SAINTS HOCKEY CLUB
WITH THE ROCHESTER COALITION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 13, 2026

Player Development First: Saints Hockey Club and the Rochester Coalition Are Building a Stronger Foundation for Youth Hockey in Rochester

A unique Tier I model for players from 9U to 13U, state-contending midget teams, and three charters working together to give every Rochester player a pathway forward.

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The youth hockey landscape in Rochester, New York, is getting stronger — and it is being built on a simple principle: player development first. Through the growing partnership between Saints Hockey Club and the Rochester Coalition, Rochester families now have a development model that supports players at each stage of their journey, led by an experienced staff and backed by three charters working together toward the same goal.

The partnership is just beginning. Saints Hockey Club and the Rochester Coalition are working behind the scenes on exciting new initiatives for families in both programs, with announcements to follow in the coming weeks and months.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT FIRST — AND RESULTS TO SHOW FOR IT

Over the past two years, the Saints Hockey Club program at 9U to 13U has gotten stronger and stronger, continuing to focus on player development first. That focus is already producing results the program prides itself on: after just its first year, the Saints had already moved two players on to Bishop Kearney — one to the Boys Selects program and one to the Girls Selects program.

At the midget age group, the Rochester Coalition continues to provide very strong teams contending for state tournaments at both the Tier I and Tier II levels. Over the last couple of years, ROCO has also won the Tier I National Championship at 18U and the Tier II National Championship at 18U — giving younger Saints players a clear view of the competitive hockey that lies ahead as they develop.

> **Player development first** is not a slogan for these programs. It is the standard behind the Saints' growth over two years, the Coalition's state-contending midget teams, and every decision the partnership makes next.

THE STAFF BEHIND THE MODEL

Mitch Major leads player development for Saints Hockey Club, setting the development focus that runs through the 9U to 13U program.

Matt Garver is an outstanding hockey director for both the Rochester Coalition and the Saints program, connecting the two programs under one development philosophy.

Mark Mobus handles day-to-day operations, keeping the program running for players and families throughout the season.

Together, Major, Garver, and Mobus make Saints Hockey Club a very unique Tier I model from 9U to 13U — and help make the Rochester Coalition one of the best youth hockey development programs in the country.

That work is strengthened by an extensive partnership with the **Academy**, run by **Greg Collins**, which helps support day-to-day player development for the Saints program and the Coalition as a whole.

THREE CHARTERS, MULTIPLE PATHWAYS

The foundation of this work is the relationship between three charters: the **Rochester Grizzlies**, **Rochester Youth Hockey**, and **Saints Hockey Club**. The three charters continue to build a strong foundation together, working to create multiple pathways for players at each stage of their development.

That pathway starts at the mite level. **Kelly Collins** runs and operates the Grizzly mite program, working in tandem with the Coalition mite program to help feed the Coalition umbrella — which includes Saints Hockey Club, the Rochester Coalition (ROCO) program, and the Grizzlies program — so players build a strong foundation from their earliest years in the game.

That collaboration is a strong example of how communities can work together to create player development models that help players achieve their goals — whether a player is taking his or her first steps at the mite level or competing for a state tournament at the midget level.

More is on the way. Saints Hockey Club and the Rochester Coalition are continuing to build for Saints and Coalition families alike, and families can expect further announcements in the coming weeks and months as that work is released.

About Saints Hockey Club: Saints Hockey Club is a Tier I youth hockey program in Rochester, New York, fielding teams from 9U to 13U. Built on a player-development-first approach, the program has grown stronger over its first two years and has already moved two players on to Bishop Kearney — one to the Boys Selects program and one to the Girls Selects program.

About the Rochester Coalition: The Rochester Coalition brings together the Rochester Grizzlies, Rochester Youth Hockey, and Saints Hockey Club. The Coalition fields very strong midget teams contending for state tournaments at both the Tier I and Tier II levels, and over the last couple of years has won the Tier I National Championship at 18U and the Tier II National Championship at 18U, as the three charters work together to create multiple pathways for players at each stage of development.

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