



**University of Maryland  
Men's Ice Hockey Club  
ACHA Division II**

**Prospective Players' Guide  
2021-2022**

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## Introduction

Thanks for your interest in Maryland Club Hockey.

The first step to becoming a Maryland ice hockey player is to gain admission to the university. Maryland is an extremely competitive academic school, so you will need excellent grades and SAT test scores. Our hockey team is a non-varsity, student-run organization. Unfortunately this means that neither the coach nor the team have the ability to influence admission decisions. It's recommended to apply as early as possible, because the process becomes more competitive over time. The early action deadline is usually November 1st, and the regular admission deadline is usually January 20th, but that can change from year to year.

I encourage you to contact the admissions department if you have specific admissions-related questions. You can learn more at <https://www.admissions.umd.edu/> or you can direct specific application questions to [applymaryland@umd.edu](mailto:applymaryland@umd.edu).

If you have any questions about academics or student life you can also email [general@terpshockey.com](mailto:general@terpshockey.com). That account is monitored by team officers and managers who use it to communicate with potential recruits, such as yourself.

Once you have applied to the university, please keep me updated on your application status. Once you have been admitted to the school, we can discuss further the details for tryouts and the coming season.

We have a very competitive hockey team with a rigorous schedule, including workouts, practices, and games. Participating on this team is time-consuming and requires commitment and dedication. I hope that this document can provide an overview of our team policies and expectations.

Thanks again for the interest and I wish you the best of luck, both in the application process and your ongoing hockey career.

Regards,

- Coach Carter

## The Team

As mentioned above, the University of Maryland Hockey team is a non-varsity, club program. This means that the coach chooses the team, plans the practices, and selects the lineups for games. However, the players are responsible for handling all of the off-ice administrative matters. Four officers are selected at the beginning of each calendar year and serve a full year term. These positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers are responsible for complete operation of the club and their responsibilities include financial management (dues collection, bill payments, etc.), acquisition of ice time, game scheduling, referee scheduling, jersey and apparel ordering, league and conference interface, interaction with the university, travel planning, and coach selection.

## The League



The American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) is the largest college hockey association in the country with more than 500 teams spread across three Men's and two Women's divisions. After the NCAA, the ACHA offers the most competitive college hockey in the country.

The University of Maryland competes at the Division II level:  
<http://achahockey.org/view/achahockey/divisions/men-s-d2-1>

The Men's Division II is divided into four regions: Northeast, Southeast, Central, and West. The ACHA releases regional rankings throughout the season and at the end of the season the top two teams are given an automatic bid to the National tournament. Seeds 3-12 are invited to the Regional tournament, but the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> seeds are not guaranteed an invitation and must wait to see if any teams earn an automatic bid from their conference playoffs. Ultimately, two teams will advance from the Regional tournament to join the top two seeds at the National tournament. The Regional tournament is usually held the last weekend in February or the first weekend in March. The National tournament includes 16 teams (four from each region) and is usually held in mid-to-late March.

The University of Maryland is considered part of the Southeast region. The region extends from New Jersey out to Ohio, down to Kentucky, and over to Florida. There are about 45 schools that compete in the Southeast. We have a very competitive program and usually end up ranked in the top 15 every year, which gives us a very good chance of qualifying for the Regional tournament annually.

## The Conference



Within the larger ACHA umbrella, the University of Maryland is also a member of the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Hockey conference (MACH). The MACH is arguably the strongest conference in the entire ACHA Division II. You can learn more about the MACH here: <http://mach.pointstreaksites.com/view/mach>. The current MACH membership includes the University of Delaware, Drexel University, Liberty University, Penn State University, Rider University, Rowan University, and Stevenson University. All members compete in one division and each team is required to play the other members at least twice. Typically, one game will be at home and the other will be on the road. However, for farther games we alternate hosting each year. For example, one year we will have a weekend trip to Lynchburg, VA to play Liberty University two nights in a row. The following year they will travel to us. The MACH playoffs take place in mid-February and all teams qualify. The winner of the MACH playoff tournament earns an automatic bid to the Regional tournament. However, this rarely occurs because the MACH usually has at least five or six members who have already qualified for the Regional tournament through the rankings process.

## The Season

Our season begins in September and ends in February or March. We play approximately 20-25 regular season games. As noted above, the MACH league playoffs are held in mid-February while the Regional playoffs are held during the last weekend of February or the first weekend of March. If we qualify for the National tournament, it is held in mid-March. We also compete in the Crab Pot, a tournament hosted by the United States Naval Academy each year, and it features local college teams; we play two games in this tournament. Typically, we have winter break off. However, there is always the possibility of a tournament or showcase during the break, which would account for a few additional games. Overall, we expect to play approximately 25-30 games each season. Notable non-conference rivals include Georgetown, George Washington University, James Madison University, the University of Virginia, and Virginia Tech University.

## Games

Games are played on the weekends. Typically, home games are at 8PM on Friday and Saturday nights. Occasionally we will play on Saturday or Sunday afternoons. We play three 20-minute periods with a fresh ice cut in between each period. If necessary, there is a five minute, 4v4 overtime period, followed by a shootout. The ACHA follows the NCAA rulebook:

<http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/IH20.pdf>

## **Commitment**

Playing on this team can be a substantial time commitment. However, players who plan ahead usually have few problems balancing their academic and social commitments. Research has shown that the busiest students, including student athletes, are typically the best performing students. We are the top competitive ice hockey team at the University of Maryland. We set lofty goals each year and play to win. We also pride ourselves on having an academically successful team. Students interested in playing should be fully dedicated to the team and committed to academic success.

## **Tryouts**

Most of our players are from the Mid-Atlantic region between Washington and Boston. About one-third have experience playing junior hockey and the other two-thirds have come straight from high school varsity and AA or AAA club programs. While players who were on the team the previous year will have an advantage in tryouts, nobody is guaranteed to make the team.

Tryouts are held during the first week of September, and usually happen on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of that week. There is a \$100 tryout fee, which includes ice time for all three tryout sessions. The team is selected after the last tryout session. If you make the team the tryout fee will be applied towards your dues. There are typically around 40-60 students each year at tryouts. The team generally rosters 26 or 27 players: 3-4 goalies, 15 forwards, and 8 defensemen.

The coaching staff and club officers hold the right to offer an invite-only tryout at the beginning of the spring semester. Students may be eligible for this tryout for a number of reasons: spring-transfer students, Freshman Connection students, students who were injured in the fall, etc. This tryout is not a guarantee and is highly dependent on the team's roster situation at the conclusion of the fall semester (i.e. fall graduations, injuries, academic ineligibility, etc.).

## **Practices**

The team holds 2-3 practices per week. The time and frequency of practices is highly dependent upon the cost and availability of ice time. The team is currently planning for evening practices next year. Practices are mandatory and all players are expected to attend all practices unless prior arrangements have been made with the coaching staff. Excused absences are permitted with prior notice. Collectively, the players organize a carpool system to provide transportation from campus to practice.

## **Workouts**

The team captains hold one off-ice conditioning session per week, depending on the on-ice practice schedule. Although not mandatory, the coaches monitor attendance. Additionally, all players are expected to have a personal workout routine (including strength training, conditioning, and stick handling) that they do on their own time. Players will be assigned a workout partner at the beginning of the season and the coaching staff will work with players to develop an individualized workout routine if you do not already have one.

## **Excused Absences**

Students are expected to attend all team events. However, there are situations where absences are acceptable, provided the player keeps the coaching staff informed. These situations include major academic events, illness, injury, and other personal situations. Major academic events are exams, papers, and projects. These are excusable absences when they occur at the same time as a scheduled team event. Players are responsible for judging their own level of illness. If you are too sick to play, please do not put your teammates at risk. Some injuries are also left to the discretion of the player. However, for more serious injuries, including concussions, professional medical clearance is required before you can skate again. Other personal situations are defined broadly, and include emergencies and last-minute conflicts. Students are expected to make their best effort to coordinate other commitments around the hockey schedule and to keep the coaching staff informed of all schedule conflicts.

## **Ice Rinks**

The team practices and plays most games at the Garden's Ice House in Laurel, MD. The Garden's Ice House is about a 20-25 minute drive from campus. The team also occasionally skates at the Herbert H. Wells Ice Rink in College Park, MD and the Bowie Ice Arena in Bowie, MD. The Herbert Wells Ice Rink is only one block from the College Park Metro Station, and is accessible by the University of Maryland shuttle buses. However, it is also partially outdoors, so there is no ice available before November and the rink is extremely cold during January and February. The Bowie Ice Arena is about a 20-25 minutes drive from campus.

## **Locker Room and Equipment Storage**

The team does not currently have a dedicated locker room. The team is still exploring storage options at the rink and on campus. In the interim, players are responsible for storing and maintaining their own equipment and uniforms.

## **Travel and Lodging**

Travel time is a key factor when planning our schedule. We are required to play a home/home series with each MACH opponent. However, there are also several non-conference opponents within a few hours driving distance. For most games, the team officers coordinate a carpool system. For games that are farther away, we will occasionally travel by coach bus. Depending on availability, the University of Maryland allows the club to use the same buses that are used by the varsity football and basketball teams. In the event we play a school more than eight hours away, we would travel by airplane. Only players on the club team are allowed to travel with the club. If friends and family want to attend they are responsible for their own transportation and accommodations. We try to minimize the number of overnight trips each season to two or three weekends. When we do stay overnight the team will stay in a hotel. However, some players make their own lodging accommodations with friends or parents if they are from the local area.

## **Club Dues**

The Maryland Hockey Club has significant annual expenses, such as ice time, league fees, referees, travels, hotels, uniforms, UnderArmour gear, and social events, including team dinners and banquets. Each year, the club receives a small stipend from the University of Maryland. These funds come from the Student Government Association (SGA) and Recreation and Wellness (RecWell). Unfortunately, the University's financial contribution only covers a small portion of expenses. Consequently, the Maryland Hockey Club is primarily player funded. The club officers strive to keep the individual dues to a minimum. On average, dues range from \$1200-\$1400 for the entire season. Normally, payments are requested twice during the season, with a larger sum due first semester. This amount is usually between \$800-\$1,000. The dues price varies from year to year and depends on our success, the amount of team gear required, and several additional factors. We understand that players come from a variety of economic backgrounds. Individual payment plans can be arranged to accommodate special situations. Dues do not cover helmets, gloves, sticks, skates, or any other personal equipment. Players must purchase this equipment on their own.



## Uniforms

Player dues cover the cost of home and away jerseys, socks, shells, and practice jerseys. The team also occasionally wears an alternate game jersey. All jerseys and clothing are the property of the hockey club and must be returned. However, the jerseys can be purchased from the club at the end of your Maryland career. It is also the responsibility of each player to wash and maintain their jerseys.



## Under Armor

Kevin Plank, the owner and founder of Under Armour®, is a graduate of the University of Maryland. Under Armour sponsors all Maryland Athletics, so we receive heavily discounted Under Armour gear. Each year the team selects what gear it wants. This includes shirts, shorts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, hats, backpacks, travel bags, shoes, etc. Essentially if Under Armour makes it, we can order it. All gear is embroidered with the Maryland Hockey Club logos. In addition to dues, each player is responsible for the cost of their apparel order.

## **Academics**

Learning to balance your school work with hockey is part of becoming a mature and well-rounded adult. However, your education should always be first priority. While it is expected that players attend all team events, including practices, workouts, and games, it is understood that academic conflicts will exist. The coaching staff is happy to work with players on an individual basis to accommodate any special circumstances.

## **Grades**

The ACHA requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0. Any player who fails to meet this GPA requirement will not be allowed to play in games. There are no exceptions to this rule. However, Maryland hockey players are expected to achieve greater academic success. As previously mentioned, your education is the first priority. Your grades will matter after you graduate, not how many points you scored. Maryland Club Hockey prides itself on having academically successful players. Many players study demanding subjects including computer science, engineering, and pre-med. Our current team GPA is 3.1.

## **Eligibility**

All University of Maryland students, undergraduate and graduate, are eligible to participate in club sports. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA to meet the minimum University and league requirements. Undergraduate students must be enrolled with at least 12 credits, unless they are in their final semester, in which case there is no limit. Graduate students must be enrolled with at least nine credits. The ACHA Division II also limits players to five years of eligibility. Students who have been on an NCAA or Canadian University roster at any level at any time are restricted to four years of ACHA play minus their time at the NCAA or Canadian University level.

## **Freshman Connection**

Freshman Connection (FC) is a program that approximately one-third of the University's freshman students go through. The program helps students transition from high school to college and FC participants have higher overall rates of academic success when compared to the general student body. FC students take night courses with other FC students during the first semester of school only, and by the spring semester FC students are fully integrated with the rest of the University. Participating in the FC program does not affect your eligibility to participate in club sports. Players in the FC program are encouraged to schedule their night classes around the practice schedule, if possible. However, FC students may experience occasional schedule conflicts with hockey and the coaching staff is happy to work with players to accommodate these situations.

## **Mentoring**

During the fall semester of 2012, the club officers created a mentoring program for new players. Rookies are paired with an upperclassman in the same major to help guide them with course selection and study habits. Upperclassmen also serve as tutors for any player interested in receiving extra help in a course.

## **Policy on Drugs, Alcohol, and Hazing**

The University of Maryland and our Hockey Club have strict guidelines on drugs, alcohol, and hazing. University policy does not allow drugs or alcohol at ANY team events. This includes all games, road trips, and hotels. The University also protects individuals from any form of hazing, sexual harassment, or discrimination. Any club found violating these policies faces immediate suspension from competition, along with other disciplinary actions. The Hockey Club also has very strict team policies. Players of legal drinking age cannot consume alcohol within 24 hours of any game. Any player found breaking this 24-hour rule, or playing under the influence of drugs or alcohol, faces possible suspension and/or removal from the club. Any individual who commits an act of hazing will also face suspension or termination from the club.

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