

Appendix II: Minnesota Women's Ice Hockey Timeline

- 1892:** The earliest mention of women's hockey, found so far, in a Minnesota published newspaper, with a reference to Lady Isobel Stanley breaking her arm playing ice hockey.
- 1901:** The earliest, contemporary mention of Minnesota girls playing ice hockey, found so far, broadly explaining the game's local popularity in Wanger Township, MN.
- 1906:** Irene Walker and Lillian Griffin, both students in Two Harbors, hold the first practice of their girl's ice hockey team on February 6, organized at their high school.
- 1909:** The formation of a girls' ice hockey team at West High School under the direction of one of Cleve Bennewitz sister's—likely Avis—is announced in Minneapolis. On February 20, the girls take on the boys of the Lake Shore juniors' team and beat them 5-3.
- 1911:** A petition circulates to start women's ice hockey at the University of Minnesota, reported in the *Duluth Herald*.
- 1915:** The women of the Women's Athletic Association of the University of Minnesota formally file to begin an ice hockey program on January 18. Dr. Anna Norris refuses, but relents by February 11, and instructional ice hockey for coeds begins.
- 1916:** J.R. Batchelor organizes a girl's grade school ice hockey league in Duluth, which persists through at least 1919.
- 1917:** The first intramural Women's Ice Hockey Tournament is held at the University of Minnesota February 23-27, with the Sophomore squad, under the leadership of Winifred Bailey, emerging victorious in overtime. The Intramural Sports Committee sponsors the trophy, which is awarded in formally organized women's ice hockey tournaments until the 1930s, with the sport persisting at the University until at least 1935.
- 1921:** Duluth forms a "Girl's" (unmarried women's) Industrial Hockey League, with teams formed by women working at local businesses, that persists through to at least 1930.
- 1922:** Eveleth forms a girl's team with the intention to compete with Duluth's industrial league teams. Multiple girls' and women's teams also form in St. Paul and Minneapolis, with games into the late 20s.
- 1930:** Carleton College has a women's ice hockey team.
- 1933:** Two Harbors forms the "first ever organized here" girl's hockey team (27 years after Walker and Griffin's Two Harbors team).
Eveleth forms a full girl's ice hockey league with games through at least 1939.
- 1940:** Crookston, MN has a girl's hockey team under the coaching of Walt Gerzin.
Girls playing hockey on rinks in Minneapolis is such a "problem" that a girl's "snow hockey" league is formed to get them off the ice, with 11 teams forming that first year.
- 1942:** Halsey Hall reports on 14-year-old Joyce Ellersich of Eveleth in her hunt for a boys' team that will let her play, after newspapers report that her dominance on the ice scares the local teams off.
- 1951:** Bonnie Shea begins playing boys hockey in Duluth, which she will play for eight years before being banned by the principal of East High School after being recruited by the coach.

- 1956:** Halsey Hall calls 12-year-old Judy Westby of Minneapolis “the first girl hockey player to cause a protested game” and while the game is allowed to stand, Judy receives a personal ban after her team beat a boys’ team who protested on the ground that the league rules said “boys’ sextet.” She vows to play boys’ football instead.
- 1960:** International Falls starts a formal girl’s park league and claims to have “the nation’s first organized girl’s hockey program.”
- 1965:** Contemporaries remember Louis Schmitz starting girl’s hockey in Farmington, which is plausible informally, though direct evidence has not yet been found.
- 1970:** Formally organized, documented girl’s hockey under the auspices of Farmington Youth Hockey and Louis Schmitz begins.
- 1971:** Intracity girls’ hockey begins in Mounds View under the auspices of Lake Region Hockey in early January.
- 1971-1972:** Burnsville, Farmington, Lakeville, and White Bear Lake all start or continue girls’ programs and form the Twin Cities’ Girls Hockey league.
- 1972-1973:** The intercity league in the metro expands to include Anoka, Burnsville, Elk River, Farmington, Lakeville, New Brighton (Lake Region), and White Bear Lake.
Bloomington, Cottage Grove, and Minnetonka also form teams which play in invitational tournaments with teams from the metro league.
At least Austin, Brooklyn Park, Como Park, Edina, Rosemount, St. Paul Park, and West St. Paul all form intracity leagues.
- 1973-1974:** The Minnesota Girls Hockey Association is founded under the auspices of the Minnesota Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA, precursor to MN Hockey).
Lucille Korsman of Farmington is the first woman elected to the MAHA board.
Girl’s programs are formed or continue in at least Albert Lea, Anoka, Burnsville, Cottage Grove, Duluth, East Grand Forks, Edina, Elk River, Farmington, Lake Region, Lakeville, New Hope, Northfield, Phalen, West St. Paul, and White Bear Lake.
Sue Ring-Jarvi starts the club team at the University of Minnesota.
Finney Johnston is banned from the boys’ team at West Junior High in Richfield and goes on to play for the girls’ programs in Cottage Grove and later Burnsville.
The first sanctioned youth girls’ State Hockey tournament is held, with the White Bear Lake peewees, Lake Region bantams, and Lake Region midgets taking the first state titles for their respective levels.
- 1974-1975:** Albert Lea, Anoka, Burnsville, Coon Rapids, East Grand Forks, Edina, Elk River, Farmington, Fergus Falls, Lake Region, Lakeville, New Hope, North St. Paul, Northfield, Phalen, Richfield, Wayzata, West St. Paul, and White Bear Lake all form or maintain programs.
The Phalen peewees, Elk River bantams, and Burnsville midgets all win their respective state titles.
The Burnsville midgets, Burnsville peewees (second place), and Lake Region midgets (second place) all attend the first National Invitational Girl’s Hockey Tournament in Romulus, MI, with the Burnsville teams each finishing second in the nation in their respective age brackets.

- 1975-1976:** Most Minnesota city leagues either start, continue to have a girls' program, or are openly inviting girls to participate in their boys' programs.
State Championships were won by the Burnsville peewees, the Burnsville bantams, and the Lake Region midgets.
Burnsville again attended the National Invitational Girl's Hockey Tournament, with the peewee girls again finishing second in the nation.
- 1976-1977:** The city leagues continue to have girls' teams or welcome girls into their boys' programs, though girls' teams at the peewee level become limited.
Robin Boeser, who had played for the Burnsville girls' teams from 1972 on, becomes the first girl in the state selected for the boys' varsity squad at Prior Lake High School in her junior year.
State titles are won by the Elk River midgets and the St. Paul-Phalen bantams, with no tournament at the peewee level.
Burnsville's Marlys Broberg predicts that there will be girl's high school varsity hockey by 1982.
- 1977-1978:** MAHA formally appoints Lucille Korsman as vice president in charge of girl's hockey for the state, to support the 1000 women and girls playing on 60 teams from 26 cities registered with MAHA that year.
The Amateur Hockey Association of the United States (AHAUS, precursor to USA Hockey) appoints Cary Gray of Massachusetts as the first coordinator for women's hockey.
Women's teams, frequently led by the women who had aged out of the youth leagues in the early 1970s, noticeably proliferate. The Minnesota Women's Hockey League is formed.
State titles are won by the Burnsville midgets and the Wayzata bantams.
Dr. Bob May recruits girls from many of the teams at the State Tournament to form the Minnesota Checkers, who place second in the nation at the 1978 National Invitational Girl's Hockey Tournament. The Checkers last into the mid 1980s.
- 1979:** A massive shift drops the number of girls and women's teams in the state precipitously, though boys hockey also sees a major decline. Some leagues in the east metro transition to girls' ringette. Some girls' teams, like Farmington, convert into women's teams.
The Checkers win their first National Invitational Girl's Hockey Tournament, and travel to Finland and Russia where they represent Minnesota on an international stage. Governor Quie declares December 12-19, 1979 "International Hockey Tournament Week" in Minnesota in the Checker's honor.
- 1980-1982:** The Minnesota Checkers win three more National titles, before ending their streak with a second-place finish in 1983.
- 1983:** The Minnesota Women's Hockey League holds their first All Stars Game.
- 1985:** Susan Farniok becomes the second woman to appear on a boys' high school varsity team in the state playing goalie for Delano.
- 1986** The newly renamed Minnesota Women's Hockey Association (formerly League) officially becomes AHAUSA affiliated after starting the process in 1983 under the guidance of Lynn Olson.
Ringette leagues are dominant in the east metro and an exchange tournament with leagues in Manitoba is established.

- 1987:** The Minnesota Thoroughbreds, another all-star travel team like the Minnesota Checkers, is formed. They will last until the early 2000s.
April 20-26, 1987 The first Women's Worlds Hockey Tournament is held in North York, Toronto, Ontario. Five Minnesota women—Deb Ahrens, Lori Bivans, Mary Brown, Laura Halldorson, and Cindy Thompson—play for Team USA. The team takes Bronze in the tournament.
Ringette becomes a staple of the new Star of the North games established by Governor Perpich.
- 1988:** Bloomington becomes the first Minnesota city to hold the AHAUS Girls'/Women's National Ice Hockey Championships, with Minnesota teams competing at every level, including a club team from the University of Minnesota, Duluth.
- 1989:** Lynn Olson is the first woman ever elected to the board of the AHAUS (Later USA Hockey).
- 1990:** First sanctioned IIHF Women's World Hockey Championship is held with Minnesota players Jeanine Sobeck, Shawna Davidson, and Kelley Owen playing for Team USA. Team USA takes the silver.
Jenny Hanley of Edina becomes the first girl to play in a boys' varsity state section final, but just misses making the state tournament.
- 1991:** Parents from five districts in the east metro, mostly in Dakota County, file a sex discrimination complaint with the State Department of Education in an attempt to make Ringette a varsity girls sport. The DoE affirms that the districts are in violation of Title IX. News of the suit creates a renewed push from the Minnesota Women's Hockey Association for hockey to become a varsity sport. South St. Paul, North St. Paul, Mendota Heights, and South Washington County vote to authorize girls' high school varsity ringette, and the first game is held between Park High School of Cottage Grove and Henry Sibley High School on December 3.
Jenny Hanley of Edina becomes the first women in the United States to play on a men's college varsity team when she joins the Division III Hamline University Pipers for the 1991-1992 season, playing and winning her first game on November 15.
AHAUS becomes USA Hockey.
- 1992:** Team USA takes silver in the IIHF Women's World Championships.
Minnesota hosts for the second time the Girl's and Women's National Tournament in Duluth.
- 1993:** Burnsville decides to survey their students before deciding on a girls' ice sport to add to bring the district into Title IX compliance, and in a 225 hockey-101 ringette-61 other-56 speed skating vote, the girls of Burnsville choose ice hockey. On March 18, 1993, the district board unanimously voted to make Burnsville High School the first school in Minnesota with girls' varsity hockey.
- 1993-1994:** Burnsville High School is joined by Anoka/Champlin Park, Elk River, Benilde-St. Margaret's, the Blake School, Blaine/Coon Rapids, St. Paul United and Wayzata for the first season of girls' high school varsity hockey.
Ringette continues in other districts, and the third Ringette World Championship is held in March of 1994 in South St. Paul and Rosemount.
Farmington's Amber Hegland becomes the first girl on a boys' high school varsity team to

play in the boys' state hockey tournament.

Team USA takes silver in the IIHF Women's World Championships.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn's Gender Equity in Indoor Ice Arenas bill passes, requiring women's teams to be equitably scheduled at arenas.

1994-1995: After a number of districts authorize hockey, the Minnesota State High School League formally sanctions high school varsity hockey, making Minnesota the first state in the country with sanctioned girls' varsity hockey.

The first state tournament is held on February 24-25, 1995. Apple Valley beats South St. Paul for the title, with Henry Sibley and Stillwater coming in third and fourth.

The Mighty Ducks law passes, appropriating \$2.8 million to help build 60-70 ice rinks around the state and ease ice time concerns for the girls.

1995-1996: Augsburg College offers collegiate women's varsity ice hockey for the first time in the state, though club teams have existed at most schools, including Augsburg, since the 1970s. Jill Pohtilla is named head coach.

Minnesota plays host for the third time for the Girl's and Women's National Tournament, in Bloomington.

The women's Three Nations Cup begins, between Canada, the US and Finland, as a preview of future Olympic hockey. Canada wins, with the US taking second.

1997-1998: Team USA takes silver in the IIHF Women's World Championships, but manages to take the gold in the Three Nations Cup.

The University of Minnesota makes women's ice hockey a varsity sport. Laura Halldorson is selected as head coach. They play their first game on November 11, 1997, beating Augsburg 8-0.

Women's Ice Hockey is a competition sport for the first time at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. The United States brings home the gold, with St. Paul's Alana Blahoski and Edina's Jenny Schmidgall-Potter on the medal winning team.

Alana Blahoski becomes the first Minnesota woman to sign a letter of intent to play professional women's hockey, but the startup league fails to find funding.

1999: Team USA takes silver in the IIHF Women's World Championships.

2000: The Minnesota Women's Hockey Association becomes the Women's Hockey Association of Minnesota (WHAM).

Minnesota Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) becomes Minnesota Hockey, though both names will continue to appear for several years.

The University of Minnesota wins the American Women's College Hockey Alliance National Championship, the last of three held prior to the NCAA sanctioning the sport. Augsburg takes second place in the Division III tournament.

Team USA takes silver in the IIHF Women's World Championships.

2001: The IIHF Women's World Championships are held in Minnesota. Team USA takes silver for the seventh time in their seventh meet up with Canada in the finals. St. Paul's Alana Blahoski, Eagan's Natalie Darwitz, Edina's Jenny Schmidgall-Potter, Brooklyn Park's Krissy Wendell-Pohl, Roseville's Winny Brodt-Brown, and Apple Valley's Annamarie Holmes play in their home state for Team USA.

Minnesota hosts the Girl's and Women's National Tournament for the fourth time, in Blaine

at the Schwan Super Rink.

The University of Minnesota-Duluth wins the first women's ice hockey NCAA National Championship. Over the next sixteen years UMD and the U of MN will combine to win nationals 11 times (UMD: 2001, 2002, 2003, 2008, 2010; U of MN: 2004, 2005, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016).

2002: In the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, Team USA comes home with the silver after losing to Canada. Eagan's Natalie Darwitz, Edina's Jenny Schmidgall-Potter, and Brooklyn Park's Krissy Wendell-Pohl are the Minnesotans on the team.

Ridder Arena, the first facility dedicated to women's hockey, opens at the University of Minnesota. The first game on the ice is U of MN v. St. Cloud State on October 19, 2002, which the U wins 8-0.

2004: The professional Minnesota Whitecaps are founded as a member of the Western Women's Hockey League.

Team USA takes silver in the IIHF Women's World Championships.

2005: In their ninth meet-up in nine finals for the IIHF Women's World Championships, the USA finally wins, taking home the Gold. Eagan's Natalie Darwitz, Edina's Jenny Schmidgall-Potter, Brooklyn Park's Krissy Wendell-Pohl, and Loretto's Megan Van Beuskom are the Minnesotans on the team.

2006: In the Torino Winter Olympics, Team USA comes home with the silver once again, after losing to Canada once again. Natalie Darwitz, Jenny Schmidgall-Potter, and Krissy Wendell-Pohl again make the team from Minnesota.

2007: Team USA takes silver in the IIHF Women's World Championships.

2008: In their eleventh meet-up in eleven IIHF Women's World Championships finals, the USA takes home the gold for the second ever time, with Eagan's Natalie Darwitz, Edina's Jenny Schmidgall-Potter, Warroad's Gigi Marvin, and Orono's Rachael Drazan the Minnesotan delegation on the team. The IIHF begins to offer world tournaments at the junior level of women's hockey for the first time.

2009: 12 straight IIHF Women's World Championship final appearances, 9 silver medals and 2 prior golds, Team USA takes gold for the third time, with the help of Minnesotans Natalie Darwitz, Jenny Schmidgall-Potter, Gigi Marvin, and Megan Van Beuskom.

2010: The Minnesota Whitecaps win the Clarkson cup in the Western Women's Hockey League. For the first time in international competition, Sweden upsets the US for a spot in the finals of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics. Team USA beats Finland for the bronze, with Minnesotans Natalie Darwitz, Jenny Schmidgall-Potter, and Gigi Marvin on the squad.

2011: After the WWHL was folded into the Canadian Women's Hockey League, the Minnesota Whitecaps become an independent team and take on college hockey teams in exhibition games for several years.

Team USA wins their 3rd straight, 4th overall gold beating Canada for the 13th time in the IIHF Women's World Championship. St. Cloud's Anne Schleper joins veterans Gigi Marvin and Jenny Schmidgall-Potter as the Minnesotans on the team.

Wisconsin born, but Minnesota claimed Karyn Bye-Dietz is the second US women to be inducted into the IIHF Hockey Hall of Fame.

- 2012:** Team USA takes silver in the IIHF Women's World Championships.
- 2013:** Team USA comes back for the gold in the 2013 IIHF Women's World Championship with Gigi Marvin, Anne Schleper, Roseville's Lee Stecklein, and Roseau's Sarah Erickson.
- 2014:** In Sochi, at the Winter Olympic Games, the final, once again between the US and Canada, goes into overtime for the first time in Olympics history. Team USA and Minnesotans Gigi Marvin, Anne Schleper, and Lee Stecklein wind up with the silver medal.
- 2015:** Team USA beats Canada for the gold medal in the IIHF Women's Worlds, with Anne Schleper, Lee Stecklein, Vadnais' Heights Hannah Brandt, St. Paul's Stephanie Anderson, and Plymouth's Dani Cameranesi on the team.
- 2016:** The USA beats Canada for the gold medal in the IIHF Women's Worlds, with just Lee Stecklein representing Minnesota on the team.
- 2017:** After a contract dispute, Team USA takes gold over Canada again in the IIHF Women's Worlds. Gigi Marvin, Lee Stecklein, Hannah Brandt, Plymouth's Kelly Pannek, and Andover's Maddie Rooney play from Minnesota.
- 2018:** In the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics, Team USA won gold in a shootout with Canada, with Minnesotan goalie Maddie Rooney making the save. Gigi Marvin, Lee Stecklein, Hannah Brandt, Dani Cameranesi, Sidney Morin, and Kelly Pannek also served on the squad.
- 2019:** The Minnesota Whitecaps join the National Women's Hockey League officially and win the Isobel Cup in their first season.
- For the first time ever, the IIHF Women's World final has no Canada, as Finland and the US compete for the gold. Team USA, with Minnesotans Lee Stecklein, Hannah Brandt, Dani Cameranesi, Kelly Pannek, Emma Polusny, and Sydney Brodt, takes home the gold for the fifth straight championship.
- The Canadian Women's Hockey League suddenly folds, and numerous professional women's players opt to form the Professional Women Hockey Players Association to push for a sustainable model for professional women's hockey.
- 2020:** The National Women's Hockey League rebrands as the Premier Hockey Federation, with the Minnesota Whitecaps continuing in the league.
- 2021:** Team USA takes silver in the IIHF Women's World Championships.
- 2022:** In both the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and the 2022 IIHF Women's World Championships, held in a single year for the first time, Team USA once again takes silver to Canada, with Lee Stecklein, Hannah Brandt, Kelley Pannek, Maddie Rooney, and Grace Zumwinkle on both squads. Dani Cameranesi played only in the Olympics and Rory Guilday and Taylor Heise both served on the IIHF squad.
- 2023:** The Walter Group acquires assets of the Premier Hockey Federation, folding that league, and the PWHPA enters into a collective bargaining agreement with what will become the newly formed Professional Women's Hockey League.
- After two years of losses to Canada following the Covid-19 pandemic, Team USA captures the gold in the IIHF Women's Worlds. Lee Stecklein, Kelly Pannek, Rory Guilday, Taylor Heise, and Gabbie Hughes all appear on Team USA
- 2024:** In the inaugural season of the Professional Women's Hockey League, PWHL Minnesota wins the first ever Walter Cup in the championship series against PWHL Boston.

Team USA takes silver in the IIHF Women's World Championships.

2025: In the second season of the PWHL, the newly named Minnesota Frost take the Walter Cup for the second time in the championship series against the Ottawa Charge.

Team USA, with Lee Stecklein, Kelly Pannek, Grace Zumwinkle, and Taylor Heise, beats Canada for the Gold in the IIHF Women's World Championships.

The first ever World Para Ice Hockey Women's World Championship is held in Dolny Kubin, Slovakia. Bemidji's Chloe Kirkpatrick was the sole Minnesotan on Team USA, who wins the gold in a 7-1 victory over Canada.

2026: Team USA, with Minnesotans Lee Stecklein, Rory Guilday, Kelly Pannek, Grace Zumwinkle, and Taylor Heise, wins gold in a nail-biting overtime 2-1 win over Canada in the 2026 Milano-Cortina Olympics.

Lakeville's Maggie Flaherty becomes the first woman in the PWHL to win three consecutive Walter Cups, scoring a goal in the final game for the Montréal Victoire.