to draft their teams. 13U and 18U Divisions will not be drafted, they will only rate players, and teams will be randomly assigned based upon their rating for each week. A player list will be provided to each coach with player information, including current position, if they want to try a new position, and what level of hockey the participant recently played in. All this information will help coaches draft fair and equal teams for the 2026 Youth Spring League. All players should arrive ready to skate for the times/dates listed in their division letter! Upon arrival, please check in at the registration table located in the lobby (near skate rental) prior to your first session. Your child will be assigned a practice jersey. This is how the coaches will identify your child while drafting. All practice jerseys **MUST** be turned in at the end of the first week! We will provide game jerseys and socks on April 13 & April 14. If you miss those dates for Jersey handout, your coach will be given your team jersey and socks.

April 6th-9th, Skills/Drills

Monday/Wednesday: 8U/13U/18U

Tuesday/Thursdays: 6U/10U

April 13-14,

Jersey & Socks Handout

LAST WEEK:

The last session for each division will consist of an end-of-league party. This party will consist of each division having a court party with bounce houses, activity carts, 1-hour of ice time, and a surprise. More

details will be released closer to the end of the season. See dates/times below for the appropriate divisions. If you plan on participating, please let your coaches know by **May 11, 2026!**

May 20

8U Ice Time: 6p-7p OLY
ALL STAR GAME (FULL ICE)
Party Time: 7p-8p

13U Ice Time: 6p-7p NHL
Party Time: 7p-8p

18U Ice Time: 7p-8p NHL
Party Time: 8p-9p

May 21

6U Ice Time: 6p-7p OLY
ALL STAR GAME (FULL ICE)
Party Time: 7p-8p

10U Ice Time: 7p-8p NHL
Party Time: 8p-9p

Team Schedules will be attached to each division letter. They are also viewable on our facility website under the Events Tab.

Please keep in mind this information is general information. Each division will be getting a separate welcome letter with more specific details pertaining to their league. Please be sure if you have accommodations that need to be met, that you have discussed those with the Events Manager prior. Draft rosters are complete and available on RecDesk under Events -> 2026 -> DRAFT (1st week ONLY) or GAME. Please let us know if your child will not be at a session so we can inform coaches.

In order to provide the maximum amount of instruction and opportunities to all players, horse-play and goofing off WILL NOT be tolerated. Big Bear Arena assigns coaches who are knowledgeable about the game and are strong role models. Certified referees and scorekeepers will be present for game sessions. Horseplay and unsportsmanlike conduct will NOT be tolerated, and the participant will receive **1 warning**, if it continues after warning, the participant will be **DISMISSED** from the league with **NO REFUND!** As we accept players from all over, coaches would like to take a few minutes before each game to help any player that needs the extra time and/or teach players different skills that will help advance their hockey skills. Therefore, each division will have a 5-minute warm-up/practice before each game. Participants are encouraged to bring their own water bottle with their name on it to each session.

This is a **non-checking league**. Penalties will be monitored by coaches, refs and management. **Excessive penalties** may result in **DISMISSAL** from the league **WITHOUT REFUND**. **Fighting** may result in **immediate removal** from the league **without refund**.

Please be on the lookout for more information as I will start releasing information as it becomes available. If you have any questions, **please contact me via email, ssmith2@saulttribe.net**.

All the best,

Shelbey A. Smith

Shelbey Smith
Events Manager

A Division of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians