

Welcome to Special Olympics Poly Hockey!

PRACTICES: The Hastings Sharks Poly Hockey team will practice on Wednesday evenings in the Pinecrest Elementary School gymnasium. Pinecrest Elementary is located at 975 12th St West, Hastings. Practice dates are:

December	13, 20 - No practice	December 27
January	3, 10, 17, 24 and 31	
February	7, 14, 21 – No practice	February 28
March	6	

Only Hastings Sharks athletes can practice with our team.

PRACTICE TIME: Arrive at 6:15 PM. Practice is from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. Please use the restroom before practice begins. Change from your street shoes into your gym shoes before walking on the gym floor. Bring a water bottle.

Do not go into the gym until given permission by your coach. Do not enter the gym if it is occupied.

TEAM SPORT: Poly Hockey is a team sport. It is very important that our athletes understand the consequences for the entire team if they are unable to attend the regional or state competition. If you know that your athlete cannot attend either of the competitions, please do not register them for the team. Your athletes must compete at the regional competition to compete at the state competition.

COMPETITIONS: A parent, friend or staff must accompany their athlete to the competitions and make sure they are ready to compete.

Regional Competition: Friday, January 26 – Sunday, January 28 at Breck High School, 123 Ottawa Ave E, Golden Valley, MN 55422

State Competition: Saturday, March 9 & Sunday, March 10, at Stillwater Area High School, 5701 Stillwater Blvd N, Oak Park Heights, MN 55082

Athletes will never be turned away if they are unable to pay the participation fee. Contact Liz Alexander at 651-437-4277 to discuss participation fees. Information is confidential.

Poly Hockey Rules

ATTENDANCE: Please notify the Head Coach **Scott Tinucci (651) 695-9863** if your athlete is unable to attend practice. Two unexcused absences from practice may prevent your athlete from competing in the Special Olympics State Poly Hockey competition or qualifying for a Hastings High School letter.

CODE OF CONDUCT: All Hastings Sharks athletes, unified partners and caregivers must agree to follow the Sharks Code of Conduct. Please review the code of conduct with your athlete. A copy is posted on the Sharks registration site. Alcohol, tobacco and/or vaping products are not allowed at practice or competitions by athletes, family or staff. Questions? Please contact Lisa Sieben at 12.Hastings.Sharks@gmail.com

PARTICIPATION FORMS: You will be notified if your athlete needs their **Application for Participation in Special Olympics** form updated or if it is incomplete. All athlete paperwork must be completed one week prior to the first practice. Athletes will not be allowed to practice until SOMN confirms that their paperwork is current. Paperwork is not accepted at the first practice. Please make sure you complete the entire form.

SUPPORT YOUR COACHES: We are all volunteers! If your athlete is not participating, step in and help the coaches. If behavior is an issue, share a strategy with the coaches that will work for your athlete. We encourage you to become a coach.

We need coaches! SOMN has a trained coach to athlete ratio for every sport. Please consider becoming a certified coach. Coaching is very rewarding an Ray Kennedy (651) 402-8786 will be happy to help you get started on your certification.

SAFETY: You are responsible for your athlete's safety! **A parent, friend or staff is required to be in the gym during all practices.** Be prepared to take your athlete home when practice ends, especially if bad weather forces practice to end early. Athletes must be escorted by adult/staff when using the restroom in the school.

Please leave electronic devices at home. We want your athlete to be safe at practice and the Sharks are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT: The Hastings Sharks will provide each athlete with a team jersey and equipment for use during practice and competitions. Jerseys and equipment must be returned to coaches at the end of the state competition. Athletes will not be allowed to register for the next sport if all items have not been returned. Hats are not allowed at practice or competitions.

RESPECT: The Sharks are guests while we are practicing in the school. Please treat the building with respect. Our permit allows our team to use the gym only. We do not have the right to use other areas of the building. Use only the bathrooms closest to the gym.