

TELLURIDE HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY PROPOSAL

Lizardhead Hockey Club Board of Directors

Chris Sommers | Valerie Sharpe | Chris Condon

PO Box 3628, Telluride, CO 81435 | 970.729.2480 | board@telluridehockey.com

March 29, 2024

Telluride Board of Education, Superintendent, and Athletic Director
R1 School District
Telluride, Colorado 81435

Dear Board of Education, Superintendent, and Athletic Director:

On behalf of the Telluride Lizardhead Hockey Club (TLHHC) Board of Directors, we respectfully submit the attached proposal in support of the TSD adopting a high school ice hockey program. The TLHHC feels strongly that our community should incorporate ice hockey into the sports programming at the high school level. Hockey is a sport currently played by 200+/- youth in our community, over 20% of the youth population. The TLHHC has conducted extensive research and planning in developing our proposed approach. We trust the proposal will address all of the areas of consideration outlined in the TSD's procedures for adding a new high school sport.

The attached proposal offers a significant opportunity to continue to provide access to community-based ice hockey for our high school age youth. Highlights of key areas the proposal committee has considered and addressed for the Administration and Board are:

- **Youth & Overall Community Engagement** – 200 +/-, 20% of all youth in the community
- **Inclusion** – Financial, transportation, and early youth adoption/engagement
- **Financial Viability** – TLHHC financial support, with a break-even model to TSD
- **Logistical and Staffing Capacity** – Including staffing, logistics and transportation
- **Complimentary to THS Seasonal Sports Programming** – Basketball is the only winter sport currently offered for THS
- **Sustainability** – Long-term plan, with a participation and financial basis to support the programs regardless of the variables of THS enrollment

Above all else, the Board of Education and TSD Administration should know it has at its disposal an extremely engaged, motivated, and competent organization in the TLHHC to aid in the implementation and operational support of a high school hockey program. The TLHHC stands eager and ready to provide knowhow, general operational resource support, transportation, and general financial support.

We at the TLHHC are here to assist and ensure the success of an ice hockey program, should the school district adopt the sport at the high school level.

Sincerely,

The Telluride Lizardhead Hockey Club Board of Directors

Application for Adding Ice Hockey as New Interscholastic CHSAA Sport

SECTION A

The initiating agent shall submit a detailed, written proposal to the director of athletics. Section A shall include the name of the initiating agent, contact information, status or position, a description of the sport or activity, proposed level (activity, JV, varsity), and the rationale for adding the new sport or activity. Other details addressed in Section A include a timeline for implementation, the schools involved, and the number of anticipated participants.

<u>Initiating Agent:</u>	Chris Sommers Phone: 970.729.2480 E-Mail: chris@chrissommers.com Address: PO Box 3628, Telluride, CO 81435
<u>Position:</u>	Telluride Lizardhead Hockey Club, Vice President
<u>Description of the Sport or Activity:</u>	CHSAA Ice Hockey
<u>Level:</u>	JV for 2024-25 & 2025-26 Seasons JV + Varsity for 2026-27 & Beyond
<u>Timeline for Implementation:</u>	Start of the 2024-25 Season
<u>Season:</u>	Practice Begins November 18, 2024 Games begin December 2, 2024 Regular Season concludes in late February 2025 (Playoffs if eligible extending into early March 2025)

Rationale:

Hockey in the Town of Telluride has grown exponentially in the last 20 years. As our Mayor, Teddy Errico, aptly said, “Telluride is a ski town with a hockey problem.” Ice hockey has become the backbone of our culture and our local community. Out of the over 900 children in the Telluride schools, 1 out of every 5 kids currently plays hockey with the TLHHC program. That currently equates to 186 athletes; however, enrollment has been well over 200 participants in recent years. TLHHC offers options for all players from Pre-K through the age of 14, but no formal boys’ programming beyond age 14. Many of our athletes have no choice but to go on to play for a regional club team to expand their playing season. Further, there is evidence that many kids and their

families have sadly moved away from Telluride because there is no local option to compete beyond the age of 14. Currently, our high school aged players enroll with the Durango High School Team, which has proven successful, but also increases the travel, financial, and safety concerns for our athletes, without home games in Telluride. Furthermore, the availability of the Durango program in the mid- and long-term is far from assured.

TLHHC has a proven track record of success and inclusivity with players of all ages. These players have committed themselves to playing at the highest levels and have recorded 6 state championship teams since the Club was formed in 1998, with 2 teams winning championships last season. Our kids would like the opportunity to represent Telluride High School on the ice and continue that success for years to come wearing maroon.

The Case for Adding Ice Hockey:

- **Youth & Overall Community Engagement** – ~200 participants, 20% of all youth in the community
- **Inclusion** – Financial, transportation, and early youth adoption/engagement
- **Financial Viability** – LHC financial support, with a break-even model to TSD
- **Logistical and Staffing Capacity** – Including staffing, logistics and transportation
- **Complimentary to TSD Seasonal Sports Programming** – Basketball is the only winter sport offered currently
- **Sustainability** – Long term plan, with a participation and financial basis to support the programs regardless of the ups and downs of THS enrollment

Regional High Schools Involved:

Telluride would compete against their mountain town communities in the Mountain Division of the CHSAA 4A Hockey Classification including:

Summit
Battle Mountain / Vail
Steamboat
Glenwood Springs
Crested Butte / West Elk
Durango
Caprock Academy / Grand Junction
Aspen

(Statewide, there are 33 High School ice hockey teams in CHSAA)

Number of Anticipated Participants:

The most accurate data for anticipated participants is the current breakdown of TLHHC players for 2023-24 - see below. **With 1 of 5 Telluride kids playing hockey, for a total of 186 for last season,** there is a very strong argument for continued participation. The TLHHC has grown from 133 participants 10 years ago to a high of 206 participants in 2020-21. **The percentage of kids playing hockey actually goes up as enrollment numbers decrease.**

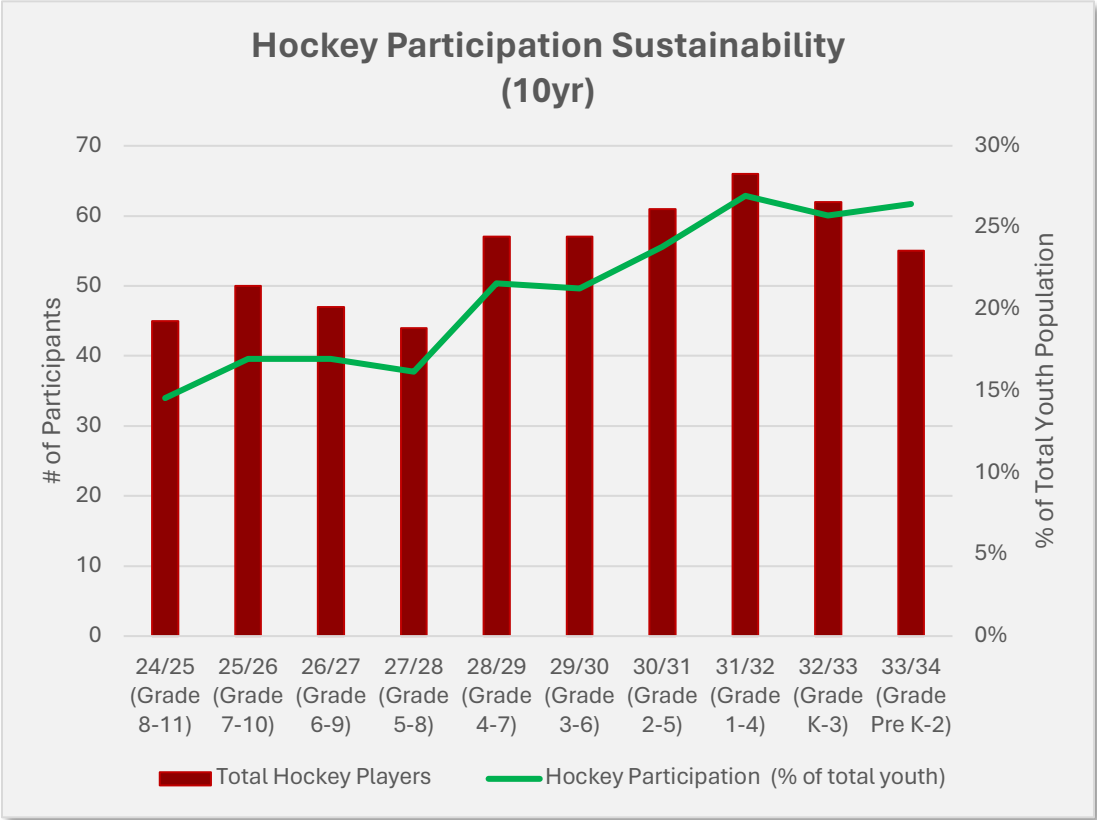
Hockey Participation by Grade - Telluride & Telluride Mountain School Combined

Grade	Boys Hockey	Girls Hockey	Total Hockey	Total Enrollment	% Hockey of Total Enrollment
Pre-K	7	4	11	43	26%
K	14	1	15	53	28%
1	11	3	14	57	25%
2	9	6	15	55	27%
3	14	4	18	76	24%
4	16	3	19	57	33%
5	6	3	9	68	13%
6	9	2	11	67	16%
7	13	5	18	72	25%
8	6	0	6	65	9%
9	6	6	12	73	16%
10	8	6	14	85	16%
11	5	8	13	86	15%
12	9	2	11	78	14%
	133	53	186	935	20%
	71.5%	28.5%			

Drawing from these participation numbers today, assuming no attrition, will result in the following number of possible participants for the next 6 seasons of play at the High School level:

Player Pipeline by THS School Year

School Year	Boys	Girls	Total	Current Class Enrollment	Hockey Participation
24/25 (Grade 8-11)	25	20	45	309	15%
25/26 (Grade 7-10)	33	17	50	295	17%
26/27 (Grade 6-9)	34	13	47	277	17%
27/28 (Grade 5-8)	34	10	44	272	16%
28/29 (Grade 4-7)	44	13	57	264	22%
29/30 (Grade 3-6)	45	12	57	268	21%



SECTION B: Benefit to Schools and School System

The proposal shall include a description of the systemwide benefits of the new sport or activity. The addition of a new sport should accomplish a clear purpose and should have a clear benefit for students, schools, and the school system. Examples of such benefits might include satisfaction of a legal requirement, creating opportunities compatible with opportunities at other public schools, creating participation opportunities for students with disabilities, etc. The new activity should have appeal across the school system, should benefit both genders, and enhance the school culture in a positive way.

- **Sport & Competition:** Hockey is a sport that requires athletes to work together daily in short, strenuous practices to prepare for very fast-paced and sometimes stressful game situations. Short shifts on the ice with players exerting themselves at 110% is like no other sport. They give all they have for 60-90 seconds, recognize when it's time to get off, and work with their next teammate in line to jump on. It's much like a relay race and the team building that goes with that is invaluable. Athletes learn to trust and care for each other. Very rarely does a player dress for a game and not make the playing surface (unlike almost every other sport).
- **Family:** When a child enters the hockey program, all parents participate in the process. Getting the kids suited up, pads & helmets on, skates tied. Many times, you will see parents and coaches helping other parents with their kids, working together to get them on the ice. As the kids grow older and they can take care of themselves, the parents and coaches work together to make the games happen. A parent will always volunteer to staff the penalty box, run the clock, keep score, or play the music for the fans and players. When the kids go on to play High School Hockey, it doesn't end there. The parents and coaches, the hockey family, will continue to fill those roles, adding to the community experience and assisting the school and school administrators.
- **DEI:** TLHHC has always included families from a variety of different backgrounds with the help of donated gear, scholarships, and mentors to help all families get, and keep, their kids on the ice. The success of the TLHHC's DEI commitment is evident by the participation of athletes in the program across backgrounds still participating in the program.
- **School & Community Pride** It goes without saying that successful athletic programs build school pride, both within the student body and across the community. Students rally to support all teams, but they certainly get inspired by successful teams. Students, fans, faculty, the pep band, and the cheerleaders all participate in celebrating that success.



SECTION C

The proposal shall address the following factors, considerations, or concerns regarding the new sport or activity.

C.1 Available Facilities *Are facilities an issue? Facilities are an essential concern in considering the addition of a new sport. For multiple reasons, schools should have appropriate facilities to conduct the activity on-campus. The inability to conduct an activity on-campus impacts student safety, student participation, and expenses, especially if facilities must be rented. Concerns addressing the use of off-site facilities include:*

Possibly the most compelling piece of adding hockey as a new sport is the existence of an ice rink in the Town of Telluride, only .9 of a mile from Telluride High School. This is undoubtedly the biggest hurdle for high school hockey in many towns around the country. *Telluride is currently the only town in the State of Colorado which has an ice rink but does not have a High School Hockey team.*

Hanley Ice Rink – Less Than a Mile from School Campus



Transportation *Will students and parents have to drive considerable distances, on a steady basis? The commute to and from practices potentially impacts on students’ safety, homework, and evening regimens. How will students get to and from practice, home games?*

All players can easily access the facility for practices and games via walking, biking, driving, or via public transportation on the gondola and Town of Telluride Galloping Goose bus route.

For fairly obvious and logistical reasons, communities cannot build ice rinks on school campuses. Overall, they are very close with just two exceptions. The numbers below show that Telluride would tie for second in terms of closest driving distance from the facility (ice rink) to the high school compared with the other teams in the 4A Mountain Division.

High School Distance to Ice Rink

Aspen	.8 mile
Telluride	.9 mile
Steamboat Springs	.9 mile
Gunnison/Crested Butte	1.3 miles
Glenwood Springs	1.4 miles
Durango	1.5 miles
Caprock / Grand Junction	2.9 miles
Summit	7.6 miles
Battle Mtn/Vail	14 miles

*Crested Butte High School is 28 miles from the facility
 Durango is 1.1 miles from the facility
 Aspen is 0.3 miles from the facility*

Emergency Response *Are there an abundant number of qualified adults available to assist in the event of an emergency? There are generally numerous qualified adults available to assist in emergencies when teams practice on-campus, including coaches of other teams, athletic directors, and in some instances, athletic trainers. Will this sport require an on-site ambulance/EMS staff due to the inherent risk of the sport?*

- The Hanley Pavilion is a fully staffed and operated ice rink by the Town of Telluride staff from October-March every season. In addition to the coaches who are trained in emergency response per the CHSAA requirements, the facility has a qualified emergency response employee on-site at all times
- An AED exists within the Hanley Ice Rink

Practice Time *Will teams systemwide have adequate practice time? With other teams/ clubs potentially sharing limited off-campus facilities, sufficient practice time becomes an issue. Adequate practice time is an important safety concern, especially for certain sports where proper technique is essential to the safety of participants. What would be potential available practice and game days/times on the offsite facility?*

Practice times for the 2024/25 Season will be Monday 6:15am-7:15am and Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 7:15pm-8:15pm.

24/25 JV Team Practice Schedule (All practices at Hanley Rink)

Time of Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Morning	6:15-7:15am				
Daytime					
Afternoon					
Evening		7:15-8:15pm	7:15-8:15pm	7:15-8:15pm	

Supervision *How will practices and contests be supervised? TSD coaches and activities are supervised when on campus. Supervision issues and concerns prevail when virtually all practices and events are conducted at facilities that are distant from the school, and often at unusual hours. The concern extends to crowd supervision at contests.*

- At least 2 qualified coaches, licensed per CHSAA requirements, and also certified by USA Hockey, will be present during all practice sessions
- Per CHSAA ByLaws, request for School Administrators to delegate powers to alleviate the burden of supervision and oversight to a qualified coach/director/sponsor or faculty manager for practices and home games (See Appendix A)

Additional Facility Notes

- All players can store their gear in private lockers at the facility
- Fully managed and maintained facility
- All facility prep for practices or games is managed by Town Park Staff
- The facility is not weather-dependent. No issues with snow accumulation/removal, rainouts, or moving practices or games to another facility

C.2 Facility Conflicts *Will the activity create facility conflicts with other sports? The number of teams or activities that currently share or utilize a particular facility is an important factor when it comes to adding a new sport.*

There are no facility conflicts to contend with. The schedule for the facility is confirmed months in advance to the start of the season and there is a long-standing history of no conflicts, which would only be with other ice-related activities. As mentioned above, basketball is the only other high school sport during the winter season, and practices and games take place at the Telluride High School gym.

C.3 Equity *Will all students, systemwide, be able to afford personal expenses associated with participation in the activity? The impact and appeal of the sport should be equitable across the school system. In this regard, costs associated with personal equipment required for participation should be reasonable, and student interest should be similar across the district. The sport also should accommodate the interests of both genders.*

All players, regardless of skill level or ability, gender, or background, would be welcomed on the Telluride High School Hockey Team. The culture of hockey in Telluride has a proven track record of inclusion with the number of players who jumped into the game at the middle school and high school grade levels. We continue to see female participation through high school as well.

Historically, the TLHHC has maintained a financial assistance fund, as a component of its DEI objectives, to ensure access to the program for all interested athletes.

TLHHC will extend its assistance fund to any THS athletes in need of assistance at the high school level as well.

C.4 Title IX *Does the activity accommodate the interests and provide equal opportunities for both genders?*

While ice hockey has been available to all genders through high school, and thus offered to both genders, without discrimination, the TLHHC defers to the expertise of the school administration as to the application of Title IX compliance considerations.

While likely not applicable in terms of Title IX compliance, it is worth noting that, in addition to having access to the high school ice hockey program, girls who wish to compete at the U15 and U19 levels have the opportunity to play in the Colorado Girls Hockey League (CGHL).

C.5 Expense *Are the expenses associated with the activity similar to the expenses of most sports? The expenses associated with a new activity must be carefully considered, not only in terms of the expense to the school system, but also the expense incurred by students in order to participate. When considering expenses, the proposal must be based on full funding for the sport or activity, not partial funding. The school system will not partially fund an activity. The financial estimate should be detailed and should address two components – personal costs for students, and school system cost.*

- *Personal costs – including transportation (if off-campus), practice clothing, mouthpieces, shoes (or cleats, skates, etc. depending on the sport), etc.*
- *School system costs – including coach stipends, transportation, uniforms, equipment, rental fees, supervision, security, etc.*
- *The final calculation of the cost for adding the new sport should be multiplied by two, unless it is truly a coed sport that includes approximately equal participation by both genders. Otherwise, if a boys' team is added, for instance, a comparable girls' team would need to be added.*

23/24 Program Cost Estimates (Assumes 22 athlete JV team for 24/25)

Item	Description	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Practice Costs	4 practices per week x 13 weeks = 52 total practices	\$88 per ice hour \$25 per Zamboni ice cut=\$113/practice	\$ 5,876
Game	9 home games (7 scheduled, but budgeting costs for 9)	\$88 per Ice hour (1.5 hrs. per game) \$25 per Zamboni cut (2 cuts per game)	\$ 1,638
Referee	9 home games	\$240/game	\$ 2,160
Coaching	2 coaches		\$ 8,000
Transportation	17 regular season games @ 71 mi. avg distance per game (2,420 total round-trip miles) 1 Denver playoff @ 330 miles (660 round trip miles) = 3,312 total travel miles	\$1.40 per mile x 2 minibuses	\$ 8,607
Hotel	4 players to a room, Coaches double 4 road trip overnights + 1 playoff overnight 5 road trips with 7 room nights per road trip = 35 room nights	\$250/room/night	\$ 8,750
Misc. Costs	Incidentals		\$ 2,000
		Total Costs	\$37,031
Per Player Activity Fee for Full Cost Offset*			\$ 1,683

Comparative References from Other Schools in 4A Mountain League

School	Athletic Per Player Activity Fee	Youth Club Seasonal Fee	Total
Battle Mountain / Vail	\$ 850	\$1,400	\$2,250
Durango	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$2,250
Summit	\$1,000	\$ 700	\$2,200
Telluride (proposed)	\$1,700	\$ 0	\$1,700
Steamboat	\$ 800	\$ 0	\$ 800

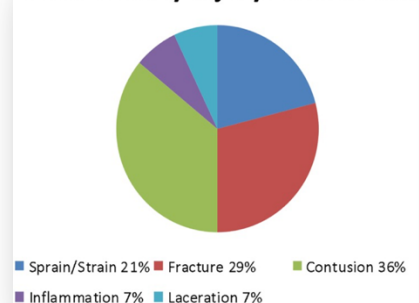
In the 23/24 high school ice hockey season TLHHC charged \$650 per player and Durango youth club charged Telluride athletes \$300. The total cost for Telluride R1 athletes for the 23/24 season was \$2,200, inclusive of club fees.

As proposed, the 24/25 season cost to Telluride R1 enrollees would be the R1 athlete participation fees recommended at \$1,700/player. This is a significant cost savings to families considering the inclusion of athlete transportation and housing. Furthermore, in line with DEI objectives, the programming is also supported by scholarship funding to offset participation fees for any athletes in need. TLHHC also agrees to cover registration costs for DEI students as awards directly to families to meet donation and compliance guidelines. TLHHC will also absorb the off-season program costs of all high school athletes estimated as \$15,500 per season and not charge a TLHHC club fee for the first 3 seasons of a new CHSAA hockey team, with re-evaluation and no obligation at that time. Although the club is committed to long term support to the high school program.

C.6 Safety *Are their safety risks or concerns associated with the activity that go beyond many or most other high school sports? Participant safety is an important concern when considering the addition of a new sport or activity. Some sports include inherent risks that others do not. In addition to safety issues directly associated with the sport, there are other safety concerns that merit consideration, including whether the activity may be conducted on campus, where multiple personnel would be able to assist in the event of a significant injury.*

Hockey is a skillful contact sport with an elevated injury risk at higher levels of play. Youth, high school, junior, college, and professional hockey players have unique injury patterns. Injuries occur much more often in a game compared with a practice, and injury risk increases with each level of competition. Preventative measures, such as mandatory facial protection and delayed body checking in games until age 13 years, are proven strategies to reduce the risk of facial injury and concussion. Athletes wear full equipment, full face masks, and evolving standards now include mandatory neck guards. The perception that hockey is a dangerous sport still persists, with the NHL serving as the point of reference. That said, the instance of injury is dramatically higher in the professional ranks than that of youth hockey. There is a culture of safety and that is based on education. That includes

Youth Hockey Injury Distribution



Stuart MJ, Smith AM, Nieva JJ, Rock MG. Injuries in youth ice hockey: a pilot

sportsmanship and mutual respect which is shaped in our local hockey community and prioritized at all age levels.

Transportation Safety – As far as safety concerns with winter travel, they are minimized with mass transit versus multiple private vehicles and having a home high school team limits travel for practice and games in another community.

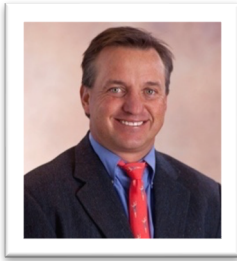
C.7 Student Participation and Attendance *Will the activity spark student spectator interest and attendance? An important rationale for interscholastic athletics is to promote school spirit, including student participation and attendance at after-school or evening activities. Sports should provide students with outlets and opportunities to support their peers in spirited competition with rival schools.*

See “Number of Anticipated Participants” section above.

C.8 Available Coaches *Are there an abundance of capable coaches, especially within the TSD teaching ranks? Telluride public school, when possible, employs teachers for coaching positions. For multiple reasons, it is much more desirable for schools to have teachers occupy coaching positions.*

- **Immediate Availability and Continuity** – The two incumbent coaches who supported the shared Durango/Telluride ice hockey team in 23/24, Kevin Holbrook and Jake O’Brien, would continue as the coaches of the Telluride JV program in 24/25. Both are long-term residents of Telluride, with over 25 years of combined youth hockey coaching experience.
- **Deep Coaching Pool in the Community** – The TLHHC facilitates training and certification of coaches for all age levels. The current roster of 47 coaches offers a deep and sustainable coaching pool to support the high school program as players matriculate into the high school level.
- **Game Operations Staff** – Proven model and staffing pool for additional game operations staff (scoring, clock, box, music). TLHHC has successfully delivered 4-8 active volunteers for every game, where 2-4 volunteers are required to successfully support in-game operations.

Head Coach – Kevin Holbrook



- 13 years youth ice hockey coaching experience
- Coached the 2024 State 4A Champion Durango/Telluride team, Squirt U10C State Champions and Bantam U14A State Champions
- Coach to over 75 teams (8+ sports)
- Parent to both a THS alumnus and current THS student
- 25-year resident of Telluride
- President of the TLHHC

Asst. Coach – Jake O’Brien



- 13-year coach in the Lizardhead Hockey club
- Assistant Coach of the Durango/Telluride HS hockey team 23/24
- 15-year resident of Telluride
- Father of 4-year-old future high school hockey player
- 9-year youth coach to Telluride Ski and Snowboard Club
- Assistant Director of Hockey Operations and Director of Coaching Enablement for TLHHC

Telluride Lizardhead Hockey Club Coaches 23/24

Age Group	# Coaches*
Mini Mites (<6)	8
Mites (6-8)	4
Squirts (9-10)	8
Pee Wee (11-12)	7
Bantam (13-14)	5
U19 (Girls only)	6
High School (w/ Durango)	4
Total	47
*All USA Hockey and Safe Sport certified	

**USA Hockey is the nationwide governing body for Ice Hockey in the US. USA Hockey provides structured coaching training and certification for hockey coaches at all age groups and levels. The U.S. Center for Safe Sport is an independent nonprofit committed to building a sport community where participants can work and learn together free of emotional, physical and sexual abuse and misconduct. Safe Sports training and certification is incorporated into USA Hockey coaching training and certification*

C.9 Compliance with CHSAA & TSD Rules & Regulations *Will the activity conform to all TSD and CHSAA rules and regulations? An important requirement for an activity to be considered an interscholastic sport is that it adheres to all TSD and CHSAA rules and parameters.*

We defer to THS for final assessment and the specification of any policies and procedures required of the THS ice hockey program in order to ensure compliance.

C.10 Participation by CHSAA Schools *Does the activity have wide appeal among other Colorado public high schools? The new sport should be one that has wide participation among CHSAA schools. TSD is a member of the CHSAA, teams adhere to CHSAA rules and regulations, teams participate primarily against CHSAA schools, and teams participate in CHSAA post season championships.*

- There are 33 high school ice hockey teams competing in CHSAA, across 4A and 5A
- 16 of those teams are 4A, split into three divisions, 4A Mountain, South, and North
- Telluride would be the 7th team in the 6-team 4A Mountain Division for regular season play
- The remainder of the 4A teams are in the front range, split into the 4A South and North divisions

THS Ice Hockey Competitive Region

CHSAA 4A Mountain Division

- Summit
- Battle Mountain / Vail
- Steamboat
- Glenwood Springs
- Crested Butte / West Elk
- Durango
- Caprock Academy / Grand Junction
- Aspen

C.11 Appropriate to High School Setting *Is the sport appropriate to a high school setting? There are some sports that are not appropriate to a high school setting for one or multiple reasons. For instance, sports that are associated with an excessive safety risk (such as boxing), or sports associated with intimidation or ridicule may not be appropriate to a high school setting.*

Ice Hockey is currently a CHSAA-endorsed sport played by 33 schools across the state. The governing body in the US, USA Hockey, is committed to player safety both on and off the ice, offering and, even requiring, significant training and coaching for both players and coaching staff.

Safety Programs Developed and Administered by USA Hockey Include:

- Safe Sport – USA Hockey Safe Sport Program is the online training/education that is available to help our members become aware of the information necessary to help prevent abuse from occurring in our sport
- Team Up Against Concussions – USA Hockey and the Concussion Legacy Foundation have teamed up to raise concussion awareness and strengthen team bonds through Team Up Against Concussions (TUAC).

- Injury Prevention – USA Hockey injury prevention training and resources:
<https://www.usahockey.com/injuryprevention>

Hockey is a sport and community which by in large fosters a collegial, community-based culture, See Appendix C as an example how hockey has created lasting ties which bond the Telluride community specifically across school class years, alumni, and even generations.

C.12 Availability of Transportation *Does the activity require use of school transportation to and from games? Does the activity require use of school transportation to and from practice? What is the anticipated cost of transportation? What impact may transportation of a new sport have on current sports or students? Is the transportation needed within a normal competitive range similar to other activities offered by the school?*

The committee has developed a scheduling and transportation model which combines 4 key components in order to optimize the player experience and minimize transportation costs and logistics:

1. **A proven multigame scheduling model which optimizes travel** – TLHHC currently utilizes, at all age levels and in coordination with many other clubs, a multigame-game-per-trip scheduling model. The Durango/Telluride high school team also used a similar approach. We would utilize this model to schedule multiple games when hosting home games, maximize zero travel distance competition, as well as 2+ games per trip schedules for away games, further decreasing the average distance per competition.
2. **TSD Mini-Bus + SUV Model** – The athlete capacity for a mini-bus is 14 which is an ideal quantity for a hockey team. Depending on the athlete rosters (limited to 20 per CHSAA), one minibus for the athletes plus 1 SUV/Suburban for the gear would function efficiently and cost-effectively. The request for an additional mini-bus would be made for appropriate situations with more than 14 athletes.
3. **Coach** – All coaches to be certified to drive TSD minibuses, similar to the current THS Lacrosse model and the TIS basketball model which functions well.
4. **Gear Transportation** – Will be accommodated with 1) the gear cage on the minibuses and 2) the use of a TSD SUV/Suburban

These strategies serve the school’s intentions for:

- Transportation cost control
- Optimize player experience by reducing traveled distance
- Increases safety by using all certified drivers
- Inclusion – Improving access to this sport for all students, regardless of whether or not the family has the means to facilitate long-distance transportation

Example of per-competition distance improvements achieved through modified scheduling:

Example Travel-Optimized Season Schedule (17 regular season games)				
Weekend	Location	Game #	Distance	Opponent
1	Telluride	1	0	Glenwood
1	Telluride	2	0	Glenwood
1	Vail	3	265	Vail
1	Vail	4	0	Vail
3	Telluride	5	0	Steamboat
3	Telluride	6	0	Summit
4	Durango	7	112	Summit
4	Durango	8	112	Steamboat
4	Durango	9	0	Durango
5	Telluride	10	0	Durango
5	Telluride	11	0	Crested Butte
5	Telluride	12	0	Crested Butte
6	C.Springs	13	301	4A South Team 1
6	C.Springs	14	30	4A South Team 2
6	C.Springs	15	30	4A South Team 3
8	Denver	16	330	4A North Team 1
8	Denver	17	30	4A North Team 2

Total Distance Travelled	1,210
Average Distance Per Game	71

Travel-optimized scheduling model results in very low average miles per contest

The Coach Transportation Labor Model

- Currently in use in lacrosse, with coach drivers who are tested and certified for driving minibuses
- For JV Hockey specifically, the head coach and assistant coach would each drive one of the two required vehicle (2 minibuses or 1 minibus + suburban)

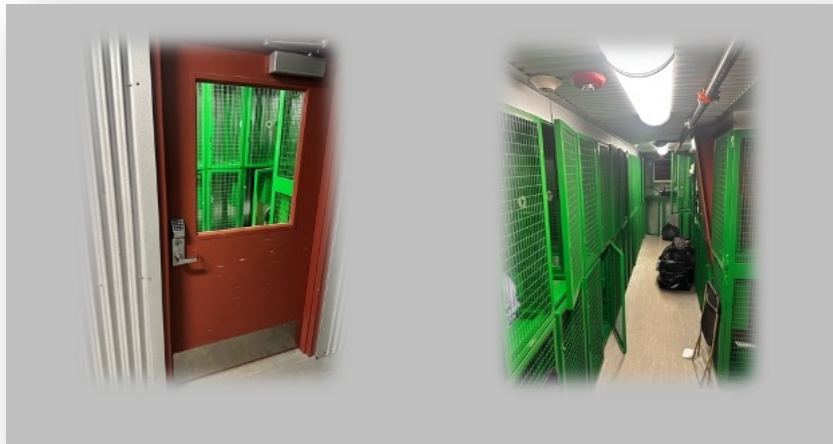


Lacrosse Coach Grayson Fertig exits the team bus he operated to away opponent Grand Junction

C.13 Equipment Needs/Storage *Will the additional sport require additional storage at the school? What additional equipment will need to be purchased? Is there any additional equipment information that may not be known (recertification, etc.)?*

Rink storage available – A code-access storage locker room is available at the rink and prioritized for older youth players. All high school-age players currently have lockers available to them.

Secure-Room Individual Equipment Lockers at Hanley Rink



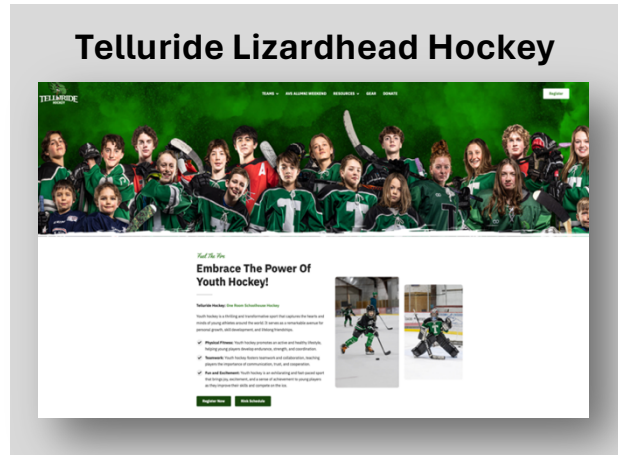
Section D – Existing Program in the Community

If the program is already established as a community club or activity, please provide relevant information/evidence that demonstrates success in terms of participation, team culture, longevity, or anything that could be helpful to consider.

There is a rich and growing tradition of youth ice hockey in the community.

Telluride Lizard Head Hockey Club Fast Facts:

- 26 years in existence
- Over 200 registered youth athletes
- Over 40 volunteer coaches, certified by USA Hockey and Safe Sport
- 10 teams in 23/24 season
- Over \$210k annual operating budget
- Over \$80K in annual fundraising through events and donations



If the program is already established as a community club or activity, in what ways do you see the school community supporting the program if unable to fully add the activity/ sport (attendance, eligibility, transportation, etc.)?

Unfortunately, if Telluride does not have a CHSAA-sanctioned team, there is limited local opportunity for a hockey player to compete at the club level after the age of 14 beyond an expensive and burdensome tournament team model. Durango district currently allows enrollment of Telluride athletes but as their participation numbers and club interest has grown with their success, we anticipate this model to be temporary and non-sustainable beyond the 2024-2025 season. Therefore, we implore the R1 School District and Board to seriously consider this sport activity for a home Telluride hockey team. We are grateful and appreciative for your time and serious reflection on our high school hockey team proposal.

Appendix A

CHSAA Bylaws – Relevant Extracts for Reference

ARTICLE 16 GENERAL SCHOOL RULES

1600. SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBLE TO ASSOCIATION

1600.1 The principal or superintendent of each school is responsible to the Association in all matters pertaining to the athletic/activities relations of his/her/their school.

1600.11 He/she/they may delegate powers to a coach/director/sponsor or faculty manager, but this does not relieve him/her of responsibility in case of infraction of these rules by his/her/their school.

1600.12 All contacts between member schools, its students, coaches or faculty members and the Association shall be made through the responsible officer of the school, to be designated by the superintendent. The Association shall rely only on decisions communicated through this officer. □

1640. OUTSIDE PAYMENTS

1640.1 Each coach/director shall be under contract to the school district in which he/she/they coaches/ directs and may be employed solely as a coach/director. Coaches/Directors shall not receive any pay or other remuneration for coaching/directing, other than the stipulated contract salary or pay scale agreed to by the Board of Education.

1640.11 SOURCE OF SALARIES – All salaries or remuneration for the fulfillment of the school district coaching/director contract must come as direct payment from the employing school district or private school governing body. Acceptance of additional pay or any other remuneration either in money or merchandise from any organization or group outside of the school itself is a violation of this regulation. Recognized outside groups such as "booster" groups may make a donation to the school's or district's general activities fund, but may not specify any monies be utilized for the payment of salaries for Advisor A, Coach B, etc. This regulation, on the other hand, does not prevent school employees from receiving gifts or awards of no intrinsic value.

Q1: Can an outside group (i.e., Booster Club) help fund a specific school/ athletic program?

A1: Yes.

Q2: Can a Booster Club pay a coach directly for his/her/their coach's salary?

A2: No, funds must be given to the school administration for distribution.

1640.12 BOOSTER CLUBS – Booster clubs, athletic/activity foundations, or similar named outside organizations may be formed for the purpose of providing additional financial assistance to specific teams or general athletic/activity programs. Any benefits provided by the outside organizations, which can include monetary contributions, facility improvements, equipment, transportation, awards, additional team support, etc., are subject to applicable State/Federal Regulations. All booster club or similar donations to sport specific teams or general athletic/activity funds by outside organizations must be approved by school and/or district administration. Each member school is responsible for the activities of its booster clubs and any violations and penalties that result from lack of oversight.

1640.13 OTHER PAYMENTS – Personal contributions can be made to the school's athletic department for consideration of all student-athlete's needs. Donations or payments made by school personnel to an outside agency on behalf of individual school players or teams are deemed to be an illegal inducement and prohibited.

Appendix B

CHSAA 2022-24 Classifications: Enrollment Number Cutoffs

A list of proposed enrollment range cutoffs splits which are used to determine classifications in the 2022-24 two-year cycle. These numbers need to be approved by the Classification, League Organizing and Appeals Committee, and then by the Legislative Council.

Note that under bylaw 1500.21, teams are placed into classifications using a variety of factors, including — but not limited to — enrollment.

ONE CLASSIFICATION		
Boys Skiing	One class	1-up
Boys Volleyball	One class	1-up
Field Hockey	One class	1-up
Girls Skiing	One class	1-up
Girls Wrestling	One class	1-up
Unified Bowling	One class	1-up

TWO CLASSIFICATIONS		
Boys Lacrosse	5A	1631-up
	4A	1-1630
Boys Swim & Dive	5A	1595-up
	4A	1-1594
Boys Tennis	5A	1330-up
	4A	1-1329
Girls Lacrosse	5A	1595-up
	4A	1-1594
Gymnastics	5A	1611-up
	4A	1-1610
Ice Hockey	5A	1447-up
	4A	1-1446

THREE CLASSIFICATIONS		
Boys golf	5A	1620-up
	4A	773-1619
	3A	1-772
Girls golf	5A	1620-up
	4A	773-1619
	3A	1-772
Girls Swim & Dive	5A	1691-up
	4A	1161-1690
	3A	1-1160
Girls Tennis	5A	1500-up
	4A	1080-1499
	3A	1-1079
Softball	5A	1441-up
	4A	631-1441
	3A	1-630

FOUR CLASSIFICATIONS		
Boys Soccer	5A	1479-up
	4A	801-1478
	3A	352-800
	2A	1-351
Boys Wrestling	5A	1595-up
	4A	1594-939
	3A	938-301
	2A	1-300
Cross Country	5A	1398-up
	4A	692-1397
	3A	328-691
	2A	1-327
Girls Soccer	5A	1479-up
	4A	801-1478
	3A	352-800
	2A	1-351
Spirit	5A	1341-up
	4A	631-1340
	3A	271-630
	2A	1-270

FIVE CLASSIFICATIONS		
Baseball	5A	1391-up
	4A	631-1390
	3A	271-630
	2A	101-270
	1A	1-100
Girls Volleyball	5A	1375-up
	4A	630-1374
	3A	300-629
	2A	94-299
Track	5A	1398-up
	4A	800-1398
	3A	294-799
	2A	94-293
1A	1-93	

SIX CLASSIFICATIONS		
Boys basketball	6A	1453-up
	5A	939-1452
	4A	412-938
	3A	191-411
	2A	74-190
Girls basketball	1A	1-73
	6A	1453-up
	5A	939-1452
	4A	412-938
	3A	191-411
2A	74-190	
1A	1-73	

EIGHT CLASSIFICATIONS		
Football	6A	1801-up
	5A	1800-1252
	4A	1251-944
	3A	943-554
	2A	553-283
	1A	282-128
	8-man	127-72
	6-man	1-71

Source: <https://chsaanow.com/sports/2021/7/30/2022-24-classifications-enrollment-number-cutoffs.aspx>

Appendix C

Reprint: “Keeping local hockey stoke high in Telluride

Lizard Head alumni games pack Hanley Rink”

https://www.telluridenews.com/sports/article_5cf6bcb4-86ed-11ed-b928-c3fdb16656b7.html

By Amy M. Peters, Planet Contributor Dec 28, 2022

Last Friday the Telluride Lizard Head Youth Hockey Club held its fourth annual alumni games, drawing hundreds of spectators to watch 75 alumni and coaches, ages 14-50, compete in two back-to-back games at Hanley Rink in Telluride Town Park. For the past several years, longtime local and hockey enthusiast Teddy Errico and Grayson Fertig, Lizard Head executive director, have organized the event to provide a venue for past players to have fun playing hockey. The club hosted two games instead of one this year, resulting in close scores and the highest level of play to date.

Older alumni matched up in a 7 p.m. game featuring odd high school graduating years (dark) against even graduating years (light) skating to a 2-2 tie. Lizard Head alum Robert Brown, who played “a mix of defense, offense and blue-line poacher,” reported deep benches with most players in “worse shape than our middle school years, not jonesing for extra shifts.”

“Wynton Brown scored for the darks, and I believe Johno Hoins scored for the lights, but the goalies stole the show,” he recounted. “Although there was no checking, a few pairs of close friends delivered some hits, much to the crowd’s delight.”



The 8:30 p.m. game saw younger, mixed high school- and college-aged alumni compete with Team Jake O’Brien edging out Team Red Higgins 4-3. Lizard Head coach Kevin Holbrook, whose sons Brady and Leyton are current club players, helped organize the younger alumni game, along with Jake O’Brien and Red Higgins, who’ve coached the last few years and jumped on the ice to compete. Holbrook reported stellar goal-tending from Caleb Hobbs, Brooklyn Godisak, Luka Remec, and Rocky and Roman Reibel, and noted that Landon Kusuno scored the winning goal for Team Jake O’Brien with only four seconds left in the game.

“It was great seeing siblings playing alongside each other,” added Holbrook. “And for the parents to see that.”

Even though he isn’t technically an alum, as the event organizer, Errico “snuck in” to play both games. Pleased with the number of skaters who continue to play hockey beyond school, Errico noted that the local co-ed

league affords the best opportunity for past players to compete locally, while others continue to play in their hometowns of Boulder, Denver and various towns back east.

“The goal of any youth hockey club should be to teach a sport that you can play and enjoy for a lifetime,” he said. “Not only is the exercise good, but when you move to a new place, you meet good people at the local rink. That’s how, back in 1996, I met so many great people at the old outdoor rink.”

A turnout of about a dozen Lizard Head lady alumnae, including Caroline Pekkala, Emma Walker Silverman, the Distefano sisters and Madison (Ward) Nelson, added feisty play to the games. Errico noted that a number of male and female skaters play in prep school and college club programs with some high school graduates even playing at the Junior Hockey level.

“Ashlyn Marshall started playing here and now plays for Concordia University in Wisconsin and might be the only active NCAA player,” he added. “Another alumni who played in both games, Hurley Kane, also competed at the NCAA Division III level at Worcester State, over 10 years ago.”

Kane, who played Lizard Head youth hockey off and on from 1994-2007 and currently plays with the Telluride Men’s A Team, concurs that the talent at this year’s event was top-notch.

“It was great to be back on the ice with former players like ‘Lighting Legs’ Jesse Lamb and Carlos ‘The Hack’ Cagin,” he said. “It’s really special to see how far Telluride hockey has come in the last 30 years — from playing hockey on an outdoor pond three months of the year to having indoor ice and putting kids in Junior Hockey programs consistently. It’s a real accomplishment for a small town in southwest Colorado.” Just 48 hours before the first puck dropped, only a third of the players had registered to compete, which presented some organizing challenges. Moving forward, Errico hopes to offer earlier signups, concessions, and is considering adding additional games and offering a big party afterwards. With around 200 hooting and hollering spectators in the stands, Errico said the event has improved each year. While he had a couple of 30-packs on hand, Errico and a crew of players headed to The Buck and Oak after the game to enjoy celebratory beers.

“Thanks to Joe Distefano and Adam Murray for refereeing and to the entire Parks and Recreation Department for working hard over the holiday and helping to make the event,” he added. “Be sure to support the hockey club as one of the major goals is to get Telluride High School into the official Colorado High School Activities Association. That would be a dream come true.”