

2019-20 TEAM TRYOUT INSTRUCTIONS & PROGRAMS  
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 2019-20 hockey season with our team tryouts and formation of our 2019-20 teams.

Coaches: Our 2019-20 coaches will be announced the week of March 25. We will announce 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.

Team Formation: We anticipate having 3-4 U10 teams, 5-6 U12 teams, 3-4 U14 teams, 2-3 U16/JV and U18/Varsity teams. The number of teams is dependent on the number of players that register, the number of available coaches and the skill set of the registrants. The Swords organization remains in competition for limited available ice time and will work to give all our teams as much practice ice as possible. In addition, teams will receive a set amount of game ice to use for home events. We do not anticipate any shortages for weekend ice. Our teams also participate in tournaments (league and non-league) and non-league scrimmages.

League Play: Each year we strive to have our teams playing at the highest level possible. Again, this year we anticipate teams playing in Little Caesars, Buckeye Travel Hockey League, Midwest Youth Hockey League, Cincinnati High School Club League and Independent. League placement will be recommended by the head coaches with approval from the coaching committee.

Tryout Schedule: All tryout sessions are being held at Sports Plus, 10765 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241. There will be at least **three** evaluation sessions for each skater and goalie. The first session 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. The last session(s) will be our team scrimmages. Team scrimmages are invite-only and skaters and goalies may be invited to multiple sessions. The tryout schedule has been posted on the website at [www.swordshockey.com](http://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.

Goalie Schedule: In addition to the three evaluation sessions with the skaters, there is an additional assessment for our goalies on Thursday, April 11 from 5:45pm-7:00pm on the USA rink at Sports Plus.

Registration: Registration will open on Monday, April 1, 2019. *You must have a 2019-20 USA Hockey number to register on our website.* The registration fee will be \$100 if paid by Wednesday, April 10. After April 10, the registration fee increases to \$150. Once offered a spot on a team, all families must process an initial deposit of \$500 by Monday, April 22 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 2006 and older must have already attended a checking clinic OR attend the April 6, 2019 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 2019-20 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. Team equipment requirements will be set by the coach and communicated to the parents immediately after we receive your initial deposit. All purchases will be made through an online store on the website. Our order deadline this year will be Monday, April 29.

Team Fees: Fees vary based on both the number of team participants and the coaches' program. In addition, we are not able to determine ice allocation until after the conclusion of our tryouts. Therefore, we will not have final team costs until early summer. Team fees are set by coaches and generally range from \$1,400 to \$3,000. Please review the coaching prospectuses for specific details and plans for individual teams.

Team Financial Information: As stated above, we need all families to process an initial deposit of \$500 by Monday, April 22 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](http://www.swordshockey.com) for your review.

We are very excited about the upcoming 2019-20 season. If you have any questions, please email us at [swordsboard2018@gmail.com](mailto:swordsboard2018@gmail.com) and we will forward to the appropriate person.