



## National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association

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# Collegiate Roller Hockey Frequently Asked Questions

*For current or future collegiate roller hockey student-athletes*

Below is a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Though the FAQs should not be used as a substitute for full research, they aim to give brief answers to some of the most common inquiries that the NCRHA receives on a daily basis.

- Q) I want to play roller hockey in college. What do I do? Where do I start?  
A) This is probably the most frequently asked question that we get and therefore is the FAQ with the longest answer. First of all, by reading this FAQ you're already on the right track! If you follow every step on the list below, it eventually won't seem too overwhelming. Start by reading everything here so that you have a good feel for the collegiate roller hockey community. Motivation is very important when finding the answer to this question and understanding how to proceed. There is some homework involved by the student and his/her parents.

While we only wish to encourage you to pursue your roller hockey interests, you must have realistic goals along with your dreams and hopes. You may also only get out of it what you put into it, unless you find a school with a very established program. In NCRHA there are some very established clubs but there are also teams who are still just developing. These different stages of advancement can and do affect how the school supports the club.

- 1) Find a school based on academic interests. Some go to school for academics and the perk is they get to play roller hockey there. An amazing evolution is that now the tables are turned and students who otherwise would show no interest in going to college now want to go just to PLAY roller hockey! The revelation is that being able to play roller hockey may now be motivating some students to get a college education.
- 2) Set goals for what you want to do specifically with roller hockey. Basically ask yourself, at what level do you want to play and how much are you willing to put into it to get it to that level, as both an individual and a team player. This also will help establish how much interest that you have in building a team in the case that you go to a school where a club does not yet exist. Students enroll in all kinds of schools from 4 year universities to 2 year junior colleges. The NCRHA allows all higher education institutions. Some schools already have an established club or the student will build a club when one does not already exist. In this way, the NCRHA was initially founded 100 percent by students themselves.
- 3) Our national website ([www.ncrha.org](http://www.ncrha.org)) lists all the currently active teams and schools. Additionally, not listed, are dozens of teams at schools that are currently developing. You can also narrow your search by looking at schools in a geographical area. The NCRHA is divided into 7 conferences, which each administer collegiate roller hockey in a particular region of the country. These conferences are listed on the NCRHA website.
- 4) Check out the NCRHA Facebook page and follow the NCRHA on Twitter. Post any questions or comments on the Facebook page and you are sure to get a response. Teams are trying to recruit and they, or the NCRHA staff, will see your post. Current players and NCRHA staff will also give helpful information and new perspectives, as well as their own experiences. Parents are welcome as well! Once you are ready and narrow your choice of schools, NCRHA can further put you in touch with the team representative of any teams (which may be the captain, coach, or club president). Once you have done some homework, you should e-mail the NCRHA at [info@ncrha.org](mailto:info@ncrha.org), explaining your interest, your location, and your goals. From there,



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the NCRHA staff will be able to recommend you to some universities that may interest you, or if you already have a university in mind, then the NCRHA staff can give you the contact information for the school and answer further questions. In the meantime, take a look around the NCRHA website and look at the universities that already exist.

- Q) Is collegiate roller hockey an NCAA sport?  
A) The simple answer to this question is: “No”. Teams in the NCRHA are recognized by their schools as “clubs” and “student organizations”. This is also a requirement that a team must fulfill in order to be a full member of the NCRHA.
- Q) Are there scholarships to play in college?  
A) Indeed, there are, but not too many! Only a few high school inline leagues offer scholarships, and even fewer universities offer any form of scholarship to play roller hockey. What are more likely and available are academic-based scholarships, grants, and financial aid.
- Q) Where do I find the list of schools that have teams?  
A) An entire list of teams in the NCRHA can be found by using the search feature on the NCRHA website. Directions: On the NCRHA homepage, click “Teams” which is located on the top of the page. Keep in mind though that this feature only lists clubs who are current members of the NCRHA. There are many schools with developing teams that are not listed.
- Q) What school should I go to and who has the best team?  
A) The NCRHA is a national organization that represents every team equally so we will only give out facts about teams and advice on academics. The term “best” means different things to many people as well as the “best team” often changes from year to year. We always encourage each student to pick his or her university based on education first, then on roller hockey. If you need help choosing a university we recommend contacting the NCRHA at [info@ncrha.org](mailto:info@ncrha.org).
- Q) Who do I contact to get in touch with an existing team or coach?  
A) Contact the NCRHA at [info@ncrha.org](mailto:info@ncrha.org).
- Q) How do I start a college roller hockey program at my school?  
A) Although it may appear as though starting a club, gaining acceptance (and hopefully some funding!) from a university, and most importantly, assembling a team are huge feats to accomplish, it's not as hard as one might think. In fact, some clubs in the NCRHA were formed in mere weeks! Unfortunately, not all schools are as receptive to a new roller hockey team as we would like. Sometimes, roadblocks make the process more difficult than is necessary, but a little bit of dedication and legwork almost always guarantees a successful program that will thrive under sound leadership.
- 1) Contact the NCRHA, asking if any other interested students from your school have inquired and possibly even have started the process!
  - 2) Talk to school officials (most likely in the Recreation Department or Student Activities/ Government), and find out what the requirements are for starting a roller hockey club. Talk to them early, even in the summer, well before the school year starts, so that you have enough time to file any paperwork.
  - 3) Recruit players. At the same time as you are talking to school officials, ask around campus, advertise at local rinks, use the internet, to find other interested players that are/will be attending your school. Going to the school officials with a list of 8-10 players shows them that there is interest and that you are serious about forming the club.



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- 4) Form the club, according to your school's requirements. Requirements probably include filing paperwork with the school, creating a club constitution (they probably have a sample from another club that you can work off of), have meetings, and elect officers to run the club.
- 5) Set a tryout date. Typically the school will let you advertise on campus after you have set up the club according to their requirements. Post flyers on campus (after gaining proper approvals), start a Facebook page, even ask the NCRHA to advertise for you on our website or Facebook page.

Q) What should my first club meeting look like?

A) The meeting should outline the club's goals and future. First and foremost is to establish that incredible hockey skills are NOT required to be in the club. Although you may intend to develop an intercollegiate travel team, start slow. Outline how much it will cost players to participate. Explain that there are two major levels of involvement in the club, intramural and intercollegiate.

Q) How do I make sure that the club survives after I am gone?"

A) Do not focus on your team being only a tournament team, for elite players only. Successful clubs include players of all skill levels, and your school is much more likely to take your club seriously, and hopefully contribute financially, if you have more participants.

Q) Do schools send out scouts? How do I get someone to come see me play?

A) Even after many years, the experience of collegiate roller hockey is still very new and therefore teams are still establishing leadership within their own clubs as well as finances. It is therefore very challenging for a club to actually send any type of "scout" out on a regular basis and many teams do not proactively search for players but rather hope that players will seek them out. Nonetheless, there are club members who will attend high school events, other summer events, or come out to see a player once contacted! It's all just a matter of communicating with the clubs and the clubs' own ability to arrange this.

Q) Who pays for all of this?

A) While the ultimate hope is to have a student alleviated of all costs to play roller hockey in college, the reality is that students are still paying for parts of the cost to participate in NCRHA. With each club's individual relationship with their school as well as the different stages of the clubs development, the support and aid given to the club from their school varies across the country. Support from the schools is also offered in different forms, from money to the use of school vehicles or a practice facility at no cost. NCRHA research has shown that some schools are still unsupportive of roller hockey and/or other club sports, while others offer as much as \$40,000 in funding for their clubs.

Q) What about collegiate roller hockey for women?

A) Women have played and currently play in the NCRHA alongside the men. Unfortunately separate all-women divisions have not done well due to the distance between teams and the number of women participating at each school, but the NCRHA has not given up. We encourage every person regardless of gender to play collegiate roller hockey.

Q) What are games like? Is there checking? Do you play 4 on 4?

A) The NCRHA is a non-checking league. We have a national Rulebook that can be downloaded from our website. Games are 4 on 4 with no icing and no off-sides rule. Most conferences of the NCRHA hold "hockey weekends" where a team may play 3 to 4 games in a weekend, sometimes having to travel. Regular game format is 3 twelve-minute stop-clock periods, followed by a five-minute overtime period and 3-player shootout, if needed.



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Remember, when choosing a university you should choose it not on the talent level of the college's team, but the reputation of its education. At this point in time, it is best to decide upon a university based on education and not hockey. Many of our members chose their universities without knowing about their roller hockey teams, and some universities did not even have teams at all so the students build them. This was the birth of the NCRHA as well as the ongoing lifeline of the organization.

NCRHA traditionally has been a program fostered by the actual participants. We advise that groups of students network within their university to gain strength in numbers and committed players before approaching their university for support. There is not a lot that NCRHA is able to do without the actual committed players. Please contact us if you have a dream about playing inline hockey for your university or if you would just simply like to help with the NCRHA mission!