

2018-19 U18/VARSITY & U16/JV HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Cincinnati Swords reviewed our past Midget level programs and believe now is the time to take the programs in a new direction. For the 2018-19 season, we will field two “expanded” teams – a U18/Varsity team and a U16/JV team. We will also institute a pay for your play system. The U18/Varsity team will include players in birth years 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003. The U16/JV team will include players in birth years 2002 and 2003.

We followed the traditional USA Hockey requirement of a maximum of 20 players. However, USA Hockey allows a high school roster to include up to 30 players. Our commissioner has met with representatives from the Cleveland and Columbus high school club leagues about how they run their programs and most, if not all, of their rosters have 24-30 players. Midget level play also has a higher rate of injury resulting in players missing play. Therefore, we plan to expand both our U18 and our U16 rosters. While the roster can hold up to 30 players, teams are allowed to dress 20 players only for games/tournaments. To be sure we provide enough playing opportunities we will have supplemental rosters with a mix of players from both teams to participate in games/tournaments throughout the season.

Planned league play for these teams includes both the Cincinnati High School Hockey League and Little Caesars (South Division). Other game considerations are in the Ohio Scholastic Hockey League and BTHL. We plan to schedule non-league scrimmages and tournaments. We also hope to continue our participation in the Buckeye Cup which Cincinnati hosts this coming year. We are working with the league officials from Cleveland and Columbus on expanding the Buckeye Cup to include a JV division. The Buckeye Cup requires teams to qualify.

Our U18/Varsity team will be led by Don Biggs, Dave Reno and Scott Davis and our U16/JV team will be led by Greg Drach. These coaches are committed to working together to provide playing opportunities for all players. This commitment will help foster individual development along with playing opportunities. The Swords organization remains in competition for limited available ice time. We continue to make the best use of the limited ice available.

Jersey/Equipment Order:

All players will need to have the following items as part of their team package – gold home jersey and socks, black away jersey and socks, and team warm up top and bottom. All purchases will be made through an online store on the website similar to past years. We will be working with a narrow time frame as custom jersey production takes a minimum of 90 days so the order needs to be placed by Friday, May 25.

Team Financial Information:

Any player accepting a spot on any team will be expected to pay an initial team deposit of \$400 no later than Friday May 11. 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.

Pay for Your Play: Due to the makeup of the teams, we anticipate a multi-level payment schedule. All players will be financially responsible for overhead items such as practice ice, administrative/membership fee, etc. and other expenses (games, tournaments, leagues fees) will be based on participation. We anticipate a range of fees from \$2,250 to \$3,250.

- a. Weekly team practices (all players)
- b. Clinics (all players)
- c. Games (participating players)
- d. OVHOA officials for home games (participating players)
- e. OVHOA admin (all players)
- f. League Fees (participating players)
- g. Tournament Fees (participating players)
- h. Swords administrative/membership fee of \$205 (all players)

No refunds (or transfers) will be given for the initial team payment which signifies a skater'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 Cincinnati Swords refund policy is applicable to all participants. The policy was part of your players registration and is also posted on the website.

We are very excited about the upcoming 2018-19 season. Please email Chris Woycke at cwoycke43@gmail.com or Jennie Tiemeyer at swordsoffice@gmail.com with any questions.