

Iceoplex Youth Hockey Structure

As seen in the attached pyramid, Iceoplex believes that a player will develop to their top potential with a structured and consistent ice hockey program.

Step 1: *Beginning Hockey*: Iceoplex offers skating classes for children that are brand new to ice hockey. In these classes the child will learn to skate and be exposed to a minimal amount of puck handling and control. These classes are held 1 time per week and involve a 2-tier process (ie: Hockey 1, 2). Once the child graduates from Hockey 2 they are ready to move into our In-house program.

Step 2: *Inhouse Hockey*: Once the player is comfortable on his or her skates and has gained a basic knowledge of hockey they will be advanced into our In-house Hockey League where the game is taught by our staff and volunteer coaches. Here they will improve on their skating, puck handling, game awareness, and participate in 1 game and 1 practice per week. These teams should consist of like-level players that face like-level opponents in order to succeed and develop at their top potential.

Step 3: *Tournament Team*: A player that has developed at the In-house level and finds the games to be less challenging than prior years may want to explore our Tournament Team. On our Tournament Teams a player will participate in a try out process, and will be exposed to a higher level of play through the 3-4 tournaments this team participates in yearly. Both Iceoplex staff and volunteer coaches will guide these teams. Tournament Team try outs are held in October and will consist of only Iceoplex In-house members. The team will practice 2 times prior to participating in a maximum of 3-4 of the following tournaments voted by the parents: Thanksgiving, Christmas, MLK and Presidents Day. These tournaments will only be within the Southern California area. The Tournament season will end at Presidents Day. The purpose of the Tournament Team is to provide an introduction to Travel Hockey, the next step in the Iceoplex Hockey Structure.

Step 4: *Travel Hockey*: Once a player has experienced In-house and/or Tournament Team Hockey they should be ready to progress to the next step of development, Travel Hockey. If a player has the ability and is looking for more from the sport it is vital to their development that they participate at a higher level. Iceoplex offers Travel Hockey that provides a professional coaching staff, an independent Board of Directors, with many years of Travel Hockey experience. These teams practice 2 times per week and participate in 1 game per weekend half home games and half away (average drive 1 ½ hours). The season goes from late August through early March. Travel teams also participate in the above-mentioned 4 tournaments. Our Travel Hockey Team is part of an elite Southern California Hockey League known as SCAHA, as well as a member of CAHA, whom governs all of California's elite hockey programs. Players that wish to play at higher levels (ie: NHL, College Hockey, Junior Hockey, etc) will be introduced to this route via Travel Hockey. The Jr. Gulls have many alumni that are playing Junior and College hockey and this past year (2005) one of the Jr. Gulls players was drafted in the NHL Draft.