

2018-19 TEAM TRYOUT INSTRUCTIONS
APPLICABLE TO ALL U10, U12, U14, U16 & U18 TEAMS
U8/ADM INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THEIR PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Cincinnati Swords is pleased to kick off our 2018-19 hockey season with our team tryouts. Information on the individual programs can be found on the website. We have provided detailed information about all our programs including our U8/ADM program, league programs including Little Caesars, BTHL and MYHL and our newly revised U18/U16 High School program. Each program has been revamped and you should be sure to read through all the applicable programs. The Swords organization remains in competition for limited available ice time and may not be able to form a team in every situation. However, we continue to make the best use of the limited ice available. General information for all players and their families is outlined below.

Coaches: Our 2018-19 coaches have been announced under separate email and posted to the website. Coaching prospectuses which detail the coach's background and team plans will be posted online prior to the tryouts. Our estimates are not firm but we currently anticipate 3-4 U10 teams, 5 U12 teams, 3-4 U14 teams, 1 U16/JV team and 1 U18/Varsity team.

Tryout Schedule: New this year, there will be at least **three** evaluation sessions for each skater and goalie. The first session on Sunday, April 29 will be a skills assessment by birth year for ALL skaters and goalies. The second session will be a battle drills session again by birth year for ALL skaters and goalies and will be either Monday, April 30 or Tuesday, May 1. The last session(s) will be our team scrimmages. Team scrimmages are invite only and skaters and goalies may be invited to multiple sessions. Scrimmages will take place beginning Wednesday, May 2 and conclude on Sunday, May 6. The tryout schedule has been posted on the website at www.swordshockey.com. As a reminder, the tryout schedule is subject to change based on registration numbers. We will update the website as quickly as possible.

GOALIES: There is an additional assessment for our goalies. It is currently scheduled for Saturday evening, April 28. Please check the tryout schedule for your session.

Registration: Registration will open on Monday, April 2, 2018 (April 1 is Easter) or as soon as possible after USA Hockey opens their 2018-19 registration. *You must have a 2018-19 USA Hockey number to register on our website.* The registration fee will be \$100 if paid by Saturday, April 14. After April 14, the registration fee increases to \$150. Once offered a spot on a team, all families must process an initial deposit of \$400 by Friday, May 11 which will hold your player's team spot.

Excused Absence: It is expected that all players trying out for any team attend the tryouts. However, if a player is injured or unable to attend a tryout, the player must contact the office at swordsoffice@gmail.com. The coaching committee and coaching staff will work to provide as fair an opportunity as possible.

Play Up: If a player would like to be considered for a team one birth year older, they must (1) register and pay for the tryout in their current age bracket, (2) send an email to swordsoffice@gmail.com letting us know the player's name, date of birth and team they would like to be evaluated for and (3) if applicable obtain and complete a Player Movement Waiver from the Swords office. The waiver must be completed before the player can take the ice with the older age group. Please note, for a player to be offered a position on the older team, the independent evaluators in conjunction with the coaching committee must rate the player as a top-tier player on the older team. The decision of the coaching committee is final. All

Mid-Am play up guidelines will be followed including the constraint that no roster can include more than 25% of players “playing up”. NOTE: Players may be considered to play up on a mixed birth year team only in rare and unique situations as those teams contain players from two different birth years.

Checking Clinic: All players birth year 2005 and older must have already attended a checking clinic OR attend the April 9, 2018 checking clinic. Information about the clinic will be included in the online registrations for our Bantam and Midget/High School age registrations. Only spring participants and those players registered for our 2018-19 teams will be allowed to participate in the checking clinic.

Jersey/Equipment Order: Due to our time constraints with ordering and receiving custom jerseys, we ask all families to have their player(s) sized for jerseys, socks and team warm ups during tryouts. Sizers are available at all tryout sessions. You will not need to place an order until after you have been notified about your player’s team placement. All purchases will be made through an online store on the website. Our order deadline this year will be Friday, May 25.

CRITICAL INFORMATION: This is the last year of our contract with our current vendor. We will consider new jersey vendors and styles for the 2019-2020 season.

With the jersey contract expiring at the end of this season, our MYHL teams will remain in the same style jersey as last year. However, NEW THIS YEAR we will allow for MYHL team members to individually order the size jersey they would like. Jersey sizers will be available at all tryouts.

All other team members (BTHL, Little Caesars, High School) will be required to have the following items as part of their team package – gold jersey and socks, black jersey and socks, and team warm up top and bottom. Coaches may require additional items and we will let you know this as soon as teams are selected if there are additional items you will need.

Team Fees: We will not be able to determine ice allocation until after the conclusion of our tryouts. Therefore, we will not have final team costs until late May. Team fees are set by coaches and generally range from \$1,200 to \$2,750. Please review the coaching prospectuses’ for specific details.

Team Financial Information: As stated above, we need all families to process an initial deposit of \$400 by Friday, May 11 which will hold a player’s team spot. With all teams being announced in the same timeframe, it is critical that players do not delay confirming their intentions so we can make any appropriate roster adjustments. No refunds (or transfers) will be given for the initial team payment which signifies a player’s acceptance of a spot on the team. Additionally, all Swords teams will have a monthly payment due on or before the first of each month (July through November). The Refund Policy is included in your initial registration and also posted on the Swords website at www.swordshockey.com for your review.

We are very excited about the upcoming 2018-19 season. If you have any questions, please contact the Chris Woycke, hockey commissioner at cwoycke43@gmail.com or Jennie Tiemeyer at swordsoffice@gmail.com.