

Mar 13, 2026

AHL Spring/Summer 2026 Captains Meeting

Invited [Nikki Goldschmitt](#) [Billy Carr](#) League Captains

Attachments [📎 AHL Spring/Summer 2026 Captains Meeting](#)

Meeting records [☰ Transcript](#)

Summary

The 2026 spring-summer season discussion covered registration deadlines, playoff eligibility, and division specific player restrictions with a commitment to balanced scheduling.

Season Dates and Costs

The 2026 spring-summer season team cost is \$7,350, with a \$7,150 discounted price for a single lump sum payment. All teams must be registered by March 27th, requiring a \$400 non-refundable deposit.

Eligibility and Division Rules

Players must participate in a minimum of 5 regular season games to be eligible for playoffs. Bronze 4 divisions prohibit any rostered player with past youth, high school, or college-level experience.

Scheduling and Policy Updates

The league will avoid 5 specific blackout dates including holidays and a figure skating competition, and will work to create a more balanced game schedule. Due to USA Hockey guidelines, co-ed leagues are strongly recommended to adopt a locker room policy requiring minimum attire at all times.

Details

- **2026 Spring-Summer Season Cost and Dates:** The team cost for the upcoming 2026 spring-summer season is \$7,350, with a \$200 discount applied if the team pays in a single lump sum, making the discounted cost \$7,150 ([00:00:00](#)). A \$400 non-refundable deposit is due at registration, and all teams must be registered by March 27th, with the season anticipated to start in early to mid-April .
- The season consists of 14 regular season games plus a single elimination playoff game, and the roster freeze date for all teams is set for June 1st ([00:04:31](#)).
- **Player Weight List Tryouts:** A players' weight list tryout is scheduled for April 6th at 8:20 PM, providing an opportunity for potential free agents to skate and for captains to evaluate new players. ([00:05:35](#)).
- **Blackout Dates:** Several blackout dates will be avoided, including Mother's Day (May 10th), Memorial Day weekend (May 23rd-25th), Father's Day (June 21st), the Chesapeake Open figure skating competition (June 25th-28th), and July 3rd-5th for the 4th of July holiday.
- **ID Verification** Players must have their driver's license or photo ID match the name registered in the Point Streak system for ID checks, which take place at the beginning of the season through June 1 and again at the end of the season during playoffs ([00:06:35](#)).
- **Game Participation and Captain Responsibilities:** To receive credit for playing in a game, players must be fully dressed, take the ice during warm-ups, and play at least one full shift ([00:07:40](#)). Captains are responsible for ensuring their players are properly checked in and must review and sign the paper score sheet after every game to verify accurate player check-ins ([00:08:37](#)).
- **Playoff Eligibility Requirements:** To be eligible for the playoffs, players must participate in a minimum of five regular season games. Registered goalies have no minimum game requirement if they only play in goal during the playoffs, but registered goalies who also skate out must play in a minimum of five games out of net to be eligible to skate out during playoffs ([00:09:40](#)).
- **Bronze 4 Division Player Restrictions:** Bronze 4 divisions restrict rostered players to those with no youth, high school, or college-level experience, with no exceptions for players with this experience ([00:10:37](#)). Specifically, Bronze 4B is

restricted to players only in Bronze 4 or 3B, and any player who has played junior, midget, prep school, varsity high school, or collegiate hockey within the past 10 years should not be playing in Bronze 4 ([00:11:35](#)).

- **Locker Room Policy Recommendations:** Due to new USA Hockey guidelines, co-ed leagues are strongly recommended to adopt a locker room policy requiring all players to wear minimum attire, such as a base layer, shorts, or a sports bra, at all times in the locker room ([00:12:44](#)). Captains are responsible for creating a policy for their team that reflects the culture and ensures the comfortability of all players ([00:13:42](#)).
- **Team Practices and Scheduling Concerns:** Team practice slots are available for \$275 plus a 10% entertainment tax for an hour and a half of ice time; interested captains should contact Billy Carr or Nikki Goldschmitt ([00:14:39](#)). One captain, Matt Dandy, raised a concern about previous schedules where the entire first half of games were scheduled on Saturdays, and the organizers committed to doing their best to create a more balanced schedule going forward ([00:22:00](#)) ([00:25:00](#)).
- **Captain's Ringer Rule Enforcement:** If players violate the captain's ringer rule by playing outside of the allowed division, the player and the captain would typically be suspended, and the player would be removed from the team ([00:15:43](#)). Suspensions are generally applied for egregious and obvious violations where a captain is attempting to skirt the rules, but the league attempts to be lenient and takes a case-by-case approach, especially if the violation is not a pattern ([00:17:40](#)).
- **Scorekeeper Check-In Procedures:** Colin Mercillott raised an issue where a scorekeeper incorrectly stated that captains were solely responsible for checking in all players ([00:18:45](#)). Billy Carr confirmed that player check-in is supposed to be a joint effort where the scorekeeper checks players in, and the captain assists, and the league committed to retraining the scorekeeper involved in the reported incident on March 10th ([00:19:47](#)) ([00:21:19](#)). Billy and Nikki will investigate the scorekeeper issue on Tuesday night and remind the scorekeeper of the proper procedure for checking in players.
- **Referees and Scheduling Logistics:** Nikki Goldschmitt explained that the scheduling process is complex and constrained by ice slot availability, captain requests, religious reasons, and the need to avoid scheduling certain divisions when youth games are occurring to ensure referee availability ([00:23:48](#)). The

league is exploring the use of AI generation to help filter requests and minimize human error in future schedules ([00:22:59](#)).

- **Officiating Recruitment and Communication:** Billy Carr reiterated the need for more officials and encouraged anyone interested in becoming an official to contact them directly so they can be put in touch with the appropriate individuals ([00:26:01](#)).