



*****Please take a few moments to read through this community letter that highlights some important information about current and future costs.*****

Nov. 18, 2024

Dear Wayland Hockey community,

The Wayland Hockey Association (WHA) is thrilled to welcome you to the 2024-2025 season!

For more than 30 years, the nonprofit 501c3 WHA has supported Wayland's vibrant hockey community by organizing teams, events, and fundraisers — all while promoting positive experiences for student-athletes in the sport. With our Wayland Middle School hockey team dropping the puck earlier this fall, our high school hockey teams are counting down to the MIAA Winter Season that starts right after Thanksgiving. We're proud to support our varsity co-op partnerships again this year: the Wayland-Weston H.S. Girls and the Watertown-Wayland H.S. Boys.

From 1993 until this school year, Wayland's high school hockey teams have been classified as unfunded varsity sports. The financial burden rested exclusively on parents and Wayland's generous hockey and business communities.

No funding was provided by Wayland Public Schools. Until now.

After years of educational efforts by the WHA, including an in-depth analysis showing near-universal varsity hockey support by fellow Massachusetts school districts, the Wayland School Committee and Wayland Athletics Director have adopted a plan that will fully fund high school girls and boys ice hockey.

Starting this 2024-2025 school year and over the course of four school years, Wayland Public Schools will increase funding to the high school ice hockey program by \$15,000 total per year. School funding will then continue at the \$60,000, or fully funded, level thereafter. At that point, the plan is to set the official hockey athletics fee at \$600 per player — rather than the standard \$300 per sport athletic fee for other sports. Our analysis of other school districts' athletics policies found this "hockey surcharge" increasingly common and near-standard practice. Plus, the WHA plans to continue fundraising efforts to help defray that cost further.

This is a huge and well-deserved moment for Wayland's hockey community.

Here's some important perspective: Per player costs for a high school hockey season peaked at \$1,750 just four years ago, a number that would have reached nearly \$3,000 per player without fundraising efforts. Last year, thanks to herculean efforts by our WHA fundraising team and the deep generosity of the community, girls and boys high school hockey tuition was set at \$1,200 per player.

Thanks to the initial \$15,000 of WPS funding and another successful WHA Annual Golf Tournament fundraiser this past September, the WHA proudly announces that the per player girls and boys high school hockey tuition has been set for \$350 for the 2024-2025 season!

The WHA is immensely grateful to the players, families, alumni, donors, supporters, and volunteers — along with the Wayland School Committee, Athletics Director, and WPS team members — who have made this momentous progress possible. Thank you!

Importantly, the WHA also believes that cost should not stand in the way of a child's love of hockey. Financial assistance remains available to Wayland hockey families.

What's next?

- **High school hockey families:**
 - Please make sure to both [register for the winter season here](#) and [submit your \\$350 payment to the school on UniPay here](#).
- **Middle school hockey families:**
 - If you missed our earliest season practices and parity round games, it's not too late to join the co-ed WMS team! Please email info@waylandhockey.org to introduce your player and sign up.
 - If you're already on the WMS team — which the WHA organizes independently of the middle school — please submit your \$200 season fee as soon as possible, if you have not done so already.
- **Supporters:**
 - Check out waylandhockey.org to link to the latest team schedules! We'd love to see you all cheering on our hockey players at the games this season.
 - Sign up for our newsletter at waylandhockey.org/subscribe in order to stay updated on our community events, alumni games, and more fun!

Now, let's make the most of this moment and opportunity! The all-volunteer WHA would love your continued help growing the game we love here in Wayland. Many hands make for light work. Please reach out at info@waylandhockey.org today to get involved and contact us with any questions about the information shared today.

Thank you very much for being part of the Wayland Hockey community!

Sincerely,

Matt Ali	Rob Desmond	Joe Polizzotti
Brooke Amato	Michael Henrich	Pam Roman
Hugo Brown	Michael Lavelle	Angela Young
	Kevin Pletta	

Wayland Hockey Association

2024-2025 Board of Directors



Wayland Hockey Association Corp.
PO Box 354
Wayland, MA 01778
waylandhockey.org
info@waylandhockey.org