



MEDIA GUIDE

2026/27

PARTICIPATING TEAMS 2026/27

	COUNTRY	LEAGUE	CHL NAME	TV NAME	ABBREVIATION	PAGE	
SHAREHOLDER LEAGUES		AUT	ICE	Graz99ers	Graz	GRZ	019
		AUT	ICE	KAC Klagenfurt	Klagenfurt	KAC	022
		AUT	ICE	Red Bull Salzburg	Salzburg	RBS	025
		CZE	Extraliga	Dynamo Pardubice	Pardubice	PAR	028
		CZE	Extraliga	HC Pilsen	Pilsen	PLZ	031
		CZE	Extraliga	Bílí Tygři Liberec	Liberec	LIB	034
		FIN	Liiga	Tappara Tampere	Tappara	TAP	037
		FIN	Liiga	KooKoo Kouvola	Kouvola	KOO	040
		FIN	Liiga	SaiPa Lappeenranta	Saipa	SAI	042
		GER	DEL	Eisbären Berlin	Berlin	BER	045
		GER	DEL	Adler Mannheim	Mannheim	MAN	048
		GER	DEL	Kölner Haie	Köln	KOL	051
		SUI	NL	Fribourg-Gottéron	Fribourg	FRI	054
		SUI	NL	HC Davos	Davos	HCD	056
		SUI	NL	Genève-Servette	Genève	GEN	058
		SWE	SHL	Frölunda Gothenburg	Frölunda	FHC	061
		SWE	SHL	Skellefteå AIK	Skellefteå	SKE	064
		SWE	SHL	Växjö Lakers	Växjö	VLH	067
		SWE	SHL	Rögle Ängelholm	Rögle	RBK	070
CHALLENGER LEAGUES		DEN	Metal Ligaen	Herning Blue Fox	Herning	HBF	073
		FRA	Ligue Magnus	Bordeaux Boxers	Bordeaux	BOR	075
		NOR	Elitehockey Ligaen	Storhamar Hamar	Storhamar	STO	078
		POL	Hokej Liga	GKS Tychy	Tychy	TYC	081
		SVK	Extraliga	HK Nitra	Nitra	NIT	084



CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



Website:

www.chl.hockey



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/championshockeyleague



X:

www.x.com/championshockey



Instagram:

www.instagram.com/championshockey



YouTube:

www.youtube.com/championshockeyleague



TikTok:

[@championshockeyleague](https://www.tiktok.com/@championshockeyleague)



LinkedIn:

www.linkedin.com/company/championshockeyleague



App:

Champions Hockey League (available for iOS & Android)



Hashtags:

[#championsgobeyond](#), [#CHLDraw](#), [#CHLFinal](#), [#CHLpredictor](#)



Game related hashtags:

e.g. [#TAPvsBEL](#)

CHL BOARD

President

Jörgen Lindgren (SWE), President of the Champions Hockey League

Members

Henrik Bach Nielsen (DEN), IIHF Regional Vice-President Europe & Africa and President of the Danish Ice Hockey Association

Patrick Lengwiler (SUI), Former CEO of EV Zug

Miha Butara (SLO), President of Hockey Club Olimpija Ljubljana and Vice President of the Slovenian Ice Hockey Federation

Veli-Pekka Marin (FIN), CEO and Co-Founder of the Sports Tech company Uplause and Vice-Chairman of TPS Turku

CHL OFFICE

Gubelstrasse 24, 6300 Zug, Switzerland

E-Mail: office@CHL.hockey

Phone number: +41 44 562 27 77

Director of Operations & Sport: Fadri Holinger

Communication & Digital Media Manager: David Nolte

Marketing & Events Coordinator: Jelle van Waardenburg

Sport Coordinator: Remo Elsinger

Communication & Digital Media Coordinator: Anouk Brauchli

Marketing & Events: Andreas Kötter

Multimedia Producer: Nico Meier

Back Office: Jana Probst

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: David Nolte

E-Mail: david@CHL.hockey

Phone number: +41 44 562 27 76

CHL MEDIA LIST

Sign up [here](#) if you would like to subscribe to our Media Releases.





ACCREDITATION TO CHL GAMES

Authorised media can request accreditation to Champions Hockey League games. This is subject to availability and local accreditation regulations. Media personnel (other than official broadcasters) should apply to the home club for accreditation to CHL games. More information about the procedures at the various clubs can be found on the respective team's page in this Media Guide.

Exception: An alternative accreditation system may be implemented for the CHL Final.

ACCESS TO CHL MEDIA REPORTS

The CHL offers media personnel access to the "CHL Media Reports" platform, where PDF versions of line-ups and game sheets for all CHL games can be accessed in one place. Access to the password-protected platform must be received via e-mail to office@CHL.hockey.

DOWNLOAD OFFICIAL LOGOS

Official Champions Hockey League logos can be downloaded here:

www.chl.hockey/en/media

Please note that the Champions Hockey League logo is protected by international laws and conventions on trademarks, copyrights and intellectual property. Any uses or reproductions of such elements (including partial uses or adaptations thereof) are strictly reserved to CHL and its licensed partners and affiliates. Any use other than for editorial coverage of CHL games must be approved by the CHL.

Official logos of participating clubs can be downloaded here:
www.chl.hockey/en/media

Please note that the club logos may be protected by international laws and conventions on trademarks, copyrights and intellectual property. Any uses or reproductions of such elements (including partial uses or adaptations thereof) are strictly reserved to the clubs and their licensed partners and affiliates. Any use other than for editorial coverage of CHL games must be approved by the clubs.

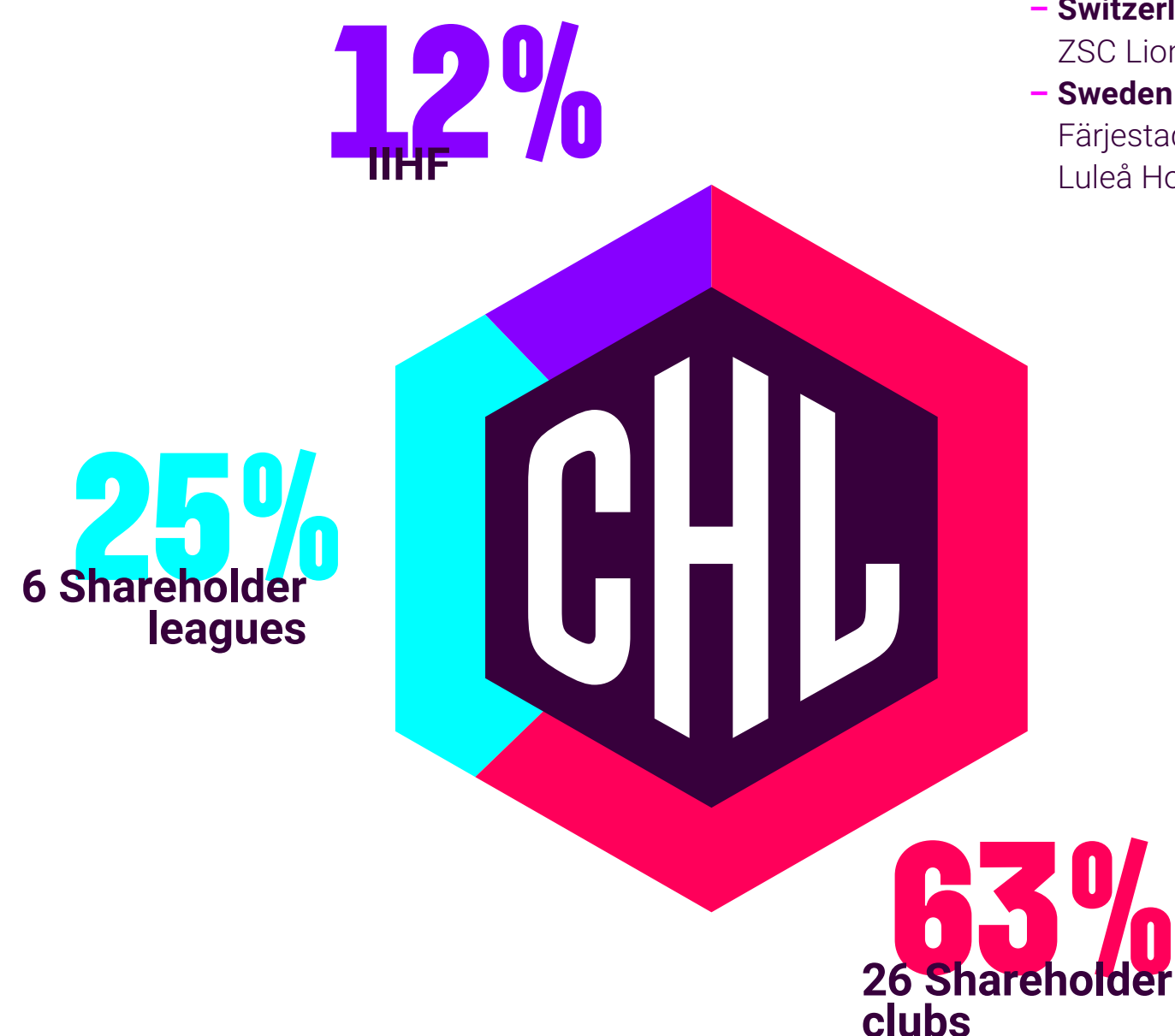


ABOUT THE CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE

CHL COMPANY INFO

The Champions Hockey League AG (CHL) is a company established in 2013 in Switzerland that holds all rights of the Champions Hockey League and organises the competition. The CHL is an AG (Aktiengesellschaft = Ltd.) registered in Zug under Swiss Law. As such, the CHL is owned by shareholders and governed by a board that is elected by the CHL General Meeting, the league's legislative body.

The shareholding structure of the company is as follows:



CHL SHAREHOLDERS

The Champions Hockey League was founded by 26 Shareholder Clubs, 6 Shareholder Leagues and the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF). These are the current 26 Shareholder Clubs representing the 6 Shareholder Leagues:

- **Austria (ICE):** Red Bull Salzburg, Vienna Capitals
- **Czechia (Extraliga):** Bílí Tygři Liberec, Dynamo Pardubice, Sparta Prague, Vítkovice Ridera
- **Finland (Liiga):** IFK Helsinki, JYP Jyväskylä, KalPa Kuopio, Kärpät Oulu, Tappara Tampere, TPS Turku
- **Germany (DEL):** Adler Mannheim, Augsburger Panther, Eisbären Berlin, ERC Ingolstadt
- **Switzerland (NL):** EV Zug, Fribourg-Gottéron, SC Bern, ZSC Lions Zurich
- **Sweden (SHL):** Djurgården Stockholm, Frölunda Gothenburg, Färjestad Karlstad, HV71 Jönköping, Linköpings HC, Luleå Hockey

CHL HISTORY IN A NUTSHELL

- Launched in 2014/15
- 11 successfully completed seasons
- 1399 games played
- 106 clubs involved
- 14 leagues and 20 countries involved
- 7 different Champions from 3 countries to date

Read more about CHL History on www.chl.hockey/en/chl-history

THE CHL BRAND

- **THE VISION** To be Europe's greatest Hockey Competition.
- **THE MISSION** Give fans Europe's most exciting hockey experience, give its stars the greatest platform on which to perform.
- **PROPOSITION** Champions go beyond.
- **BRAND VALUES** European | Brave | Human | United | Unconventional



TEAM CONTRIBUTION

BREAKDOWN 2026/27

Team contribution for participating teams
The prize money distribution for the 2026/27 CHL season is as follows:

- Regular Season: 90,000 Euro
- Round of 16: 30,000 Euro
- Quarter-Finals: 30,000 Euro
- Semi-Finals: 30,000 Euro
- Runners-Up: 50,000 Euro
- Champions: 100,000 Euro

In total, an amount of 3.2 million Euro will be distributed to the participating teams. The CHL Champions will collect a total of 280,000 Euro.

-  **Champions**
-  **Finalists**
-  **Semi-Finals**
-  **Quarter-Finals**
-  **Round of 16**
-  **Regular Season**

CURRENCY = EURO

Team Contribution is subject to approval by the CHL Board every season.



COUNTRY	BROADCASTER
 Austria	ORF SporteuropeTV
      	Arenasport
 Bulgaria	A1
 Canada	TSN
  	Sport 1/2 (AMC)
 Denmark	Viaplay
 Finland	
 Norway	
 Sweden	
 	Sporteurope TV
 Germany	Sporteurope TV (all games) Magenta (selection of games)
	ProSiebenSat1 channels (for Semi-Finals/Final if GER team is participating)
 Israel	Sport 1/2 (Charlton)
 Poland	Polsat
 Switzerland	MySports (all games)
	SRG (for Semi-Finals/Final if SUI team is participating)
 Taiwan	Elta
 Ukraine	Maincast
Other territories	IIHF.TV (unless a Broadcasting contract is signed)

*as per 10 June 2026. You can find the latest overview [here](#).



CHAMPIONS

2026
FRÖLUNDA GÖTEBURG



2025
ZSC LIONS ZÜRICH



2024
GENÈVE-SERVETTE



2023
TAPPARA TAMPERE



2022
RÖGLE ÄNGELHOLM



2020
FRÖLUNDA GÖTEBURG



2019
FRÖLUNDA GÖTEBURG



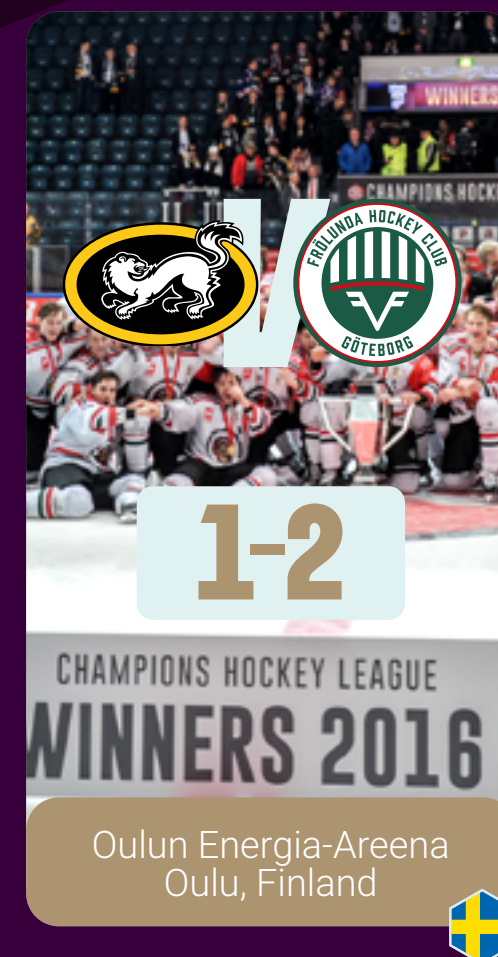
2018
JYP JYVÄSKYLÄ



2017
FRÖLUNDA GÖTEBURG



2016
FRÖLUNDA GÖTEBURG



2015
LULEÅ HOCKEY



PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

MAX FRIBERG



2026



Position: Forward
Nationality: Sweden
Birthday: 20.11.1992

13

Games played

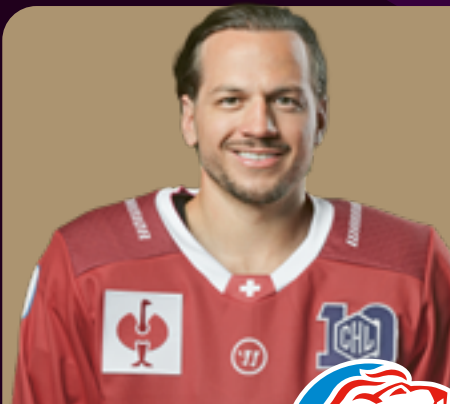
12

Points

+10

Plus/Minus

SVEN ANDRIGHETTO



2025



Position: Forward
Nationality: Switzerland
Birthday: 21.03.1993

12

Games played

22

Points

+13

Plus/Minus

SAMI VATANEN



2024



Position: Defenceman
Nationality: Finland
Birthday: 03.06.1991

13

Games played

12

Points

+7

Plus/Minus

CHRISTIAN HELJANKO



2023



Position: Goaltender
Nationality: Finland
Birthday: 02.04.1997

10

Games played

1.33

Goals Against

95%

Save %

FREDERIK TIFFELS



2022



Position: Forward
Nationality: Germany
Birthday: 20.05.1995

10

Games played

14

Points

+9

Plus/Minus

RYAN LASCH



2020



Position: Forward
Nationality: USA
Birthday: 22.01.1987

13

Games played

22

Points

+5

Plus/Minus

TREVOR PARKES



2019



Position: Forward
Nationality: Canada
Birthday: 13.05.1991

9

Games played

12

Points

+5

Plus/Minus

ŠIMON HRUBEC



2018



Position: Goaltender
Nationality: Czechia
Birthday: 30.06.1991

10

Games played

1.07

Goals Against

96%

Save%

JOEL LUNDQVIST



2017



Position: Forward
Nationality: Sweden
Birthday: 02.09.1982

13

Games played

14

Points

+9

Plus/Minus

RYAN LASCH



2016



Position: Forward
Nationality: USA
Birthday: 22.01.1987

13

Games played

16

Points

+6

Plus/Minus

MATHIS OLIMB



2015



Position: Forward
Nationality: Norway
Birthday: 01.02.1986

13

Games played

26

Points

+12

Plus/Minus

PLAYERS CHL TOP SCORERS

GRÉGORV HOFMANN



2026

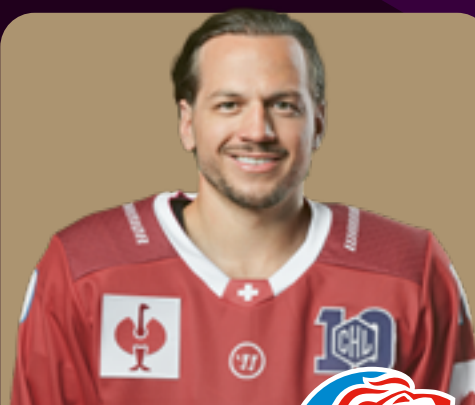
13
POINTS

6
GOALS

7
ASSISTS



SVEN ANDRIGHETTO



2025

22
POINTS

10
GOALS

12
ASSISTS



DOMINIK LAKATOŠ



2024

12
POINTS

7
GOALS

5
ASSISTS



RYAN LASCH



2023

22
POINTS

7
GOALS

15
ASSISTS



RYAN LASCH



2022

18
POINTS

4
GOALS

14
ASSISTS



RYAN LASCH



2020

22
POINTS

6
GOALS

16
ASSISTS



RYAN LASCH



2019

22
POINTS

5
GOALS

17
ASSISTS



FREDRIK PETTERSSON



2018

16
POINTS

9
GOALS

7
ASSISTS



CASEY WELLMAN



2017

14
POINTS

8
GOALS

6
ASSISTS



RYAN LASCH



2016

16
POINTS

7
GOALS

9
ASSISTS



MATHIS OLIMB



2015

26
POINTS

8
GOALS

18
ASSISTS



ALL-TIME TRIVA

7 DIFFERENT
CHAMPIONS

3 DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES



147
GAMEDAYS

1,399
GAMES



11 SEASONS

14 LEAGUES

20
COUNTRIES



103
TEAMS



5,355
PLAYERS IN
TEAMS' LINE-UPS



SPORT IN BRIEF

COMPETITION FORMAT

The 2026/27 edition of the Champions Hockey League will feature 24 participating teams. The structure allows the CHL to run a balanced, attractive and entertaining competition.

Each team is drawn against six opponents by drawing two opponents from each of the other three pots. Teams play one team per pot at home and the other one away. The result of each game will combine to make up the overall standings (1st to 24th). Three points are awarded for a win, should a game go to overtime or a shootout, teams share the points 2-1. The teams are ranked in overall standings from 1 to 24 instead of groups.

The 16 best-ranked teams will advance to the Playoffs where the one combined Regular Season ranking will determine their match-ups (1st vs 16th, 2nd vs 15th etc.). Hence, every single point counts right up to the very last Game Day - either to make it to the Playoffs or to get into a better position for the knock-out bracket.

With 16 teams in the Playoffs, four rounds are required to determine the new European Club Champions. The first three rounds are all two-game, home-and-away, aggregate-scoring series while the CHL Final is decided in one ultimate game.

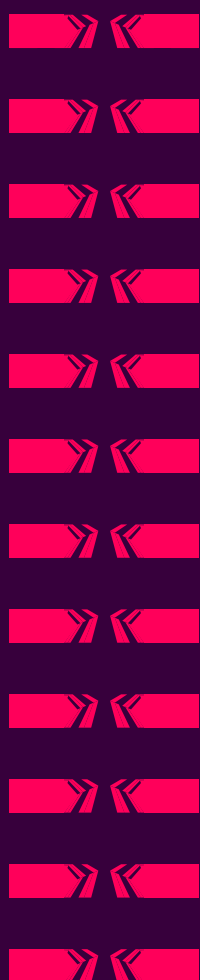
EXPLAINER VIDEO



WHAT ARE THE MAIN BENEFITS?

- More opportunities for fans to see Europe's top teams playing each other earlier in the competition.
- Each and every game counts. Teams will battle for every single point to help them rise the ranks of the overall standings right up to the very last Game Day – either to make it to the Playoffs or to get into a better position for the knock-out bracket.
- Clubs and players will get the opportunity to prove themselves against a wider range of top-level opponents.

REGULAR SEASON

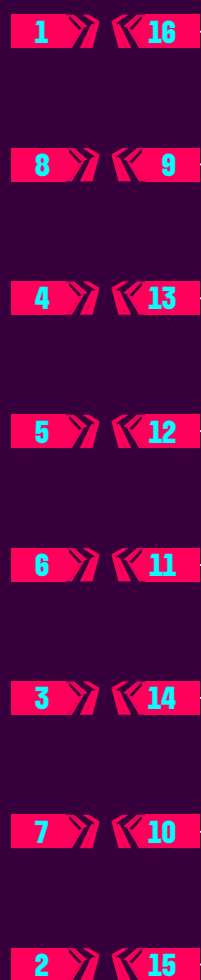


24 TEAMS/72 GAMES
3 home & away games each
6 different opponents per team

RANK	TEAM	POINTS
1	CHL Champions	18
2	Sweden 1	17
3	Switzerland 1	16
4	Finland 1	15
5	Czechia 2	14
6	Finland 2	13
7	Sweden 2	13
8	Germany 2	13
9	Czechia 3	12
10	Germany 1	11
11	Czechia 1	11
12	Finland 3	10
13	Switzerland 2	9
14	Sweden 3	8
15	Austria/ICE 1	7
16	Germany 3	7
17	Switzerland 3	6
18	Austria/ICE 2	4
19	Challenger League 1	4
20	Challenger League 2	3
21	Austria/ICE 3	3
22	Challenger League 3	1
23	Challenger League 4	1
24	Challenger League 5	0

QUALIFIED FOR ROUND OF 16

ROUND OF 16



16 TEAMS / 16 GAMES
home and away

QUARTER-FINALS



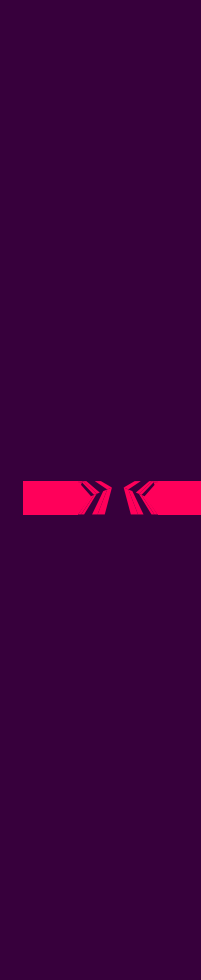
8 TEAMS / 8 GAMES
home and away

SEMI-FINALS



4 TEAMS / 4 GAMES
home and away

FINAL



2 TEAMS / 1 GAME

QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

The six Shareholder Leagues take 18 places, equally split to three representatives each. Teams qualify in their domestic leagues on sporting merits alone according to the following criteria:

1. National Champions
2. Regular Season Winners
3. Regular Season Runners-Up
4. Regular Season Third-Placed
5. Regular Season Fourth-Placed

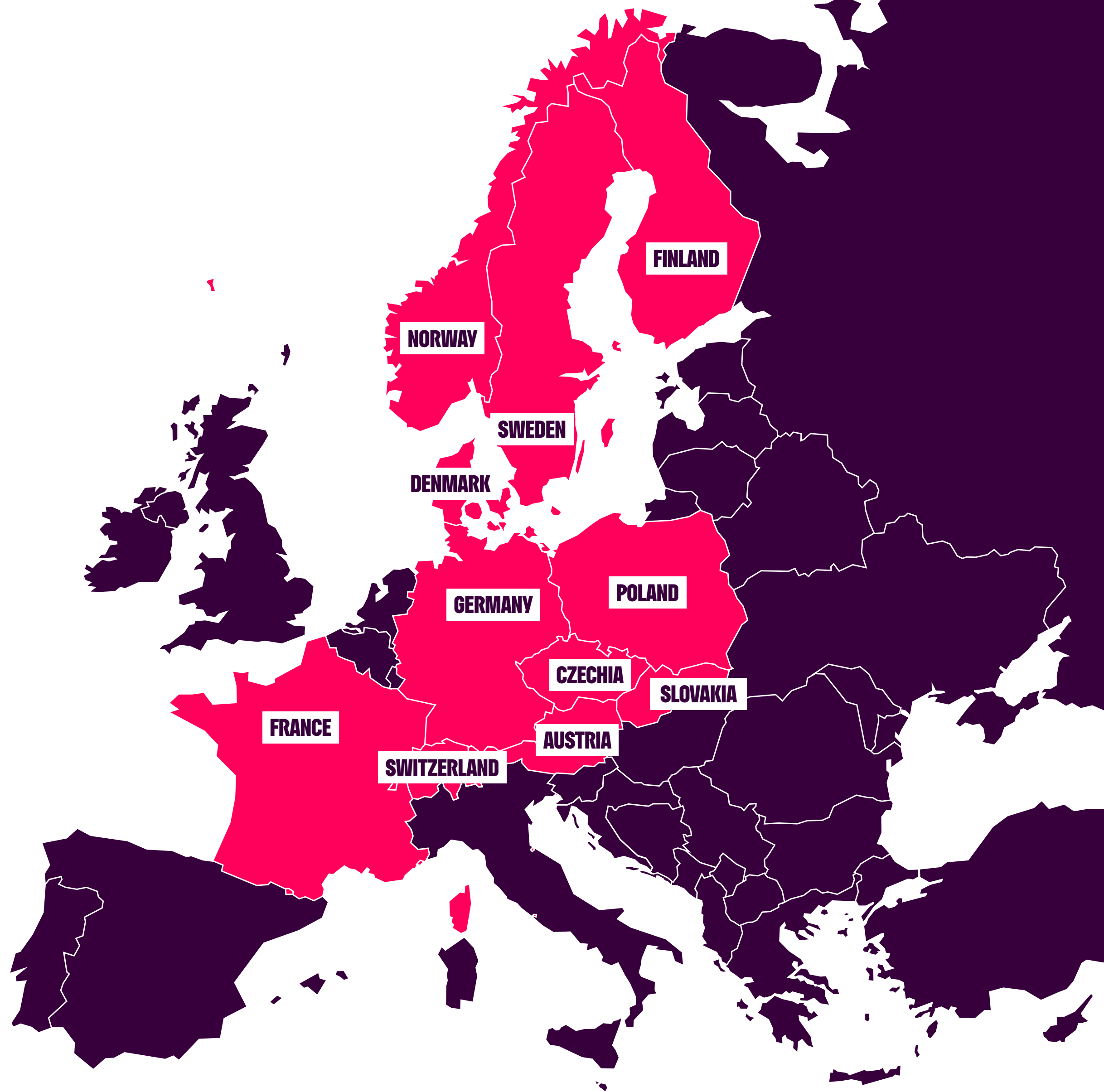
The reigning CHL Champions are automatically qualified for the next CHL season, which grants an extra qualification place to their league. The number of participating countries is set at 11 and therefore five Wild Card teams from Challenger Leagues will be part of the CHL. The allocation of Wild Cards is subject to CHL Board approval for each season.

PARTICIPATING LEAGUES

The 2026/27 season will take place with the following participating leagues:

- **Shareholder Leagues:** Austria (ICE), Czechia, Finland, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland.
- **Challenger Leagues*:** Denmark, France, Norway, Poland and Slovakia.

* The allocation of Wild Cards to Challenger Leagues is subject to CHL Board approval for each season.



CHALLENGE 2026/27

Between September and February, a total of 101 games will be played over the course of 13 Game Days:

REGULAR SEASON

3 SEPTEMBER – 14 OCTOBER 2026

Game Day 1: 3/4 September 2026
Game Day 2: 5/6 September 2026
Game Day 3: 10/11 September 2026
Game Day 4: 12/13 September 2026
Game Day 5: 6/7 October 2026
Game Day 6: 13/14 October 2026

ROUND OF 16

10 – 18 NOVEMBER 2026

First Game: 10/11 November 2026
Return Game: 17/18 November 2026

QUARTER-FINALS

2 – 16 DECEMBER 2026

First Game: 1/2 December 2026
Return Game: 15 December 2026

SEMI-FINALS

13 – 21 JANUARY 2027

First Game: 12/13 January 2027
Return Game: 19/20 January 2027

FINAL

23 FEBRUARY 2027

Alternative dates may apply.

CHL-SPECIFIC ON-ICE RULES

The Champions Hockey League introduced three on-ice rule innovations in the 2023/24 Season, positioning itself as a pioneering force in international ice hockey. For the 2025/26 Season, an additional rule deviation from the official IIHF Rule Book was introduced with the “No Return” rule in overtime.

The following four simple, but efficient changes were introduced in the CHL, with the goal of adding extra excitement to the game without undermining credibility:

- Team playing short-handed (no relief): All minor penalties are treated in the same manner as a major penalty. A team which caused a minor penalty will remain shorthanded even if the opposing team score a goal.
- Serving delayed penalties: All minor penalties signalled will be served even if a goal is scored.
- Short-handed team scored (relief): If a shorthanded team score, the minor penalty against will end.
- “No Return” Rule: During 3-on-3 overtime, the team in control of the puck in the attacking zone may not retreat into the neutral zone.

The rules are non-intrusive and easy to understand for everyone. Also, since the CHL is a pan-European competition which teams play in addition to their domestic leagues, it was important to create rules that can be implemented without significant effort regarding training and education of game officials, teams and other relevant parties.

THE 2026/27 FIELD OF COMPETITORS CONSISTS OF:

- The Champions Hockey League winners
- 11 national champions
- 2 regular season winners
- 4 regular season runners-up
- 5 regular season third-placed teams
- 1 regular season fourth-placed team



CHAMPIONS

OF ALL PARTICIPATING LEAGUES



FRÖLUNDA GOTHENBURG
CHL Champions



GRAZ99ERS
Austria/ICE



DYNAMO PARDUBICE
Czechia



TAPPARA TAMPERE
Finland



EISBÄREN BERLIN
Germany



SKELLEFTÅ AIF
Sweden



FRIBOURG-GOTTÉRON
Switzerland



HERNING BLUE FOX
Denmark



BORDEAUX BOXERS
France



STORHAMAR HAMAR
Norway



GKS TYCHY
Poland



HK NITRA
Slovakia



CHL DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM

The CHL Disciplinary System is based on three tiers.

GENERAL DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

REPUTATIONAL MATTERS

**3RD
INSTANCE**

Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS)

**2ND
INSTANCE****2ND
INSTANCE**

Justice Board

**1ST
INSTANCE****1ST
INSTANCE**

Sport Disciplinary Panel

CHL Office Disciplinary Action

Fine Catalogue

The core of the CHL Disciplinary System is the Sport Disciplinary Panel. It is an independent body appointed by the CHL to control the sport disciplinary process and player safety in the Champions Hockey League.

WHAT IS REVIEWED?

- All major penalties
- All game misconducts
- All abuse of officials penalties
- All serious situations, regardless of if a penalty was called

Additionally, the CHL Sport Disciplinary Panel may review any other incident referred to it by the Game Supervisor, or any incident that the Sport Disciplinary Panel views as requiring supplementary jurisdiction.

HOW DOES THE PROCEDURE WORK?

1. A disciplinary procedure is opened by the Chairman or a Member of the Sport Disciplinary Panel or the CHL Director of Operations and Sport.
2. The Chairman determines that a supplementary jurisdiction case exists.
3. The Chairman notifies the members of the Sport Disciplinary Panel and provides all relevant evidence/reports (incl. video footage & written comments) by 13:00 CET/CEST the day after the game.
4. The Sport Disciplinary Panel Chairman makes a final decision based on received feedback from Sport Disciplinary Panel members and the CHL Director of Operations & Sport notifies the participating club no less than four hours before their next CHL game.
5. Ideally, the final decision shall be communicated towards the accused club/player within 24 hours of the incident occurring.

WHO IS IN CHARGE?

The Chairman of the Sport Disciplinary Panel is Lyle Seitz, who is appointed by the CHL Board. He, in cooperation with CHL Director of Operations & Sport Fadri Holinger, is in charge of reviewing incidents, aided by a panel of six members who are highly experienced and well versed with ice hockey, its rules and procedures. All six CHL Shareholder Leagues are represented in the Sport Disciplinary Panel. The members are not bound by any restrictions and are not accountable to anyone for their decisions. Furthermore, the members are known to the CHL Board and the 24 participating clubs but not named in public.

WHERE ARE THE GAMES REVIEWED?

On Game Days, the CHL operates its own Situation Room in cooperation with the German Ice Hockey League (DEL) and their DEL Game Center in Neuss (GER). Livestreams of all CHL games are transmitted to the CHL Situation Room, where all games are monitored live and every incident on the ice is logged by a dedicated person. In addition, a Hockey Operations and Referee Supervisor are assigned for each Game Day. Any notable event on the ice, with or without a call, is tracked, and if deemed worthy of Disciplinary Review, sent to the Sport Disciplinary Panel.

CAN CLUBS APPEAL?

Yes, clubs can appeal a suspension or a decision by the Sport Disciplinary Panel if the suspension exceeds three (3) games or a €15,000 fine. In such cases, an appeal to the CHL Justice Board is mandatory prior to an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The appeal must be submitted in writing within 48 hours of receiving the Sport Disciplinary Panel's decision.

For more information about the CHL Sport Disciplinary Panel read [here](#).



PARTICIPATING TEAMS

2026/27



GRAZ99ERS



AUSTRIA

FOUNDED

1999

GLORY TIMES

ICE titles: 1 – 2026

Austrian titles: 2 – 2000, 2026

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2019/20: Group Stage (4th Group H)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

National Champion

ARENA INFO

Name: Merkur Eisstadion Graz-Liebenau

Address: Zoisweg 15, 8041 Graz, Austria

Capacity: 4,126

Year opened: 1966 - renovation in 2016

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Website:

www.99ers.at

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/graz99ers

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/graz99ersofficial

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@graz99ers

TikTok:

www.tiktok.com/@graz99ersofficial

X:

x.com/Graz99ers

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Herbert Jerich

CEO/General Manager: Bernd Vollmann

Sport Director: Philipp Pinter

Head Coach: Daniel Lacroix

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Gerald Pototschnig

E-Mail: gerald.pototschnig@99ers.at

Phone number: +43 664 88 24 19 67

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Requests for accreditation by email please to

gerald.pototschnig@99ers.at and

patrick.assigal@99ers.at

TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Maxime Lagacé: Contracts with 5 NHL organisations, Maxime Lagacé featured on a Stanley Cup finals roster, played 260 AHL games, 20 NHL games and 51 SHL games before arriving in Graz99ers.

Frank Hora: Born in Cheektowaga, USA, Frank Hora is an excellent two-way defenceman. Part of the Graz99ers organisation since 2024/25, Hora has played 89 games in Austria's ICE Hockey League (16 goals, 54 points), 302 ECHL games, 259 OHL games, 75 AHL games and 54 games for HC Banska Bystrica in Slovakia.

Paul Huber: After 10 years with the Red Bull organisation (2015 to 2020 in the Red Bull Hockey Academy), Huber returned to his home town Graz in 2024. Huber has played 354 games in the ICE (75 goals, 135 points), 18 CHL games and 85 games for the Austrian national team.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Clay Hanus, D, Rapid City Rush, (ECHL)

David Maier, D, EC KAC, (ICE)

Jonas Dobnig, FW, HC Innsbruck, (ICE)

Maximilian Kirchbner, D, Red Bull Hockey Juniors, (AlpsHL)

Mai Crnkič, FW, Kitzbüheler EC, (AlpsHL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Dan Lacroix's comments about the team's goals in the CHL:

"The Champions Hockey League gives us the chance to compete against the best in Europe. It's an opportunity to develop early in the season and play at our highest possible level as early as possible. Our young guys can showcase their skills, energy and enthusiasm here on the biggest stage. Our entire club, our organization and the city of Graz are in the spotlight. It's a first for our team in a long time and also a first for me. It's definitely going to be a very exciting experience!"

Sport Director Philipp Pinter's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Eisbären Berlin: "An iconic brand that speaks for itself. They have shaped German ice hockey in recent years. Their arenas and all the history there is going to be something very special for us."

Fribourg-Gottéron: "Champions of what is arguably the best league right now. We just saw at the IIHF World Championship how exciting and fast-paced Swiss hockey is. A home game we can really look forward to!"

Bordeaux Boxers: "A big unknown for us. I know their head coach, Olivier Dimet, from the national youth team. We'll just have to wait and see! Graz doesn't get to see French teams all that often."

Bílí Tygři Liberec: "Rich hockey culture, a beautiful arena and always a large crowd. A typical Czech team – technically superb and physically strong. An extremely tough opponent on the road."

SaiPa Lappeenranta: "They're currently undergoing a cultural shift within the club and experiencing a huge upswing. There are a lot of talented young Finnish players. It's not every day we get to see a team from the country of the world champions!"

Storhamar Hamar: "A real institution in Norwegian hockey. They compete for the title every year and they have an unusually large rink. It'll be a real challenge for us in terms of skating, too."

TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Zintis Zusevics: All-time most games played for Graz (461 games)

Greg Day: Most points (282 points)

Warren Norris: Most goals (125 goals)

Michael Schiechl

CLUB TRIVIA

Club's name: refers to its founding date 9.9.1999

Mascot: Pucky

Nicknames of the arena: Bunker, Puckingham Palace

Tradition: for many years the players danced a “Graz99ers Waltz” on the ice after winning games

Special project: on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the club, a tram in Graz was designed in the colours of the Graz99ers

Other sections: Graz99ers Huskies (Women Leagues), Graz-99ers Para Eishockey (Paralympic Sport), Graz99ers Juniors, Hockey Academy Styria (Youth Leagues)

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Spielbeginn

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Eishockeyschläger / short: Schläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Thomas Vanek – an NHL legend and member of the IIHF Hall of Fame, Vanek played 1,098 NHL games, 394 goals and scored 825 points. He grew up in Graz and his family still lives here. During the NHL Lockdown in October 2012, Vanek returned to the Graz-99ers for 11 games.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Environmental Project

Starting with the 2021/22 season, the Graz99ers became a first mover in professional ice hockey to take an active stand for climate protection by hosting carbon-neutral home game days.



KAC
KLAGENFURT



FOUNDED

1909

GLORY TIMES

ICE titles: 6 – 2001, 2004, 2009, 2013, 2019, 2021

Austrian titles: 32 – 1934, 1935, 1952, 1955, 1960, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1991, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2009, 2013, 2019, 2021

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2025/26: Regular Season (18th place)

2024/25: Regular Season (20th place)

2021/22: Round of 16

2019/20: Group Stage (3rd in Group A)

2017/18: Group Stage (3rd in Group H)

2015/16: Group Stage (3rd Group H)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Runners-Up

ARENA INFO

Name: Heidi Horten-Arena

Address: Messeplatz 3, 9020 Klagenfurt, Austria

Capacity: 4,409

Year opened: 2022

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.kac.at

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/eckac

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/rotjacken

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@ec-kacoffiziell

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Johannes Schwaiger

CEO: Oliver Pilloni

Sport Director: Oliver Pilloni

Head Coach: Kirk Furey

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Hannes Biedermann

E-Mail: hannes.biedermann@kac.at

Phone number: +43 676 88990 400

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

The entire accreditation process is conducted via the online press room known from the domestic ICE Hockey League. Initial registration for the platform: desk.pressroom.page/#signup-init

Accreditation requests: desk.pressroom.page/@kac

For easier access to the respective links, visit medien.kac.at

Accreditation requests can be placed up to 48 hours before the opening face-off of a game. Digital accreditations will be sent out via e-mail exactly 48 hours before the opening faceoff of a game. The digital accreditation (a PDF file, can be scanned from both, a printout or the display of a mobile device) grants access to the rink and all media facilities.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Nick Petersen: The Canadian forward is the first import player in KAC history to dress for the club in a ninth season after setting an all-time club record for non-Austrian players by scoring 151 league goals in the red and white jersey. Furthermore, Nick Petersen has also been outstanding on the international stage: in KAC's CHL history, no player has scored more goals, assists or points for the club than him.

Clemens Unterweger: The defenceman has represented Austria in six IIHF World Championships and developed into one of the main pillars of the KAC defence since joining the club in 2018. Clemens Unterweger concluded each of his eight seasons with the club with a positive plus/minus rating and has lined up for a total of 449 league games for KAC, picking up 187 points.

Thomas Hundertpfund: Born in Klagenfurt and developed in the KAC junior program, veteran Thomas Hundertpfund had only one season in his career (2013/14) in which he did not sport the red and white jersey. The team captain's 2025/26 season was cut short by a major injury, however standing at 959 games played, he's on track to become the first player in KAC history to play more than 1.000 league games for his hometown club.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Adam Göransson, D, Rögle Ängelholm (SHL)

William MacKinnon, D, Toledo Walleye (ECHL)

Jan Drozg, F, Olimpija Ljubljana (ICE)

Jacob Hudson, F, Maine Mariners (ECHL)

Travis St. Dennis, F, Red Bull Salzburg (ICE)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Kirk Furey's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We'll play in the Champions Hockey League for the third consecutive season this year. After missing the CHL Playoffs on the last two occasions, our goal is to finish in the Top 16 and finally make it to the knock-out stage."

Head Coach Kirk Furey's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Bordeaux Boxers: "They won their first French championship this spring and will play in the CHL for the first time ever, therefore, we expect a team in euphoria and good spirits. They had a strong playoff run earlier this year, so it's obvious that they know how to be successful in big games."

Fribourg-Gottéron: "We played Fribourg in the CHL two years ago and we know that they are a fast team of high quality. Now that they've also won the Swiss championship for the first time in their history, there's no doubt that we'll face an excellent and tough opponent in them."

Storhamar Hamar: "Storhamar have been a dominant force in Norwegian hockey throughout the last couple of years and have also had success in their previous CHL participations. We expect to play an experienced group that is hard and tough."

Kölner Haie: "Köln had two strong seasons lately, making it to the DEL finals in 2025 and winning the DEL regular season last year. They found consistency on a high level, they have high expectations every season and they have an enormous fan base. We are very excited to face off against the Haie in the CHL this year!"

KooKoo Kouvola: "KooKoo were promoted to the Finnish top league eleven years ago and have established themselves there. In spring, they came very close to winning their very first silverware, only losing in game seven of the playoff finals. We expect to meet a high-quality team with a very structured style of play when we host them in Klagenfurt."

Eisbären Berlin: "Five German championships in six years, Berlin are a real powerhouse and we're excited to play them again. Last season we were able to beat them on our home ice in what was a great game with fantastic atmosphere. We expect the same buzz this year when we meet again in Berlin, they are a very experienced team that know how to win hockey games."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Adelbert Saint John

Josef Puschnig

Herbert Pöck

Rudolf König

Thomas Cijan

Mario Schaden

Dieter Kalt

Christoph Brandner

Thomas Koch

Jamie Lundmark

CLUB TRIVIA

KAC, based in the city of Klagenfurt, are the most classic hockey club in Austria. In 1934, the so-called Rotjacken (Red Jackets) were the first team from outside Vienna to win the national championship. Throughout the decades, another 31 titles followed, the most recent came in 2021. KAC have also been a frequent participant in international competitions and played a total of 139 games in the European Cup, the Continental Cup and the Champions Hockey League.

In everyday life, the **Rotjacken** are part of the multi-national ICE Hockey League, home to 14 clubs from four central European nations in the 2026/27 season. In two of the last three seasons, KAC have both, won the regular season and advanced to the playoff finals.

KAC's home games are played in the Heidi Horten-Arena, that was opened in 2022 and has a capacity of 4,409 fans. In the 2025/26 season, 98,1 % of tickets for all 27 ICE Hockey League home games were sold.

Furthermore, KAC have a tradition in player development, with the first junior team in the club's history being established in 1931. Throughout the 2025/26 season, 18 of the 31 players that played league games originated from the club's own junior program. Since 2020, a total of four former KAC junior players have been selected in the NHL Entry Draft.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Jesper Jensen Aabo – captained Team Denmark in both the 2026 Olympic Games and the 2026 IIHF World Championship. The tournament in Switzerland was his 15th IIHF World Championship appearance, only two players in history have played in more World Championships than him. Overall, the D-man has sported the Danish jersey in over 230 international games.

Nick Petersen – has split the last ten seasons of his career between KAC Klagenfurt and Eisbären Berlin, one of our opponents in this year's CHL Regular Season. In both clubs, the Canadian ranks second in all-time points scored in a single playoff campaign after picking up 24 points for Berlin in 2017/18 and 23 for Klagenfurt in 2020/21.

Sebastian Dahm – the goaltender has an impressive record of 10 wins in 14 CHL games for KAC. All six other goaltenders that have lined up for the club in the CHL have posted a combined six wins and therefore less than the Danish netminder alone.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Scheibenaufwurf

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Eishockeyschläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter





**RED BULL
SALZBURG**



FOUNDED

2000

GLORY TIMES

IIHF Continental Cup titles: 1 – 2010

European Trophy titles: 1 – 2011

ICE titles: 10 – 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2015, 2016, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Austrian titles: 12 – 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2025/26: Round of 16

2024/25: Quarter-Finals

2023/24: Regular Season (20th place)

2022/23: Round of 16

2021/22: Round of 16

2018/19: Semi-Finals

2017/18: Round of 16

2016/17: Round of 32

2015/16: Round of 32

2014/15: Round of 16

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Third-Placed

ARENA INFO

Name: Eisarena Salzburg

Address: Hermann Bahr-Promenade 2, 5020 Salzburg, Austria

Capacity: 3,400

Year opened: 1960

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.redbulls.com

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/ECRedBullSalzburg

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/ecredbullsalzburg

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@ecredbullsalzburg4453

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@ecredbullsalzburg

 **Newsletter:**

ecrbs.redbulls.com/de

CLUB STAFF

CEO: René Dimter

Sport Director: Helmut Schögl

Head Coach: Alan Letang

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Guido Stapelfeldt

E-Mail: guido.stapelfeldt@redbulls.com

Phone number: +43 664 32 67 817

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Send an informal e-mail with the application for media accreditation to Guido Stapelfeldt, see contact above, or to: media@redbulls.com.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Thomas Raffl: Thomas Raffl is a true legend of the Austrian ice hockey scene and, even at 40, remains one of the most consistent and fittest players in the ICE Hockey League. Last season, the forward played his 1,000th league game, becoming only the second Austrian player to reach this remarkable milestone. Raffl has played for the Red Bulls since 2010, with a one-year break in North America (AHL, Manitoba Moose, 2015/16), and has been a major influence on the club's level and success ever since. He has lifted the ICE Hockey League trophy in Salzburg seven times and has captained the team since 2019. The father of two is entering his 16th season with the Red Bulls this year and his 11th season in the Champions Hockey League.

Michael Raffl: Michael Raffl is one of the few Austrians to have made a career in the NHL. The 37-year-old from Villach made the jump from Sweden's Leksands IF to North America in 2013, where the forward played 629 games (96 goals, 94 assists) over nine seasons with three different clubs (Philadelphia Flyers, Washington Capitals and the Dallas Stars). After three more seasons in the National League with Lausanne HC, Raffl returned to Austria in 2025 and joined Red Bull Salzburg, where he plays alongside his older brother, Thomas Raffl. Last season, his incredible vision and strong stickhandling immediately propelled him to the top of the Salzburg scoring charts and he also finished as the fourth-highest scorer in the league over the course of the regular season.

David Kickert: David Kickert proved once again last season that he is among the best goaltenders in the league. With a remarkable save percentage of 94,1% in 20 games, the 32-year-old topped the scoring charts and also recorded five shutouts, a feat matched by only three other goalies in the league. Kickert has developed into a reliable goaltender with Red Bull Salzburg over the past four years. Last season, measured by his regular season save percentage, was also the best of his professional career. Kickert has also consistently delivered strong performances for the Austrian national team in recent years, making him a key player for the Austrian national team.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Olivier Garipeau, D, HC Banska Bystrica (Slovak Extraliga)

Wyatt Kalynuk, D, Shanghai Dragons (KHL)

Adam Brooks, FW, EHC Red Bull München (DEL)

Ole Julian Bjørgvik-Holm, D, Cleveland Monsters, (AHL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Alan Letang's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Red Bull Salzburg have built a culture of winning here and that love of winning comes from understanding just how hard it is to do. The CHL is an incredibly special competition and we treat it as such. Our expectations don't change based on the opposition: if we bring our best game and play to our standards, we expect to walk away with a win every night. We respect our opponents, but our main focus is on trusting the process and playing to our world class standards."

Head Coach Alan Letang's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Kölner Haie: "Opening our Champions Hockey League season at home in front of our fans is a huge privilege. The message to our group is all about establishing our identity from the very 1st shift. We respect Kölner Haie for their structure and the tempo they play with, but the 1st game is about us and our execution."

Bílí Tygři Liberec: "Quick turnaround after our first game and a completely different type of challenge. Czech teams are known for their patience and transition speed. Playing the 2nd game of our CHL season just 48 hours after the first will be a great test to see how we respond both mentally and physically."

Växjö Lakers: "The Lakers are an incredible organisation that play a very disciplined game. They excel at controlling the puck, clogging up the neutral zone and forcing you into mistakes. Our challenge will be to match their patience. We can't afford to beat ourselves."

Rögle Ängelholm: "Heading on the road to face Rögle is an incredible test of a team's maturity. They play a classic Swedish brand of hockey - elite skating with good puck management. Winning in their building will require total buy-in to our structure and a high level of mental discipline. Managing the puck cleanly and staying disciplined in our defensive habits will be key!"

Eisbären Berlin: "The reigning DEL Champions. They play fast, structured and know how to win tight hockey games. They will force us to dial in our structure and find our identity immediately."

Skellefteå AIK: "Skellefteå represent the gold standard of SHL hockey. They thrive on puck possession and will punish you if your details aren't sharp. Going into their building at this stage of the competition is exactly what you want as a competitor. We will need to play at Playoff level, pace and intensity."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Greger Artursson

Frank Banham

Daniel Welser

Manuel Latusa

Matthias Trattnig

CLUB TRIVIA

Mascot is named Rob and wears the number 87.

First playoff home game of the year is called “White Night” – all fans wear white to show their support.

With the 2024 national title, Salzburg won the title three times in a row for the very first time, achieving the so called three-peat – a first in the ICE Hockey League. They built on that further with the 2025 championship, making it four in a row while setting a new milestone in club and league history.

Salzburg are the most successful team in the ICE Hockey League with ten league titles (since 2004) and have qualified for all but one CHL season (2019/20).

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Thomas Raffl – our 40-year-old captain is the oldest player of the Red Bulls is currently also the oldest active player in the ICE Hockey League. Last season he celebrated his 1,000th league game which was only the second time this benchmark has been reached in league history

Thomas and Michael Raffl –played together on the same team for the first time since 2009 last season, after 37-year-old Michael returned to Austria in 2026 following many years in the NHL and NL. The two Villach natives grew up playing for EC VSV, but went their separate ways after 2009. The Raffl brothers are among the most successful brother pairings in the history of Austrian ice hockey.

Nash Nienhuis – Nienhuis’ father, Kraig Nienhuis, also played professional ice hockey in Austria in the 1990s. The former NHL forward came to Austria via Germany and Switzerland in 1990, where he played for KAC Klagenfurt for four years and also became Austrian champion once. He then celebrated two Slovenian championship titles with Ljubljana and rounded off his career in Europe in Germany, England and Italy before returning to America. In 1996, the now 64-year-old – with American-Austrian citizenship - even played in the IIHF World Championships for Team Austria. Parallel to his ice hockey career in Austria, Kraig Nienhuis started a career as a singer and guitarist in a rock band.

Peter Schneider – the father of two has not only been one of Salzburg’s top players for the past few years, he’s also completed a degree in economics and is currently studying law.

BEYOND HOCKEY

All the Red Bulls’ charity activities go to Wings for Life, the foundation for spinal cord research. At the Wings for Life World Run in May this year, the “Red Bulls & Friends” running team was once again able to donate a large sum of almost 69,000 EUR to the foundation.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Scheibenaufwurf

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Eishockeyschläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter





DYNAMO PARDUBICE



FOUNDED

1923

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 7 – 1973, 1987, 1989, 2005, 2010, 2012, 2026

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2024/25: Regular Season (17th place)

2023/24: Quarter-Finals

2016/17: Group Stage (3rd in Group A)

2015/16: Group Stage (3rd in Group E)

2014/15: Group Stage (4th in Group F)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: enteria arena

Address: Sukova třída 1735, 530 02 Pardubice, Czechia

Capacity: 10,194

Year opened: The stadium opened in 1960 and was renovated in 2001 and 2007.

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.hcdynamo.cz

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/hcpce

 **X:**

x.com/HCPCE

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/hcpce

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@hcpce

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@hcpceofficial

 **Whatsapp:**

whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vak1uys72WU2TYH0bM1R

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Filip Kaplan

CEO: Filip Kaplan

Sport Director: Petr Sýkora

Head Coach: Filip Pešán

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Jan Mrovec

E-Mail: jan.mrovec@hcdynamo.cz

Phone number: +420 774 683 889

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Accreditation is available via the form on the hcdynamo.cz website in the “Press” section



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Lukáš Sedlák:

Team captain and one of the best players in the Czech Extraliga. He led Pardubice to the championship title in 2026, scoring 25 goals and adding 49 assists that season. He is also a 2024 World Champion.

Roman Červenka:

A Czech hockey legend. Last season, he had the most points of any player in the Czech Extraliga. He has played in the IIHF World Championship 13 times and has won two gold medals.

David Tomášek:

Our newest addition and one of the best Czech players in Europe. Last season, he also played in the NHL and competed at the Olympic Games and in the World Championship.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Matěj Stránský, FW, HC Davos (NL)

David Tomášek, FW, Färjestad Karlstad (SHL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Filip Pešán's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We take the Champions Hockey League seriously and want to succeed. We are looking forward to the match with the best European teams. Attractive opponents will come to Pardubice and I hope that the fans will come to support us in as many numbers as possible. We also have challenging matches in Finland and France."

Head Coach Filip Pešán's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

GKS Tychy: "Polish teams appear regularly in the Champions Hockey League, which is a testament to their strength. Although we will go into the matches as favorites, we know that we must not underestimate anything and we must prepare well for the match. It will be an attractive confrontation."

Rögle Ängelholm: "Last year's finalist of the SHL are another tough opponent. Our goaltender Roman Will played in Rögle and looks forward to playing against them. We have a very interesting match ahead of us!"

SaiPa Lappeenranta: "SaiPa are the bronze medal team of Finland's Liiga, which is a great success for the team. The club has regularly reached the top of the league in recent years and we are happy to be able to play against such a high-quality opponent."

KooKoo Kouvola: "KooKoo reached the final last season and they also had a successful regular season. They are doing a good job and are presenting themselves with good hockey, which makes them dangerous for any opponent."

Bordeaux Boxers: "The French league and the club itself are on the rise. Bordeaux were crowned champions, which guarantees that we will face a tough and unpredictable opponent."

Växjö Lakers: "Växjö are one of the best teams in Sweden. In recent years, they have won three championship titles and regularly play at the very top. We are looking forward to facing them in Pardubice, it will be a great match."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Dominik Hašek

Milan Hejduk

Vladimír Martinec

Petr Sýkora

Tomáš Rolinek

Jiří Šejba

CLUB TRIVIA

Dynamo are one of the most traditional clubs in Czechia.

After every home win, people throw gingerbread cookies onto the ice.

Our mascot, Hakyto, is special. He's perfect for any kind of content!

Big matches are screened on the square in Pardubice, where a lot of people always arrive.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Last season, **Roman Červenka** led the league in points, broke club scoring records and won the award for the league's most valuable player. All despite being also one of the oldest players in the league!

Six Pardubice players represented Czechia at the 2026 World Championship: **Libor Hájek, Lukáš Sedlák, Roman Červenka, Jan Mandát, Martin Kaut,** and **David Tomášek.**

BEYOND HOCKEY

Many players collect Pokémon cards. For example, **Lukáš Sedlák, Martin Kaut, Miloš Kelemen,** and **Jiří Smejkal.**

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = lední hokej

Faceoff = vhazování

Offside = ofsajd

Puck = puk

Hockey stick = hokejka

Goal = gól

Penalty = vyloučení

Referee = rozhodčí





HC PILSEN



FOUNDED

1929

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 1 – 2013

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2019/20: Round of 16

2018/19: Semi-Finals

2016/17: Round of 32

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Runners-Up

ARENA INFO

Name: Logspeed CZ Aréna

Address: Štefánikovo náměstí 2592/1a, 301 00 Plzeň, Czechia

Capacity: 7,356

Year opened: 1950

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.hcplzen.cz

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/hcplzen1929

 **X:**

x.com/HC_Plzen

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/hcplzen

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@hcskoda

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@hcplzen

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Jan Šmucler

CEO: Martin Straka

Sport Director: Martin Straka

Head Coach: Josef Jandač

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Alex Martinák

E-Mail: martinak@hcplzen1929.cz

Phone number: +420 773 001 806

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Journalists can apply for accreditation for our home games by sending their request to martinak@hcplzen.cz.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Nick Malík: Malík is our team's main goaltender. Last season, he posted the best goaltending statistics in the league over the course of the regular season and played a key role in helping Pilsen finish second in the regular season.

Kristians Rubins: Rubins is a defenceman entering his third season with Pilsen. One of the biggest achievements of his career is winning bronze at the 2023 IIHF World Championship. In the bronze-medal game, he first tied the score at 3–3 and then scored the game-winning goal in overtime against the United States.

Adam Měchura: Měchura is a young and promising forward with experience from the AHL, where he played for the Providence Bruins. He has been Pilsen's leading goal scorer in each of the past two seasons and is one of the team's key offensive players.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Dylan MacPherson, D, Villacher SV (ICE)

Carter Robertson, D, HK 32 Liptovský Mikuláš (Slovak Extraliga)

Aleš Čech, D, BK Mladá Boleslav (Czech Extraliga)

Jakub Chromiak, D, Niagara IceDogs (OHL)

Adam Titlbach, FW, Vancouver Giants (WHL)

Danny Katic, F, Allen Americans, ECHL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Josef Jandač's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We do not want to set any overly ambitious goals. We want to play good games, advance to the next stage and be a difficult opponent for every team we face. The Champions Hockey League is a high-quality competition that will show us where we stand in comparison to the rest of Europe. After that, we will see how far our performances can take us."

Head Coach Josef Jandač's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Rögle Ängelholm : "A Swedish team that play modern, fast-paced hockey. They are excellent skaters and very strong on the puck. It will be a major test for us because Swedish teams never give you anything for free."

GKS Tychy: "The Polish champions. On paper, they may seem like a less high-profile opponent, but these are often the most dangerous games. They have CHL experience and are always a very tough team to play against on home ice."

Fribourg-Gottéron: "Swiss hockey has been on the rise for a long time. Fribourg is a well-organised team, strong both in skating and tactically. In recent years, they have established themselves among Europe's elite."

Bordeaux Boxers: "French teams are usually very hard-working and difficult to play against. We cannot focus on the reputation of the league they come from; we have to focus on their performances on the ice. Every opponent in the CHL has quality."

Skellefteå AIK: "One of the strongest clubs in Europe. They do an excellent job developing young players, play at a very high pace and possess outstanding puck skills. For both coaches and players, this is the kind of game that shows where you really stand."

SaiPa Lappeenranta: "A typical Finnish opponent. Very well organised, disciplined and system-oriented. Against teams like this, you have to be patient and make as few mistakes as possible."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Martin Straka

Jaroslav Špaček

František Černý

Bohuslav Ebermann

Milan Kajkl

Stanislav Sventek

Vladimír Bednář

CLUB TRIVIA

HC Pilsen are one of the most traditional ice hockey clubs in Czechia. Founded in 1929, the club have established themselves as one of the most respected members of top-tier Czech ice hockey.

The club are widely known by their nickname, the Indians, which has become an inseparable part of their identity. The Indian symbol has been associated with hockey in Pilsen for several decades and remains one of the club's most recognisable trademarks.

The name Škoda in the club's full name – HC Škoda Plzeň – reflects the club's long-standing connection with the Škoda engineering company, one of the most important symbols of the city of Pilsen. The hockey club and the city's industrial heritage have been closely linked for generations.

One of the most prominent figures in club history is former NHL player and Pilsen native Martin Straka, who captained the team to its Czech Extraliga title and now serves in the club's management.

The club's supporters are also an important part of their identity. Plzeň fans are among the most loyal in Czech hockey and create an outstanding atmosphere at home games. Traditional symbols of the club include the Indian theme, the club totem and a variety of events that bring players and fans together.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Ville and Mikko Petman – the brothers will face their former club SaiPa in the Regular Season. The Finnish duo joined Pilsen ahead of this season after playing for SaiPa.

Jakub Lev – Lev holds the all-time Czech Extraliga record for the longest streak of consecutive games played without interruption. During his career, he appeared in 659 consecutive games, a historic achievement unmatched in the Czech top division. His remarkable streak, which began in 2012, came to an end only due to an injury in April 2023.

Jakub Jeřábek – has enjoyed a highly successful career. He has won four Czech championship titles and achieved one of hockey's greatest honours by winning the Stanley Cup with the Washington Capitals in 2018, one of the most prestigious trophies in the sport.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Christophe Lalancette – is a passionate golfer who spends as much of his free time as possible on the golf course.

Dominik Simon – made such a strong impression during his time in the NHL that one of the world's best players, Sidney Crosby, personally chose him to play on his line with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = lední hokej

Faceoff = vhazování

Offside = ofsajd

Puck = puk

Hockey stick = hokejka

Goal = gól

Penalty = vyloučení

Referee = rozhodčí





BÍLÍ TYGŘI LIBEREC



FOUNDED

1956

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

National titles: 1 - 2016

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2019/20: Group Stage (3rd in Group C)

2017/18: Semi-Finals

2016/17: Round of 16

2015/16: Round of 16

2014/15: Group Stage (2nd in Group A)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Third-Placed

ARENA INFO

Name: Home Credit Arena

Address: Jeronymova 570/22, 460 07 Liberec 7, Czechia

Capacity: 7,500

Year opened: 2005

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.hcbilitygri.cz

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/hcbilitygri

 **X:**

www.x.com/hcbilitygri

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/bilitygrilbc

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@bilitygrilbc

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@bilitygrilbc

 **Threads:**

www.threads.com/@bilitygrilbc

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Petr Syrovátko

CEO: Lukáš Přinda

Sport Director: Michal Birner

Head Coach: Jiří Kudrna

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Martin Kadlec

E-Mail: kadlec@hcbilitygri.cz

Phone number: +420 731 547 909

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Via website <https://hcbilitygri.cz/press/match> or email to PR manager Martin Kadlec.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Radim Šimek: Šimek is an experienced defenceman known for his strong defensive awareness and ability to help the offense when it's needed. He rose to prominence with Bílí Tygři Liberec, helping them win the Czech Extraliga title in 2016 and earning the playoff MVP award. His reliable play earned him a move to the NHL, where he skated in over 200 games for the San Jose Sharks. A regular face on the Czech national team, Šimek brings invaluable grit, leadership and a powerful blue-line presence wherever he plays. Our Captain.

Radan Lenc: Radan Lenc is a versatile and hard-working forward who excels as a reliable two-way player. He established himself as a top-tier Extraliga winger during impactful stints with Mladá Boleslav and Bílí Tygři Liberec before successfully moving abroad to play in the KHL and the Swedish Hockey League (SHL). Lenc is highly valued for his high work rate, net-front presence and ability to chip in offensively while playing a responsible game defensively. He has been a consistent member of the Czech national team, representing his country at both World Championships and Olympic Games. He was also the second-best scorer in the Extraliga with 24 goals last season.

Tomáš Galvas: Tomáš Galvas is a highly promising, modern young defenceman celebrated for his exceptional skating fluidity, high hockey IQ and poised puck-moving abilities. Despite his young age, he quickly made the jump to senior hockey in the Czech Extraliga with Bílí Tygři Liberec. Galvas is a key piece of the Czech junior national pipeline, turning heads on the global stage at the IIHF World Junior Championships where he broke many records within the Czech team. He also participated in the World Championship in Switzerland this year and he was drafted by the Pittsburgh Penguins in the second round as the 54th overall pick in the 2026 NHL draft.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Jakub Rychlovský, FW, Grand Rapids Griffins (AHL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Jiří Kudrna's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We are deeply honoured to have earned the right to compete in this year's CHL again after several years. We are incredibly excited about it. The draw has handed us highly attractive and quality opponents. It will be very interesting and educational to see how we match up against the best teams in Europe. We want to present ourselves with the best possible performances. I believe our participation in the CHL will be a true hockey festival for both the team and our fans."

Head Coach Jiří Kudrna's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Tappara Tampere: "They are a highly competitive Finnish team with consistent performances. They proved this not only in their domestic league but also through their regular appearances in the CHL. Finnish hockey is defined by great skating and high intensity; for us, this will be a fantastic challenge that we are truly looking forward to."

Red Bull Salzburg: "This is not an entirely unfamiliar opponent for us. We have played a few games against them in recent years. They are a quality team with high ambitions in the international ICE Hockey League, where they consistently achieve great results. Naturally, they also have plenty of CHL experience. We expect physical hockey full of individual battles, making it a great benchmark for us."

Herning Blue Fox: "Honestly, facing this team is a bit of an unknown for us at the moment. The same goes for Danish hockey in general. However, Danish hockey has long belonged to the wider world elite. Herning is coming off an excellent season, both in the Danish league and the CHL. We are looking forward to this match-up and are quite curious, as we don't often cross paths with Danish hockey at club level."

Graz99ers: "Another representative of the ICE Hockey League and in this case, the winner of the past season. It is a massive challenge for us to test our strength against the champion of this European league. Just like with Salzburg, we expect physical hockey, battles for every inch of ice and an attractive spectacle for the fans."

Frölunda Gothenburg: "Frölunda? What more is there to say?! One of the absolute best teams in all of Europe and historically the most successful team in the CHL. This year, they will once again have only the highest goals. We are absolutely thrilled that they are coming to Liberec, allowing us to face them in front of our home crowd. This game against such a high-quality, successful team full of standout individuals will be a true hockey spectacle."

HC Davos: "A highly traditional and quality Swiss club with vast experience competing across hockey-rich Europe. This game will be played on their home ice, which I am actually very happy about because Davos is a beautiful Alpine town and the host of the famous Spengler Cup. I believe there will be a thrilling atmosphere. For our team, this will be another highly motivating game."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Petr Nedvěd

Jaroslav Nedvěd Sr.

Jaroslav Kasík

Ctibor Jech

Ján Lašák

Milan Hnilička

Ladislav Šmíd

CLUB TRIVIA

Bílí Tygři (White Tigers) are originally named after the white tigers bred in the Liberec Zoo.

Roman Jerns travels to every Bílí Tygři Liberec game from Berlin, Germany, and is one of our most famous fans.

Our mascot Tiger helps with the atmosphere during games and on team events.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Radan Lenc – played for Frölunda Gothenburg

Tomáš Filippi – most points in franchise history (326), KHL champion (2016)

Radim Šimek – World Championship bronze medal (2022), Extraliga champion (2016)

Filip Sandberg – two-time SHL champion

Tomáš Galvas – two-time WJC bronze medallist, one-time WJC silver medallist

BEYOND HOCKEY

Adam Najman – is a big collector of shoes.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Lední hokej

Faceoff = Buly

Offside = Ofsajd

Puck = Puk

Hockey stick = Hokejka

Goal = Gól

Penalty = Vyloučení

Referee = Rozhodčí





TAPPARA TAMPERE



FOUNDED

1932

GLORY TIMES

CHL titles: 1 – 2023

National titles: 21 – 1953, 1954, 1955 (as TBK), 1959, 1961, 1964, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 2003, 2016, 2017, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2026

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2024/25: Round of 16

2023/24: Regular Season (18th place)

2022/23: CHL Champions

2021/22: Runners-Up

2019/20: Round of 16

2018/19: Round of 16

2017/18: Round of 16

2016/17: Round of 32

2015/16: Round of 16

2014/15: Round of 16

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Nokia Arena

Address: Kansikatu 3, 33100 Tampere, Finland

Capacity: 12,700

Year opened: 2021

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.tappara.fi

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/TapparaOfficial

 **X:**

x.com/TapparaOfficial

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/tapparatampere

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/TapparaOfficial

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@tapparaofficial

 **Newsletter:**

www.tappara.fi/fi-fi/tilaa-uutiskirje/150

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Lasse Aho

CEO: Ari Penttilä

Sport Director: Janne Vuorinen

Head Coach: Kari Jalonen

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Saana Hakala

E-Mail: saana.hakala@tappara.fi

Phone number: +35 840 707 0650

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Accreditations must be requested by email to media@tappara.fi no later than 2:00 PM on the last business day before the game.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Joachim Blichfeld: Blichfeld is a Danish forward who moved to Tappara last season. He recorded 71 points in 53 regular season games and 11 points in 18 playoff games. He has also played for the Danish national team.

Christian Heljanko: Heljanko is a goaltender who has won four Finnish championships and the CHL with Tappara. In spring 2026, his save percentage in the playoffs was 92.9%.

Joni Tuulola: Tuulola is a defenceman who has played for Tappara since the 2021/22 season and has won four Finnish championships. In spring 2026, Tuulola was named the Most Valuable Player of the Liiga playoffs.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Niclas Almari, D, Rauman Lukko (Liiga)

Kasper Kulonummi, D, Kiekko-Espoo (Liiga)

Joona Karvonen, D, Tappara U20

Michael Lindqvist, FW, Leksands IF (SHL)

Ville Väärälä, FW, Madison Capitols (USHL)

Dylan Fabre, FW, Porin Ässät (Liiga)

Juho Järvelä, FW, RoKi (Mestis)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Kari Jalonen's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"The team's objectives are pretty straightforward: whenever we enter a competition, the goal is to succeed. We're eager to test our identity against Europe's elite clubs."

Head Coach Kari Jalonen's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Kölner Haie: "Kölner Haie are a special opponent for me personally, as I had the privilege of serving as the team's head coach for the past two seasons. It will be great to face a familiar club and I'm looking forward to an exciting game."

Växjö Lakers: "Växjö have consistently been one of the top teams in Sweden for many years. We know we're in for a tough challenge."

Rögle Ängelholm: "Rögle reached the SHL finals last season, which says a lot about the quality of the team. We expect another demanding match-up."

GKS Tychy: "GKS Tychy's head coach, Pekka Tirkkonen, is someone I know well. We worked together for several seasons in the past, so it will be a pleasure to face his team."

Storhamar Hamar: "Storhamar represent Norwegian hockey and it will be interesting to see the momentum the sport has gained in Norway following the country's bronze medal at the IIHF World Championship."

Bílí Tygři Liberec: "Liberec are a team I know very well and I've followed them closely over several seasons. We know they are a competitive opponent!"



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Aleksander Barkov

Teppo Numminen

Ville Nieminen

CLUB TRIVIA

TBK's hockey unit founded a new club called Tappara in 1955, at the same time the parent club TBK closed its own competitive hockey business. The change was made because the training work of the Swedish school no longer produced enough players for the club, and the new Finnish name attracted many new young people to playing hockey.

Under their new name, Tappara Tampere won their first championship in 1959.

Tappara has won the Finnish league a record 21 times!

The name of Tappara's mascot is Tapsu.

In 2018, Tappara opened its own Hall of Fame, to which a total of 46 players have been nominated.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Otto Rauhala – has won the Finnish championship six times.

Joachim Blichfeld – represented the Danish national team at the Olympic Games and the IIHF World Championship.

Juha Metsola – won the first championship of his career in May 2026.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Christian Heljanko – is a passionate real estate investor.

Jesper Mattila – graduated with a Master of Science in Economics and Business Administration degree.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Jääkiekko

Faceoff = Aloitus

Offside = Paitsio

Puck = Kiekko

Hockey stick = Jääkiekkomaila
(Shorter version is Maila)

Goal = Maali

Penalty = Rangaistus

Referee = Tuomari (or Päätuomari which means)
Linjatuomari stands for linesman





KOOKOO KOUVOLA



FOUNDED

1965

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

First CHL Season

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Runners-Up

ARENA INFO

Name: Kouvolan jäähalli

Address: Topinkuja 1, 45100 Kouvola, Finland

Capacity: 5,250

Year opened: 1982

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.kookoo.fi

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/KouvolanKookoo

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/kouvolankookoo

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@KouvolanKookoo

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@yksijoukkue

 **Newsletter:**

www.kookoo.fi/#

 **LinkedIn:**

www.linkedin.com/company/kouvolan-kookoo

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Pulla Peltola

CEO: Sakari Välimaa

Sport Director: Antti Tuomenoksa

Head Coach: Jouko Myrrä

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Vivian Fihlman

E-Mail: Vivian.fihlman@kookoo.fi

Phone number: +358504062727

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

For accreditation to Kookoo home games please contact Kookoo's Media Coordinator, Vivian Fihlman, at vivian.fihlman@kookoo.fi. Accreditation requests must be submitted by 10 AM on game days. For games on Saturday, accreditation requests must be submitted by 12 PM on the preceding Friday. Please include your name, media outlet, e-mail address, phone number and position (journalist / photographer / other) in the request.

Arrival & Entry

Media representatives may park their vehicles in the large parking area on Sumulaaksonkatu. The parking spaces in front of the arena on Topinkuja are reserved exclusively for vehicles displaying a valid parking permit, taxis, and TV production crews.

If media representatives need to unload equipment, unloading is permitted through the A-level entrance on weekdays before 5:00 PM and on Saturday game days before 3:00 PM. After unloading, vehicles must be moved to the large parking area on Sumulaaksonkatu. Please keep the straight section of Topinkuja clear for the team bus.

Entry is through the A-level entrance, where a list of accredited media representatives will be available. Upon entry, each accredited media representative will receive a dated lanyard, which grants access to designated areas of the arena. Only a correctly dated media pass is valid.

Photographers will receive a photographer's vest upon entry. The vest must be returned to the same location after the game. Photographers are required to wear the vest while photographing and when moving around the arena with camera equipment.

The entrance opens at 5:00 PM for games played Monday to Friday, and at 3:00 PM for Saturday games.

More information: <https://www.kookoo.fi/info/media/>



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Eetu Randelin

Miska Siikonen

Arttu Pelli

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Arttu Pelli, D, Ilves (Liiga)

Axel Holmström, FW, HC Litvínov (Czech Extraliga)

Verner Miettinen, FW, St. Cloud State Univ. (NCAA)

Aleksi Pakaslahti, D, Kiekko-Vantaa (Mestis)

Jasper Patrikainen, GK, HK Nitra (Slovak Extraliga)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Jouko Myrrä's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Of course, we want to win every game and it will be a great challenge to play against tough European teams from across the continent."

Head Coach Jouko Myrrä's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Herning Blue Fox: "Herning Blue Fox are a traditional top team in Danish hockey."

Frölunda Gothenburg: "Frölunda are the reigning CHL champions!"

HK Nitra: "HK Nitra come into the competition as the Slovak champions."

Dynamo Pardubice: "Dynamo Pardubice have many players with NHL experience and are a hard-nosed hockey team."

KAC Klagenfurt: "KAC Klagenfurt are a traditional top team and organisation in Austrian hockey."

Adler Mannheim: "Adler Mannheim are one of the biggest clubs in the DEL. Their goal is to win every game and the league title."

TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Alexander Bonsaksen

Jarno Kultanen

Juha-Pekka Haataja

CLUB TRIVIA

Our club mascot is called Topi Tiikeri.

The club name **KooKoo** comes from "**Kouvolan Kiekko**", meaning "Kouvola's puck".

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Jääkiekko

Faceoff = Aloitus

Offside = Paitsio

Puck = Kiekko

Hockey stick = Jääkiekkomaila

Goal = Maali

Penalty = Rangaistus

Referee = Tuomari



FOUNDED

1948

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE
APPEARANCES

2016/17: Round of 16

2014/15: Quarterfinals

QUALIFIED FOR THE
2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Third-Placed

ARENA INFO

Name: Kisapuisto Ice Stadium**Address:** Kisakatu 9, 53200 Lappeenranta, Finland**Capacity:** 4,820**Year opened:** 1972

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**saipa.fi **Facebook:**www.facebook.com/SaiPaofficial **X:**x.com/Liiga_SaiPa **Instagram:**www.instagram.com/liiga_saipa **YouTube:**www.youtube.com/@SaiPaLappeenranta **TikTok:**www.tiktok.com/@liiga_saipa

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Jussi Turunen**CEO:** Jani Valkeapää**Sport Director:** Harri Aho**Head Coach:** Raimo Helminen

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Jonna Vuorinne**E-Mail:** jonna.vuorinne@saipa.fi**Phone number:** +358 50 388 4360ACCREDITATION FOR
CHL HOME GAMES

Members of the media wishing to attend our CHL home games must send an email to info@saipa.fi to be considered for accreditation to the event. In addition to name applicant must provide the media they are working for and in what role they work (Writing media, Photographer etc.). Successful applicants will be contacted in due course with further details. Application does not guarantee accreditation will be approved.

To games played in weekdays the application must be sent on gameday before 2pm EEST. To games played in the weekend the application must be sent before 2PM EEST on Friday.

SAIPA
LAPPEENRANTA

TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Kari Piironen: Piironen joined SaiPa ahead of the 2023/24 season and for the past two seasons has been a vital part of the team and our undisputed number one in net. Piironen was a vital part of our 2024/25 campaign, leading the team all the way to Finnish Liiga finals for the time in club history and in 2025/26 he helped the team win bronze.

Santeri Airola: Santeri Airola joined SaiPa back in 2015 playing for the club's U16 team. During his years in the club, Airola has grown into an important offensively minded defencemen. In 2024/25, Airola made history by sending the club to their first Liiga finals after scoring an overtime goal in the seventh game of the semi-finals. Offensively, Airola has been a vital part of the team's backend for the past three seasons going from 12 points in 2023/24 to 35 points in 2025/26.

Miikka Salomäki: Former Nashville Predator Miikka Salomäki joined SaiPa in 2025/26, bringing a vast amount of experience to a young team. After a few years of battling injuries, 33-year-old Salomäki played a solid season for SaiPa last year, scoring an impressive 17 goals and a total of 35 points.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Andrew Peski, D, Rungsted Seier Capital (Metal Ligaen)

Einar Emanuelsson, FW, Luleå HF (SHL) / HC Lugano (NL)

Petr Fridrich, FW, HC Olomouc (Czech Extraliga)

Nicholas Zabaneh, FW, Savannah Ghost Pirates (ECHL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Raimo Helminen's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We want to compete for the win in all leagues we play in. The season is long and these games are a good opportunity for us to give chances to all our players and to prove themselves on an international level. We want our team to develop and find ways to win through that."

Head Coach Raimo Helminen's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Frölunda HC: "We'll face a fantastic team that plays top-level European hockey. As reigning CHL Champions, Frölunda will be a great indicator of our current form when we play against them."

Herning Blue Fox: "Herning are a high-quality team with the most championships in Danish history - they always have a good team."

Dynamo Pardubice: "Pardubice have a really tough team and have some of the best players in the country."

HK Nitra: "The current Slovak Extraliga champions are a good, high-quality team that play high-level hockey."

Graz99ers: "Graz have invested in a highly successful team. They also have a couple of players I'm familiar with."

HC Pilsen: "In Lappeenranta, we are all excited of course to face HC Pilsen as the Petman brothers (Mikko and Ville) play for them."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Retired Jersey numbers:

#3 Lalli Partinen

#8 Ville Koho

#9 Petri Skriko

#20 Heikki Mäлкиä

Other legendary players:

Leo Haakana

Jorma Hietanen

Martti Immonen

Ralph Cox

Dale McTavish

Juri Kuznetsov

Jussi Markkanen

Vladimir Machulda

CLUB TRIVIA

SaiPa were founded in 1948. The abbreviation comes from "Saimaan Pallo", meaning "Saimaa's Ball". The word Saimaa in the name refers to the largest lake in Finland which Lappeenranta is located by. Originally, the club was founded as a ballclub for promising bandy and football players who were overaged for junior teams. The early years of the club focused on those two sports, until in 1951 when it was suggested that hockey should be added as a program. Even though the suggestion was supported, hockey was not added until 1953 when it replaced bandy.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Jääkiekko

Faceoff = Aloitus

Offside = Paitsio

Puck = Kiekko

Hockey stick = Jääkiekkomaila

Goal = Maali

Penalty = Jäähy

Referee = Tuomari





**EISBÄREN
BERLIN**



FOUNDED

1954

GLORY TIMES

European Trophy titles: 1 – 2010

National titles (Germany): 12 – 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025, 2026

National titles (German Democratic Republic): 15 – 1966, 1967, 1968, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2025/26: Regular Season

2024/25: Quarter-Finals

2022/23: Group Stage (3rd in Group G)

2021/22: Group Stage (3rd in Group E)

2018/19: Group Stage (3rd in Group D)

2016/17: Round of 16

2015/16: Round of 16

2014/15: Group Stage (4th in Group D)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Uber Arena

Address: Uber Platz 1, 10243 Berlin, Germany

Capacity: 14,200

Year opened: 2008

Name: Sportforum, Wellblechpalast

Address: Weissenseer Weg 53, 13055 Berlin, Germany

Capacity: 4,227

Year opened: 1964

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.eisbaeren.de

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/eisbaeren

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/eisbaerenberlin

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@eisbaerenberlin

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@eisbaeren_berlin

 **Newsletter:**

www.eisbaeren.de/home/eisbaeren_newsletter

CLUB STAFF

CEO: Thomas Bothstede

Sport Director: Stéphane Richer

Head Coach: Éric Dubois

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Leo Imme

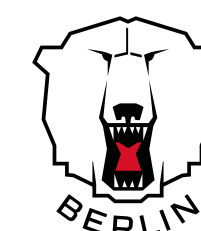
E-Mail: l.imme@eisbaeren.de

Phone number: +49 1525 765 68 26

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

For accreditation for CHL home games please visit

www.eisbaeren.de/presse.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Kai Wissmann: Kai Wissmann is the captain of the team and has won five championships with Eisbären Berlin.

Ty Ronning: Ty Ronning joined Eisbären Berlin three years ago and has won three championships with the team since then. In 2025 he was Top Scorer of the DEL and was voted as MVP of the Playoffs.

Jonas Müller: Jonas Müller was born in Berlin and has never played for another club. He started with the Eisbären Berlin junior teams and made his way up, winning his fifth DEL championship with the team this past season.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Jack LaFontaine, GK, Kansas City Mavericks (ECHL)

Jonas Neffin, GK, Eisbären Regensburg (DEL2)

Noel Saffran, FW, Iserlohn Roosters (DEL)

Rihards Griva, FW, Madison Capitols (USHL)

Gabriel Fontaine, FW, Red Bull Munich (DEL)

Tobias Krestan, F, HV71 U20 (U20 Nationell)

Brandon Davidson, D, HC Kometa Brno (Extraliga)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Éric Dubois' comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We are looking forward to competing in the CHL again. The games will be on a really high and competitive level. We look forward to seeing familiar, as well as new, faces on European ice. We will face teams with different styles of play and expect tough games. These will be great games to get the season started. The goal is clear: we want to be among the Top 16 in the CHL Regular Season."

Head Coach Éric Dubois' comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Genève-Servette: "This will be a very challenging start to our CHL campaign. Swiss teams are among the best in Europe. Genève-Servette are a team with high quality players and lots of experience. As 2024 CHL champions, they know how to be successful in the competition. We are prepared to meet a very tough opponent."

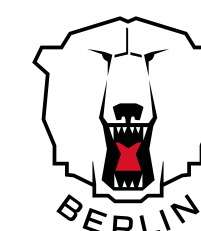
HC Davos: "Another very strong opponent from Switzerland. We are looking forward to playing in their great and historical rink. Davos are one of the biggest Swiss clubs with a huge tradition. Unlucky finalists of the National League season that just lost game 7 in overtime, they are a great team with skilled players. It will be huge task, but I am confident we will win this game."

Graz99ers: "This will be our first home game and I am really looking forward to it. It will be a difficult game. Games between German and Austrian teams are always very emotional. The 99ers won their first national championship in a very dominant way. They didn't even lose one game in the playoffs. They will be ambitious and will work very hard."

Herning Blue Fox: "With Herning, we'll face the reigning champions of Denmark. We are not going to underestimate them. It will be their first CHL appearance so they will be highly motivated. We are excited to see what the game against them will be like and are going to prepare meticulously for it."

Red Bull Salzburg: "Salzburg are the flagship club of Austria. With Ingolstadt, I faced them in last year's Round of 16. They were difficult games and that is exactly what I expect again. We are aware that they will be a tough opponent."

KAC Klagenfurt: "Klagenfurt are the Austrian record champion and one of the most dominant teams in the ICE Hockey League. They are able to count on experienced players such as Thomas Hundertpfund, Raphael Herbuger, Matt Fraser or Nick Petersen. Eisbären Berlin lost their last game against Klagenfurt in last year's CHL Regular Season, so we have been warned and want to take revenge for that defeat."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Bernd Karrenbauer

Hartmut Nickel

Jiri Dopita

Richard Zemlicka

Sven Felski

Mark Beaufait

Denis Pederson

Stefan Ustorf

Steve Walker

Rob Zepp

André Rankel

Florian Busch

Frank Hördler

CLUB TRIVIA

We are named in honor of one of the greatest land predators. Our mascot, a polar bear, is called Bully.

Our fans are known throughout the league and further for their singing and enthusiasm. Some 120 fans once travelled with the team to Ontario, California and the whole stadium ended up in a conga line with them.

PLAYERS TRIVIA

Freddy Tiffels – is one of just three players in the history of the DEL who has won four championships in a row.

Éric Dubois – our head coach faced Red Bull Salzburg in last year's Champions Hockey League Round of 16 with ERC Ingolstadt.

The Hördler family have had their hand in all 12 of our DEL championships, with Frank Hördler winning nine championships and his son Eric winning three titles.

Eric Hördler – was the first player in the DEL to play an official DEL game together with his father for the same team.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Eishockeyschläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter





ADLER MANNHEIM



FOUNDED

1938

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 8 – 1980, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2007, 2015, 2019

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2023/24: Round of 16

2021/22: Round of 16

2019/20: Round of 16

2017/18: Round of 16

2016/17: Group Stage (3rd in Group C)

2015/16: Round of 32

2014/15: Group Stage (4th in Group G)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Runners-Up

ARENA INFO

Name: SAP Arena

Address: An der Arena 1, 68163 Mannheim, Germany

Capacity: 13,600

Year opened: 2005

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.adler-mannheim.de

 **Facebook:**

de-de.facebook.com/dieadlermannheim

 **X:**

x.com/adlermannheim

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/adlermannheim_official

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@DieAdlerMannheimTV

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@adlermannheim_official

 **LinkedIn:**

de.linkedin.com/company/adler-mannheim

 **Twitch:**

www.twitch.tv/adlermannheim_official

 **Newsletter:**

saparena.de/newsletter/anmelden-adler-mannheim

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Daniel Hopp

CEO: Matthias Binder

Sport Director: Dallas Eakins

Head Coach: Dallas Eakins

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Adrian Parejo

E-Mail: a.parejo@adler-mannheim.de

Phone number: +49 174 3751814

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Media representatives are requested to apply for accreditation for Adler Mannheim home games at the SAP Arena in writing by e-mail to a.parejo@adler-mannheim.de. Please note that accreditation requests can only be processed with a copy of a valid press pass or, in exceptional cases, with an editorial assignment.

The accreditation deadline for games on working days (Mon. - Fri.) is 6 p.m. the day before. For games taking place on Sundays and public holidays, the application deadline ends two weekdays before the start of the game. All accreditation requests received after the deadline cannot be considered.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Brooks Macek: Brooks Macek first moved to Germany in 2013, playing for Iserlohn and Munich. After winning two DEL championships and silver at the 2018 Olympic Games, the forward spent a year in the AHL before playing seven seasons with Yekaterinburg, where he developed into a key player. Macek stands out for his offensive skills and experience.

Tom Kühnhackl: Without a doubt, the son of living ice hockey legend Erich Kühnhackl is one of the most successful German players of this era, winning the Stanley Cup in the NHL with the Pittsburgh Penguins in 2016 and 2017. But the road there was not an easy one for Kühnhackl. From 2012 to 2015, the left-shooter, who was drafted by Pittsburgh in 2010, 110th overall, bounced between the AHL team Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins and the ECHL club Wheeling Nailers before lifting the Stanley Cup for the first time alongside hockey greats like Sidney Crosby or Evgeni Malkin. In July 2018, the now two-time Stanley Cup winner moved to the New York Islanders organization, for whom he played 75 NHL games. Three years later, Kühnhackl finally returned to Europe, playing for Skellefteå in Sweden's top tier between 2021 to 2023.

Matthias Plachta: Matthias Plachta is breaking one club record after another and, at the tender age of 35, has immortalized himself in the history books of die Adler. The 35-year-old is entering his 17th season with Mannheim and leads the team's all-time scoring list with 216 goals and 317 assists. He is a leader, an identification figure and a face of the club. Blue-white-red blood has been flowing through his veins since 2009. Loyalty is not a foreign word for him, but a philosophy of life. He won the German championship with Mannheim in 2015 and 2019. In 2018, he was part of the team that sensationally won silver at the Olympic Games.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Jake Hildebrand, GK, Eisbären Berlin (DEL)

Felix Noack, GK, Blue Devils Weiden (DEL2)

Brooks Macek, FW, Avtomobilist Yekaterinburg (KHL)

Patrick Brown, FW, Providence Bruins (AHL)

Jérémie Poirier, D, Texas Stars (AHL)

Lennard Nieleck, FW, Eisbären Berlin (DEL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Dallas Eakins' comments about the team's goals in the CHL:

"Our goal is to represent our fans, ownership and German hockey in the highest regards."

Head Coach Dallas Eakins' comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Skellefteå AIK: "One of the true giants of Swedish hockey. They have built a championship culture, consistently develop elite players and know exactly what it takes to compete at the highest level in Europe. It's a tremendous challenge and an opportunity we're really looking forward to."

Växjö Lakers: "A modern European powerhouse. Their organisation has established an incredible standard of excellence over the past decade. Every time you play a Swedish team you know you'll face speed, structure and tremendous skill. It will be a great test for our group."

GKS Tychy: "A historic club and one of the biggest names in Polish hockey. Their recent success speaks for itself and you can feel the passion their supporters bring to every game. We know we'll be facing a champion with a winning mentality."

Bordeaux Boxers: "It's exciting to see a club reach new heights and make their Champions Hockey League debut. Winning a national championship is never easy and Bordeaux have earned their place among Europe's elite. We expect an outstanding atmosphere and a very difficult game."

KooKoo Kouvola: "Finnish hockey always demands your best and KooKoo are a perfect example of that. Coming off an incredible season and reaching the league final, they have built a highly competitive team with tremendous character. We're excited for the opportunity to play in Kouvola."

Fribourg-Gottéron: "The Swiss champions have been building toward this moment for years, and capturing their first title is a remarkable achievement for the club and its supporters. They combine experience, talent and one of the best environments in European hockey. It will be a special challenge for us."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

#2 Werner Lorenz

#3 Harold Kreis

#10 Kurt Sepp

#12 Bruno Guttowski

#15 Marcus Kuhl

#17 Marcus Kink

#20 René Corbet

#25 Stéphane Richer

#29 Denis Reul

#47 Christoph Ullmann

#55 Jochen Hecht

#57 Ronny Arendt

CLUB TRIVIA

Our mascot is a hamster named Udo, just like the announcer of the club during home games. Why a hamster? In the course of the construction of the SAP Arena, a special hamster native to the area had to be relocated, hence the SAP Arena deciding to install the hamster as the mascot.

Hockey in the city of Mannheim was first established in 1938, when Mannheimer ERC (MERC) first took the ice. MERC won their first German championship in 1980. In 1994, ice hockey in Mannheim experienced some changes when Adler Mannheim was founded from MERC and joined Germany's newly founded professional league, the DEL, the same year. Adler quickly became a success, both on and off the ice.

Adler Mannheim have collected eight championships, three more finals appearances and won Germany's "Pokal-Cup" twice. Since 2005, the club has played all its home games in front of a loyal fan base inside the SAP Arena, with a seating capacity of 13,600. Adler, along with their loyal fans, have earned the nickname "Hockey Town" for the city of Mannheim. Adler proudly has the most successful junior project in the DEL: Adler's junior team has collected 17 championships in the DNL, Germany's best youth league.

Adler Mannheim founded the non-profit and charitable organisation "Adler helfen Menschen e.V." in 2007, to help distressed, dishonoured people and people in need. In the name of the non-profit organisation, the club organises many different charity events during the season, for example the game of the flashing hearts right before Christmas. With those events and the help of donors, the organisation collected close to one million euros for non-profit purposes.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Eishockeyschläger/Schläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafzeit

Referee = Schiedsrichter





KÖLNER HAIE



FOUNDED

1972

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 8 – 1977, 1979, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1995, 2002

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2014/15: Group Stage (4th in Group A)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Winners

ARENA INFO

Name: LANXESS arena

Address: Willy-Brandt-Platz 3, 50679 Köln, Germany

Capacity: 18,600

Year opened: 1998

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.haie.de

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/koelnerhaie

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/koelnerhaieofficial

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@koelnerhaietv

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@koelnerhaie

 **Newsletter:**

cloud.sf.haie.de/subscription_kec

CLUB STAFF

CEO: Philipp Walter

Sport Director: Matthias Baldys

Head Coach: Thomas Berglund

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Jason Schade

E-Mail: j.schade@haie.de

Phone number: +49 221 2795-120 / +49 1525 5916768

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Accreditation form on our website at www.haie.de/medien-akkreditierungen/

Via e-mail at presse@haie.de



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Janne Juvonen: Janne Juvonen made his Finnish Liiga debut with the Lahti Pelicans in 2011/12 and went on to play 186 games for the club over the next six seasons, including alongside future teammate Juhani Tyrväinen. In 2018, he left Finland to play for HC Innsbruck before moving to Sweden, where he spent more than three years with Mora IK and Leksands IF. His performances earned him a place on Finland's 2021 World Championship team, where he won a silver medal. After spells with Jokerit and HC Ambri-Piotta, he won the Spengler Cup in 2022 with the Swiss team. Juvonen joined the Haie in October 2025 and quickly became a key player, helping the team to a record-breaking regular season and earned DEL Goaltender and Player of the Year honors for the 2025/26 season.

Moritz Müller: Moritz Müller is the captain of the Kölner Haie and by far the longest-serving player on the Haie roster. The defence-man has been a member of the Haie team since 2003. Among his greatest achievements are winning silver at the 2018 Winter Olympics, silver at the 2023 IIHF World Championship and four appearances in the DEL championship finals with the Haie. In the 2022/23 season, Müller became only the second-ever player in Kölner Haie history to play 1,000 games for the club. With over 1,180 DEL games under his belt, "Mo" has now played the second-most games in league history and could surpass Mirko Lüdemann as the DEL's all-time leader in games played during the 2026/27 season.

For the Haie captain, however, ice hockey is much more than just a job – it's a labor of love! As a leader and figurehead of German ice hockey, he co-founded the "Ice Hockey Players' Union" (SVE) with other players to advocate for the interests of ice hockey players. He serves as its first chairman on a volunteer basis.

Patrick Russell: Patrick Russell developed through the youth systems in Gentofte and Linköping before beginning his senior career with the Waterloo Black Hawks (USHL) in 2013. He later played college hockey at St. Cloud State University before joining the Bakersfield Condors (AHL). From 2015 to 2018, Russell recorded 84 points in 187 AHL games and made his NHL debut for the Edmonton Oilers in 2018, playing 59 NHL games through 2020/21 alongside Leon Draisaitl. He became the 12th Danish player to appear in the NHL. Russell returned to Europe in 2021 and spent

four seasons with Linköping HC, recording 117 points in 198 SHL games. He joined Kölner Haie ahead of the 2025/26 season and became the team's leading scorer in his first season with 60 points in 52 regular season games.

Internationally, he has represented Denmark at seven IIHF World Championships and the 2022 and 2026 Winter Olympics.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Nico Wiens, GK, Selber Wölfe (Oberliga Süd, Germany)

Carlos Händel, D, Halifax Mooseheads (QMJHL)

Markus Ljungh, FW, Linköping HC (SHL)

Marcel Noebels, FW, Eisbären Berlin (DEL)

Daniel Fischbuch, FW, Iserlohn Roosters (DEL)

Tim Fleischer, FW, Straubing Tigers (DEL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Thomas Berglund's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"The chance to compete against the best teams in Europe is what makes the Champions Hockey League special. That's important for the players, the coaches, and, of course, our fans. Games like these help a team develop further. We go into every game with the goal of winning it. Our goal is to make the Playoffs. At the same time, it's the start of the season – so it is also about getting to know each other and figuring out how we want to play."

Head Coach Thomas Berglund's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Red Bull Salzburg: "Red Bull Salzburg have been one of the defining teams in Austrian ice hockey for many years. The club boast extensive international experience, a strong organisational structure and a roster that regularly features top-tier players. Accordingly, right at the start of the CHL, we face a challenging task against an opponent that is competitively at the highest level."

Tappara Tampere: "Tappara are one of the most successful and prestigious clubs in Europe. They have dominated the Finnish league for many years and are known for their strong winning mentality and high-calibre players across all positions. We know just how competitive the level of play is in Finland and what challenges await us there. It will also be a special game

for us, as we'll face Kari Jalonen, who was the Haie's head coach for the past few seasons."

Frölunda Gothenburg: "Frölunda enjoy an excellent reputation and have been one of Sweden and Europe's leading clubs for years. Every year, they put up a top-tier team with strong players and they will once again be very competitive this season. The fact that this match-up will also be our first home game makes the encounter even more special. We're looking forward to the atmosphere and the opportunity to take on the reigning CHL Champions in front of our fans."

KAC Klagenfurt: "Even though I haven't personally been to Klagenfurt or played against them, I've heard a lot about them from many Swedish players. Klagenfurt have been one of the top teams in Austria for many years. Even though they didn't win the league last season, we know they're a very strong team and will give us a tough fight."

Herning Blue Fox: "As the Danish champions, Herning have qualified for the CHL and earned that spot with strong performances. I'll definitely be talking to our Danish players, Frederik Storm and Patrick Russell, who can surely tell us more about the Blue Fox, since I've never played against them myself. This match-up might not be seen as one of the top games from the outside, but we know from experience that you can't underestimate any opponent at this level. A national champion brings quality, confidence and the right mindset to the table."

Genève-Servette: "It's always tough to play against Swiss teams, especially when they're among the best in their league. The team has a lot of talent and will enter the competition with high ambitions. With Sam Hallam, they also have an extremely experienced and successful coach on the bench. We're expecting a tough road game in a great hockey town and are looking forward to testing ourselves against this strong opponent."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Joseph “Peppi” Heiß

Udo Kießling

Erich Kühnhackl

Miro Sikora

Mirko Lüdemann

Detlef Langemann

Robert Müller

Moritz Müller

CLUB TRIVIA

The club was founded in 1972 after growing frustration with the structure of the Kölner EK (KEK), where ice hockey had less influence than other ice sports. This led to a breakaway movement and the creation of the Kölner Eishockey-Club (KEC).

To distinguish itself from the old Cologne Ice Club and meet club registry requirements, the new organisation adopted the name Kölner Eishockey-Club “Die Haie” e.V.

Several stories exist about the origin of the nickname “Haie” (Sharks). The first shark logo was designed by Dieter Horky, then a goalie for the club and later an art professor.

Mascot Sharky is one of the most popular mascots in Germany – at every home game, fans are treated to a special on-ice performance featuring a breakdancing routine during the third-period power break.

For three years in a row – and with an average of over 18,000 fans per home game – the Haie hold the European record for attendance.

The LANXESS arena, with its 18,600 seats, is the second-largest ice hockey arena outside North America.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Moritz Müller – has played the second-most games in DEL (and Haie) history (1,183 games). Has played over 200 international games for Team Germany (12 World Championships) and is captain of the German national team. He’s also an Olympic silver medalist and won silver at the 2023 IIHF World Championship.

Frederik Strom – played in the 2022 and 2026 Olympic Games as well as 14 World Championships with Team Denmark.

Veli-Matti Vittasmäki – is a three-time Finnish champion and won the CHL with Tappara in 2023.

Valteri Kemiläinen – is a three-time Finnish champion and won the CHL with Tappara in 2023, also won gold at the 2022 Olympic Games with Team Finland.

Brady Austin – played for Tappara and won the 2022 Finnish championship with them.

Juhani Tyrväinen – won World Championship gold in 2019 with Team Finland.

Marcel Noebels – is a five-time German champion with Eisbären Berlin (last won in 2026) and is ranked 6th in points scored among active players in the DEL (525 points).

Patrick Russell – played in the 2022 and 2026 Olympic Games as well as playing in seven World Championships with Team Denmark, has also played 59 NHL games for the Edmonton Oilers.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Luca Münzenberger – Luca successfully completed his degree in business administration at the U.S. university in Vermont in 2025.

Maxi Kammerer – at age 14, he was offered a spot at FC Bayern Munich’s soccer boarding school, but (fortunately) decided to play ice hockey instead.

Louis-Marc Aubry – Louis’ dad, Pierre Aubry, played in over 200 NHL games for Québec and Detroit.

Ryan MacInnis – Ryan’s father, Al MacInnis, played a total of 1,416 games in the NHL for Calgary and St. Louis and is considered one of the best NHL defencemen of all time.

Gregor MacLeod – the MacLeods are a true hockey family: Gregor’s sister Lea plays for SC Bern in Switzerland, and his father Jeff coaches the German women’s national team.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Eishockeyschläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafzeit

Referee = Schiedsrichter





**FRIBOURG-
GOTTÉRON**



FOUNDED

1937

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 1 – 2026

Spengler Cup title: 1 – 2024

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2024/25: Round of 16

2022/23: Round of 16

2021/22: Round of 16

2016/17: Semi-Finals

2015/16: Group Stage (3rd in Group K)

2014/15: Round of 16

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: BCF Arena

Address: Ch. St-Léonard 5

Capacity: 9,372

Year opened: 2020

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.gotteron.ch

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/FrGotteron

 **X:**

x.com/FrGotteron

 **Instagram:**

<https://www.instagram.com/frgotteron>

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@HCFribourg-Gottéron

 **TikTok:**

https://www.tiktok.com/@gotteron_officiel

 **LinkedIn:**

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/fribourg-gottéron>

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Yvan Haymoz

CEO: John Gobbi

Sport Director: Gerd Zenhäusern

Head Coach: Roger Rönnberg

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Yann Eltschinger

E-Mail: yann.eltschinger@fribourg-gotteron.ch

Phone number: +41 79 935 30 07

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

For accreditation for CHL home games please contact via this e-mail: media@fribourg-gotteron.ch



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Marcus Sörensen: An amazing player, very creative with a lot of talent.

Sandro Schmid: Swiss international. He combines talent and a true fighting spirit. A model for young players.

Henrik Borgström: Very complete player. Top scorer last year and a very regular player.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Ludovic Waeber, GK, EHC Kloten (NL)

Anthony Richard, FW, Philadelphia Flyers (NHL)

Jonas Taibel, FW, Rapperswil-Jona Lakers (NL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Roger Rönnerberg's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"The goal is to develop the club through tough competition against the very best in Europe. And, of course, to win!"

Head Coach Roger Rönnerberg's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Graz99ers: "Last year's champions with a strong fanbase at home in an arena called "the bunker" will be a tough challenge. They deserve respect after sweeping the playoffs and not losing a single game."

KAC Klagenfurt: "The most successful club in Austrian hockey history will be another challenge. A team that always competes."

HC Pilsen: "They are known for the great youth academy. They have a strong team with some players returning from the NHL, like captain Jakub Jerabek."

Adler Mannheim: "After losing the final to Eisbären Berlin, they will for sure be motivated to compete. They always play good hockey and are hard to beat."

HK Nitra: "The Slovak champions with an excellent academy that has developed a lot of great players. They have a first-class offence with some top players. Local talent is 18-year-old Tomas Chrenko."

Herning Blue Fox: "Another national champion. They are the best team in Danish hockey with a lot of championships. In offence, they are led by Nick Pastujov and two Danish veterans in Martin Bau and Morten Poulsen."

TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Julien Sprunger – Captain of the club who's only ever played for Fribourg and won the title for the first time this past season.

PLAYER'S TRIVIA

Marcus Sörensen and **Jacob de la Rose** play for Swedish national team. During the last World Championship, De la Rose played in Fribourg.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Fribourg was the only team in the French part of Switzerland to have a men's and women's team in the first division.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Hockey sur glace

Faceoff = Engagement

Offside = Hors-jeu

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Canne de hockey

Goal = But/Goal

Penalty = Pénalité

Referee = Arbitre





HC DAVOS

 SWITZERLAND

FOUNDED

1921

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 31 – 1926, 1927, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1950, 1958, 1960, 1984, 1985, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2015

Spengler Cup titles: 17

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2022/23: Round of 16

2017/18: Group Stage

2016/17: Round of 32

2015/16: Semi-Finals

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Winners

ARENA INFO

Name: VAT Arena

Address: Kurgartenstrasse 6, 7270 Davos Platz, Switzerland

Capacity: 6,547

Year opened: 1979

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.hcd.ch

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/hockeyclubdavos

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/hcd_official

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@HCD_official

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@hcdavos_off

 **Newsletter:**

cloud.news.hcd.ch/nl-registrierung

 **LinkedIn:**

www.linkedin.com/company/hockey-club-davos-ag-1921

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Gaudenz F. Domenig

CEO: Marc Gianola

Sport Director: Jan Alston

Head Coach: Josh Holden

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Lars Nay

E-Mail: l.nay@hcd.ch

Phone number: +41 81 410 04 78

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

For accreditation to CHL home games please reach out to the club directly.

TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Filip Zadina: Zadina is a skilled Czech forward known for his speed, offensive creativity and strong shooting ability.

Dominik Egli: Egli is a reliable Swiss defenseman who contributes with solid defensive play, good skating and puck-handling skills.

Sandro Aeschlimann: Aeschlimann is an experienced Swiss goaltender recognized for his quick reflexes, consistency and calm presence in net.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Ken Jäger, FW, Lausanne HC (NL)

Dominik Egli, D, Frölunda HC, (SHL)

Lars Steiner, FW, Rouyn-Noranda Huskies (QMJHL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Josh Holden's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We are at a time here in Davos where we are hungry to win. The organisation, the coaches and the players are all working together to be better than our opponents."

Head Coach Josh Holden's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Storhamar Hamar: "Norway won bronze at this year's World Championship in Switzerland. They are developing good young hockey players that can perform at elite levels. We need to be ready!"

Eisbären Berlin: "This organisation is the most decorated club in the DEL. They always have a strong team and know how to win. We need to bring our best game against this team."

Bílí Tygři Liberec: "Teams from the Czech Extraliga are tough. They play a heavy, hard game. This team will be a great test to see how hard we can compete."

GKS Tychy: "Back-to-back champions of Poland. They are a well-coached, fast team. I'm excited to compete against them to see how our two styles compare."

Skellefteå AIK: "Ten Finals in the last 16 years. Two SHL titles in the last three years. Arguably one of the most successful teams of modern times. I'm excited for this game. It will get us prepared to start our season in Switzerland."

Rögle Ängelholm: "I heard they have a great fan base which gets the arena going. It's always fun to face those challenges as the visiting team. We also hope to make Rögle's coach (who is a friend) angry!"

TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Andres Ambühl – is a legend, a role model, an icon and the GOAT

Wieser Brothers

Von Arx Brothers

Bibi Torriani

Cattini Brothers

Michel Riesen

Joe Thornton

CLUB TRIVIA

The Davos Hockey Club was founded in 1921 and, with 31 championship titles, is the most successful ice hockey club in Switzerland. The club's history, spanning more than 100 years, has been marked by great successes, but also by challenges such as relegation to the 1st League. Numerous notable players, some of whom achieved international fame, have helped shape Davos and are enshrined in the Hall of Fame.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Ken Jäger Dominik Egli Lukas Frick, Sven Jung and **Sandro Aeschlimann** are all Swiss national team players and won silver in the 2026 IIHF World Championship played in Switzerland.

Enzo Corvi – former Swiss national team player, one of the most important centers in the whole League. Was league champion with HC Davos in 2015.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Sandro Aeschlimann and **Filip Zadina** – both have dogs, like many other members of the team

Sven Jung – loves to mountain bike in the summer

Adam Tabellini – is an excellent golf player, he would probably be a pro, if he wasn't already a hockey player

Beni Waidacher – still works in the bank beside playing ice hockey

Yannick Frehner – studying as a physiotherapist

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Anspiel

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Scheibe

Hockey stick = Hockeystock

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter



FOUNDED

1905

GLORY TIMES

CHL titles: 1 - 2024

National titles: 1 - 2023

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2024/25: Semi-Finals

2023/24: CHL Champions

2015/16: Group Stage (3rd in Group M)

2014/15: Round of 16

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Third-Placed

ARENA INFO

Name: Patinoire des Vernets

Address: Rue Hans-Wilsdorf 4, 1227 Les Acacias, Switzerland

Capacity: 7,135

Year opened: 1958

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.gshc.ch

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/GeneveServetteHC

 **X:**

x.com/officialGSHC

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/officialgshc

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@geneve-servettehockeyclub-1661

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@officialgshc

 **Newsletter:**

www.gshc.ch

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Philippe Baechler

CEO: Arnaud Jacquemet

Sport Director: Marc Gautschi

Head Coach: Sam Hallam

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Geff Scarantino

E-Mail: g.scarantino@gshc.ch

Phone number: +41 79 434 18 58

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Media accreditation requests from journalists and photographers must be submitted by email to g.scarantino@gshc.ch no later than 24 hours prior to the match.



**GENÈVE-
SERVETTE**

 **SWITZERLAND**



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Noah Rod: Born in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, Noah Rod joined Genève-Servette at the age of 15 and quickly rose through the ranks to make his National League debut at just 17. Drafted by the San Jose Sharks in the 2nd round of the 2014 NHL Draft, he spent time in North America before returning to Geneva. Appointed captain in 2018 at only 22 years old, Rod has become one of the faces of the club through his leadership, work ethic and competitive spirit. He captained Genève to their first Swiss Championship in 2023 and to the Champions Hockey League title in 2024. Internationally, he has represented Switzerland at every level and won silver at the 2018 IIHF World Championship.

Jesse Puljujärvi: Born in Älvkarleby, Sweden, Jesse Puljujärvi is a highly skilled Finnish forward with extensive international and NHL experience. Selected 4th overall by the Edmonton Oilers in the 2016 NHL Draft, he played over 400 NHL games with Edmonton, Carolina and Pittsburgh before joining Genève-Servette. Known for his size, skating and offensive impact, Puljujärvi has also enjoyed major success with Finland, winning IIHF World Championship gold in 2019 and 2026, as well as World Junior Championship gold in 2016.

Vili Saarijärvi: Born in Helsinki, Finland, Vili Saarijärvi is an offensive-minded defenceman recognised for his puck-moving ability and vision. Drafted by the Detroit Red Wings in the 3rd round of the 2015 NHL Draft, he developed in North America before returning to Europe and establishing himself in top-level leagues. Before joining Genève-Servette, he gained valuable experience in Finland and internationally. With Team Finland, Saarijärvi captured IIHF World Championship gold in 2026.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Ramon Untersander, D, SC Bern (NL)

Nicolas Müller, FW, EHC Bienne (NL)

Tristan Lemyre, FW, Minnesota State (NCAA)

Jérémie Bucheler, D, San Jose Barracuda (AHL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Sam Hallam's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We want to get going straight away and build our game and our chemistry. The Champions Hockey League comes early in the season, so it's a great opportunity to establish our identity against top-level competition. Our ambition is clear: we want to qualify for the Playoffs and use these games to grow stronger as a team."

"With two strong teams from the DEL and another two from the SHL, we know we're going to be tested right from the start. That's exactly what makes this competition so exciting. It's always enjoyable to face teams from different leagues and different hockey cultures. We also have a lot of respect for Storhamar and GKS Tychy, who earned their place in the competition and will bring plenty of pride and energy to every game."

Head Coach Sam Hallam's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Eisbären Berlin: "Eisbären Berlin are one of Europe's benchmark clubs. They have built a winning culture over many years and know exactly what it takes to compete for championships. Playing against a team with that experience is a challenge we're looking forward to."

Storhamar Hamar: "Storhamar represent Norwegian hockey with great pride. They're a hard-working, disciplined team that never make games easy. We know they'll be highly motivated to prove themselves against clubs from the bigger leagues."

Skellefteå AIK: "Skellefteå are a club I know very well. They consistently develop excellent players and play a fast, structured game. They're always among the strongest teams in Sweden, so it's a fixture that naturally stands out."

GKS Tychy: "GKS Tychy have a strong tradition in Polish hockey and deserved their place in the Champions Hockey League. Teams like Tychy often embrace the underdog role, which makes them dangerous opponents if you don't match their intensity."

Växjö Lakers: "Växjö are a club I know very well after spending ten years there. I have a lot of respect for the organisation, the people and the culture they've built. They're consistently one of the top teams in Sweden, so it's a game we're really looking forward to."

Kölner Haie: "Kölner Haie are one of Germany's most historic clubs and always enjoy fantastic support. They play in a passionate hockey environment and have built a very competitive team. We expect another high-level challenge."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Goran Bezina

Daniel Clerc

Eric Conne

Fritz Naef

Philippe Bozon

Jean-François Regali

Igor Fedulov

CLUB TRIVIA

Founded in 1905, Genève-Servette are one of Switzerland's oldest ice hockey clubs and proudly represent the city of Geneva and the entire canton.

The club's iconic colours are Grenat (burgundy), yellow and white, a colour identity that has become synonymous with Geneva sport.

Genève play at Les Vernets, where matchdays are known for their atmosphere and passionate support, led by the IG 02 supporters group and their impressive tifos.

One of the club's most unique traditions involves Sherkan, the club's living eagle. Before every home game, Sherkan performs a ceremonial flight above the ice at Les Vernets, creating one of the most iconic pre-game moments in European hockey and setting the tone for what's to come.

In 2024, Genève-Servette made history by becoming the first Swiss club to win the Champions Hockey League since the competition's launch in 2014/15, defeating Skellefteå AIK in the CHL Final and bringing a European title to Geneva.

Deeply rooted in its community, Genève-Servette continue to bring together generations of supporters under one identity: Grenat.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Jesse Puljujärvi – was selected 4th overall in the 2016 NHL Draft by Edmonton and played nearly a decade of North American professional hockey. Internationally, he became one of Finland's standout young stars, winning both IIHF U18 and World Junior gold medals.

The Club features a strong Finnish core led by **Markus Granlund** and **Sakari Manninen**, both long-time members of the Finnish national team. Granlund was selected in the 2nd round of the NHL Draft and has played in both the NHL and Europe's top leagues, while Manninen was part of Finland's golden generation and helped his country capture major international titles.

Jan Rutta – brings elite international experience to Geneva after winning the Stanley Cup twice and representing Czechia internationally, making him one of the most decorated players on the roster.

Simas Ignatavicius – this young NHL Draftee represents the next generation and is regarded as one of the most exciting prospects developed in Geneva in recent years.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Genève-Servette's dressing room has a soundtrack, and one player is responsible for it.

Josh Jooris – is known within the team as "DJ Juice". He curates the team's warm-up playlists, selecting the music played in the arena before games and helps set the mood long before puck drop.

Jooris also shared a special bond with his dog, Charly, who sadly passed away during the season. In tribute, the team created an internal tradition: after each game, the player voted by the team as Player of the Match received and wore Charly's collar in the locker room. What started as a personal tribute became a symbol of togetherness and team spirit inside the group.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Hockey sur glace

Faceoff = Engagement

Offside = Hors-jeu

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Canne de hockey

Goal = But/Goal

Penalty = Pénalité

Referee = Arbitre





**FRÖLUNDA
GOTHENBURG**



FOUNDED

1944

GLORY TIMES

CHL titles: 5 – 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2026

National titles: 5 – 1965, 2003, 2005, 2016, 2019

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2025/26: CHL Champions

2022/23: Semi-Finals

2021/22: Semi-Finals

2019/20: CHL Champions

2018/19: CHL Champions

2017/18: Round of 16

2016/17: CHL Champions

2015/16: CHL Champions

2014/15: Runners-up

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

CHL Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Scandinavium

Address: Valhallagatan 1, 412 51 Gothenburg, Sweden

Capacity: 12,044

Year opened: 1971

Name: Frölundaborg Isstadion

Address: Mikael Ljungbergs Väg 11, 414 76 Gothenburg, Sweden

Capacity: 6,044

Year opened: 1967

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Website:

www.frolundahockey.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/frolundahc

X:

x.com/frolunda_hc

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/frolunda_hc

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@FrölundaHC-n2z

TikTok:

www.tiktok.com/@frolunda_hc

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Mats Grauers

CEO: Christian Lechtaler

Sport Director: Fredrik Sjöström

Head Coach: Robert Ohlsson

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Peter Kymmer

E-Mail: peter.kymmer@frolundahockey.com

Phone number: +46 705 894032

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

For accreditation for CHL home games please use this contact:

peter.kymmer@frolundahockey.com



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Max Friberg: The team's undisputed captain and leader has been a Frölunda player ever since returning from North America in the summer of 2017. Friberg is a three-time CHL Champion (2019, 2020, 2026), won the SHL championship in 2019 and won two consecutive IIHF World Championship bronze medals with the Swedish national team 2024 and 2025.

Henrik Tömmernes: A Frölunda academy player who won the double with Frölunda in 2016 (SHL and CHL) and another CHL title in 2017. Tömmernes was crowned Swiss champion with Genève-Servette in 2023 and has been considered one of Europe's finest defencemen for many years. He won a third CHL title with Frölunda in 2026.

Samuel Fagemo: A super forward who returned to Frölunda this season after five years in North America. His stats undisputably prove that he is a player who produces both goals and assists in vast numbers. The 26-year-old is a Frölunda academy player who won the double with the club in 2019 (SHL and CHL) and a second CHL title in 2020.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Stefan Milosevic, D, Leksands IF (SHL)

Samuel Fagemo, FW, Winnipeg Jets (NHL)

Patrik Puistola, FW, Örebro (SHL)

Oskar Olausson, FW, Minneson Wild (NHL)

Liam Dower Nilsson, FW, IF Björklöven (Hockeyallsvenskan)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Robert Ohlsson's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"A tough group, but our aim is to lift the trophy yet another time."

Head Coach Robert Ohlsson's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

SaiPa Lappeenranta: "A well-coached and solid team."

KooKoo Kouvola: "A well-organised team with great skating ability."

Kölner Haie: "Köln are always a strong competitor. It will be interesting to see if new coach Thomas Berglund will implement the playbook that made Luleå so successful."

Storhamar Hamar: "Norwegian champions and a strong team."

Bílí Tygři Liberec: "A tactically solid team."

Bordeaux Boxers: "We don't know that much about them, but since they are in the CHL they must be good."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Lars-Erik Lundvall

Ronald “Sura-Pelle” Pettersson

Jörgen Pettersson

Anders Broström

Stefan Larsson

Patrik Carnbäck

Ronnie Sundin

Niklas Andersson

Christian Bäckman

Tomi Kallio

Henrik Lundqvist

Daniel Alfredsson

Erik Karlsson

Joel Lundqvist

CLUB TRIVIA

Frölunda Gothenburg have attracted the most spectators in the Swedish Hockey League (SHL) for several years and Göteborg is well known for its great hockey vibe. The previous season really emphasised that – Frölunda attracted an average of 11 769 fans at home games, a new all-time high.

The club have changed name two times: originally Västra Frölunda IF (1944), Västra Frölunda Hockey Club (1984) and Frölunda Hockey Club (2004).

In 2022, the club changed its logo.

Over the years, the men’s team has been coached by respectable names such as Leif Boork, Lars Falk, Tommy Boustedt and Conny Evensson.

Frölunda’s most successful and charismatic coach, Roger Rönnberg, left the club at the end of the 2024/25 season after serving a record twelve seasons (2013-2025) on the bench.

In 2016, Frölunda won the double (CHL and SHL). They won the CHL again in 2017 and the their second double in 2019. 2020 saw Frölunda add CHL title #4.

With a new coach, Robert Ohlsson, Frölunda secured a fifth CHL title in 2026, further cementing them as the most successful club in Champions Hockey League history.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Nicklas Lasu – Lasu has been a part of Frölunda’s (and the CHL’s) journey from the very start, back in 2014. He has won the CHL four times with Frölunda and scored the winning overtime goal in the 2017 Final. Including his two seasons in Kärpät, he has competed in the CHL eight times and played 94 games. As a 35-year-old, Lasu scored in the 2026 CHL Final and added yet another title to the three previous.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Noah and **Filip Hasa** (brothers) are devoted fisherman. They own a boat together and fish as much as they can in their spare time.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Ishockey

Faceoff = Tekning

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeyklubba

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Utvisning

Referee = Domare



FOUNDED

1921

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 1 – 1978, 2013, 2014, 2024, 2026

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2024/25: Round of 16

2023/24: Runners-Up

2022/23: Quarter-Finals

2021/22: Round of 16

2019/20: Round of 16

2018/19: Quarter-Finals

2016/17: Round of 32

2015/16: Quarter-Finals

2014/15: Semi-Finals

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Skellefteå Kraft Arena

Address: Mossgatan 27, 931 70 Skellefteå

Capacity: 5,801

Year opened: 1967

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.skellefteaaiik.se

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/skellefteaikhockey

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/skellefteaaiik

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/skellefteaikhockey

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@skellefteaaiik

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Petter Mikaelsson

CEO: Daniel Fåhraeus

Sport Director: Erik Forssell

Head Coach: Daniel Hermansson

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Karoline Carlson

E-Mail: media@skellefteaaiik.se /

karoline.carlson@skellefteaaiik.se

Phone number: +46 70 295 89 78

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Accreditation can be applied via email to media@skellefteaaiik.se. Minimum 48h before game starts.



SKELLEFTEÅ AIK



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Oscar Lindberg: Born and raised in Skellefteå, Oscar is a home-grown player who returned to Skellefteå during the 2023/24 season after playing in the NHL and Switzerland and has since helped lead the team to two SHL titles (2024, 2026). During the previous SHL season, he was the league's highest scorer with 67 points in 52 regular season games and was named both SHL MVP & Forward of the Year. A smart, highly skilled and dominant forward, Oscar is a player who consistently drives the team toward success.

Jonathan Pudas: The team captain and an offensively gifted defenceman who helps propel the team forward with his vision and leadership. Known for his excellent hockey IQ and powerful slapshot, Pudas has been named SHL Defenceman of the Year on multiple occasions. During the 2025/26 season, he recorded more than 40 points in the regular season. Jonathan has spent nine seasons with Skellefteå AIK and remains one of the club's most influential players.

Rickard Hugg: A fast, skilled and intelligent forward who always puts the team first. As an assistant captain, he plays a key role both on and off the ice and is widely respected for his team-first mentality. Hugg joined Skellefteå AIK in 2019 and has since become an important part of the team's core. With more than 400 games played, and a total of 273 points recorded for the club, he is an exciting player to watch and a valuable leader within the organisation.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Andro Kaderli, FW, Leksands IF (SHL)

Hudson Fashing (F), Cleveland Monsters, AHL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Daniel Hermansson's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We see the Champions Hockey League as an important competition where we want to measure ourselves against the best teams in Europe. Our goal is to go far in the competition while continuing to develop our game against international opposition. It is a great opportunity for both the team and the club to show what we stand for."

Head Coach Daniel Hermansson's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

HK Nitra: "Nitra are a skilled team with good pace and technical ability. It will be a tough challenge where we need to be precise in all areas of our game."

Adler Mannheim: "Mannheim are one of Europe's most established clubs with extensive experience in international play. We expect a physical and intense game where attention to detail will be key."

Genève-Servette: "Genève are a strong team with a lot of quality. We look forward to facing them once again. It will be a great challenge, and we are eager for the opportunity to bounce back after losing the CHL Final against them last time."

HC Davos: "Davos are a traditional club with an offensive style of play. It will be important for us to stay disciplined and manage their puck skills effectively."

HC Pilsen: "Pilsen play structured and hard-working hockey. We know we will need a strong performance to get a good result against them."

Red Bull Salzburg: "Salzburg play fast and high-intensity hockey. It will be a high-tempo game where we need to be ready from the start."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Jimmie Ericsson

Joakim Lindström

Hardy Nilsson

Anders “Acka” Andersson

Pär Mikaelsson

Jan Erixon

CLUB TRIVIA

Special tradition – Thomson Trophy

At the start of every summer, the players in our men’s team compete during one week for the “Thomson Trophy”, named after their physical trainer Stefan Thomson. Throughout the week, the players compete in a series of challenges to earn points, which are converted into time advantages at the start of the final event. The triathlon, where they swim, run and bike around Skellefteå, is the final event and takes place on the last day. This tradition has been in place since 2008.

Special tradition – First practise on ice for the season.

After every summer, we have a special event in the arena, where our audience come to see our teams have their first on-ice practise of the season. During the event, we also make sure to have autograph signings, player presentations, meet and greets with fans etc. It is a very popular event amongst our fans!

Mascot – “Buddy”

Our mascot’s name is Buddy. He is a black and yellow dragon and very popular amongst our young fans. He is from vitberget, which is a smaller mountain behind our arena – he was born from a golden egg, and is a big part of Skellefteå AIK identity. He may be a little impulsive and clumsy, with a confidence level that is sometimes bigger than it should be. But above all, Buddy is kind, energetic and caring. He is enthusiastic about life in general – but especially when it comes to hockey and Skellefteå AIK. He cares deeply about making sure everyone feels welcome and has the opportunity to participate on their own terms. Buddy’s friends are a community built around Buddy’s values and personality. A place

where every child is welcome, just as they are, and whenever they feel ready to join.

Being a dragon, Buddy can of course breathe fire. However, that’s not allowed in the arena. As far as anyone knows, no one has ever seen him do it... and Buddy insists that’s probably for the best.

PLAYERS’ TRIVIA

Oscar Lindberg – during the 2025/26 SHL season, he won six different awards: MVP of the Year, Forward of the Year x2, Golden helmet, Stefan Liv memorial trophy (playoffs most valuable player) and winner of the regular season top scorer crown.

Strauss Mann – starting the 2025/26 season without contract, he joined Skellefteå AIK on what was initially intended to be a short-term solution. It quickly turned into one of the season’s success stories. In 42 regular season appearances, he set a new SHL record for the most shootout wins in a single season – 10! Posting a save percentage of 91.4%, he established himself as one of the league’s very best!

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Ishockey

Faceoff = Tekning

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeyklubba

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Utvisning

Referee = Domare





VÄXJÖ LAKERS



FOUNDED

1997

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 4 – 2015, 2018, 2021, 2023

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2024/25: Quarter-Finals

2023/24: Quarter-Finals

2021/22: Round of 16

2018/19: Group Stage (3rd in Group G)

2017/18: Runners-Up

2016/17: Semi-Finals

2015/16: Round of 32

2014/15: Group Stage (2nd in Group G)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Third-Placed

ARENA INFO

Name: Vida Arena

Address: Storgatan 86, 352 46 Växjö, Sweden

Capacity: 5,750

Opened: 2011

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Website:

www.vaxjolakers.se

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/vaxjolakers

X:

x.com/VLHlive

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/vaxjolakers

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@vaxjolakersofficial9333

TikTok:

www.tiktok.com/@vaxjolakers

Newsletter:

app.bwz.se/shl/vaxjolakers/b/v?subscribeto=3&ucrc=F6A6AC1025

LinkedIn:

www.linkedin.com/company/v%C3%A4xj%C3%B6-lakers

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Jennie Isberg

CEO: Johan Markusson

Sport Director: Henrik Evertsson

Head Coach: Björn Hellkvist

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Carolina Toresson

E-Mail: carolina.toresson@vaxjolakers.se

Phone number: +46 73 320 42 54

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

For accreditation for CHL home games please contact us at:
press@vaxjolakers.se



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Joel Persson: The captain and heartbeat of the Växjö Lakers. Joel Persson is one of the SHL's most dynamic defencemen, combining elite skating, offensive creativity and strong leadership. A former player of the Edmonton Oilers in the NHL, he sets the standard both on and off the ice.

Dennis Rasmussen: A home-grown leader who returned to Växjö after several seasons in the NHL. Rasmussen is a reliable two-way center known for his size, hockey IQ and ability to perform in crucial moments. His journey from the Lakers' youth system to the NHL and back makes him a true club icon.

Lucas Elvenes: One of Sweden's most skilled playmakers, Lucas Elvenes brings speed, vision and creativity to every shift. With experience from both the SHL and North America, he's capable of changing a game with a single pass or an individual moment of brilliance, making him one of Växjö's biggest offensive threats.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Peter Cehlárik, FW, Leksands IF (SHL)

Matias Mäntykivi, FW, Ilves (Liiga)

Jimi Suomi, D, KooKoo (Liiga)

Sebastian Aho, D, Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins (AHL)

Eddie Levin, FW, Kalmar HC (HockeyAllsvenskan)

Elias Lindgren, D, Vimmerby HC (HockeyAllsvenskan)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Björn Hellkvist's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Our ambition is to compete. Every time we step onto the ice, we want have the best possible chance to win. The CHL brings together some of the best teams in Europe and that means you have to be prepared, disciplined and consistent. For us, it is also about continuing to develop as a team and testing ourselves against different styles of hockey. We have been close before, but close is not where we want to be. We want to take another step and challenge for the title. That requires hard work every day and a strong belief in what we are doing."

Head Coach Björn Hellkvist's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Adler Mannheim: "Mannheim are a team with a lot of experience and high individual quality. They are skilled with the puck and punish mistakes immediately. For us, it will be about being consistent in our game over 60 minutes and making sure the game is played on our terms."

Tappara Tampere: "Tappara are one of the most well-organised teams in Europe. They are disciplined, tactically strong and give you very little for free. We need to be patient, make good decisions with the puck and be prepared to put in the work shift after shift."

Dynamo Pardubice: "Pardubice have a roster with a lot of skill and international experience. They are dangerous in transition and have players who can decide games through individual moments. We need to play with structure, be sharp in the details and win enough battles."

Genève-Servette: "Genève play with high pace and a lot of confidence. They have shown in recent years that they can compete with anyone in Europe. For us, it will be about maintaining a high work rate and not giving them the space they need to create chances."

HK Nitra: "Nitra are a team that compete in every situation. In a competition like this, there are no easy games and if you underestimate anyone, you will be punished. We need to focus on our own performance and do the things we are good at. That will give us the best chance of winning."

Red Bull Salzburg: Red Bull Salzburg is a team we know well after meeting them several times in the CHL over the years. They play with great speed, high intensity and are very effective in applying pressure all over the ice. We know it takes a disciplined and mature performance over 60 minutes to give ourselves a chance to win. Those are exactly the kinds of games you want to play.

TRIVIA SECTION

legendary players

Robert Rosén

Liam Reddix

Tuomas Kiiskinen

Erik Josefsson

Johan Markussón

CLUB TRIVIA

Founded in 1997, Växjö Lakers are one of the youngest clubs in Swedish top-level hockey.

The name "Lakers" reflects Växjö's identity as "the city of lakes", with more than 20 lakes surrounding the city.

The club climbed from Sweden's fourth tier to the SHL in just 14 years.

Växjö have won four Swedish Championships (2015, 2018, 2021 and 2023), making them one of the most successful Swedish clubs of the modern era.

Home games are played at the Vida Arena, one of Sweden's most modern hockey arenas.

The club are known for their strong culture, long-term planning and player development.

The Växjö Lakers has also built a strong reputation for community work through projects such as Läsa med Lakers (Reading with Lakers) and Lakers i rörelse (Lakers in Motion), inspiring thousands of children every year through reading and physical activity.

The club mascot is Lacke, a popular figure among young supporters on game days.



PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Joel Persson – spent time in the NHL with the Edmonton Oilers before returning to Växjö, where he now serves as team captain.

Dennis Rasmussen – played over 130 NHL games with the Chicago Blackhawks, Anaheim Ducks and Buffalo Sabres before returning to his hometown club.

Lucas Elvenes – has represented Sweden at several international tournaments and is one of the SHL's top point producer.

Several players on the roster have represented Sweden at World Championships or various junior national team levels.

Växjö's roster combines experienced international players with home-grown talent developed through the club's own system.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Joel Persson – the club captain is known as a calm and respected leader who enjoys spending time with family and friends away from the rink.

Dennis Rasmussen – is passionate about giving back to the club and serves as an inspiration for young players coming through Växjö's youth system.

Björn Hellkvist – our Head Coach is passionate about fly fishing and never misses the chance to get out on the water whenever hockey takes a break.

The players regularly take part in the club's community initiatives, visiting schools through Läsa med Lakers and Lakers I Rörelse, encouraging children to read, stay active and believe in themselves.

The Växjö Lakers place great emphasis on being role models in the community, making player appearances and charitable activities an important part of club life.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Ishockey

Faceoff = Tekning

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeyklubba

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Utvisning

Referee = Domare





**RÖGLE
ÄNGELHOLM**



FOUNDED

1932

GLORY TIMES

CHL titles: 1 – 2022

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2022/23: Quarter-Finals

2021/22: CHL Champions

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Fourth-Placed

ARENA INFO

Name: Catena Arena

Address: Ishallsvägen, 26254 Ängelholm, Sweden

Capacity: 6,310

Year opened: 1963

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



Website:

www.roglebk.se



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/roglebk



X:

x.com/roglebk



Instagram:

www.instagram.com/roglebk



YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@roglebk1932



TikTok:

www.tiktok.com/@roglebk

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Göran Tarring

CEO: Alen Bibic

Sport Director: Hampus Sjöström

Head Coach: Dan Tangnes

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Linn Rydstedt

E-Mail: linn.rydstedt@rogle.se

Phone number: +46 76 8687466

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

For accreditation to CHL home games please contact us by e-mail here:

linn.rydstedt@rogle.se



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Fredrik Olofsson: NHL experience with the Dallas Stars and the Colorado Avalanche. Came to Rögle ahead of the 2025/26 season and instantly made an impact.

Calvin de Haan: With the experience of over 700 NHL games, Calvin de Haan became one of the most prominent players in his first SHL season for Rögle. A fan favourite for his solid defensive game and team-first mentality.

Leon Bristedt : A staple in the Rögle community and a long-time fan favourite. Made his debut for Rögle during the 2018/19 season and quickly became popular for his quick feet and nifty moves.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Calle Clang, GK, San Diego Gulls (AHL)

Ludvig Claesson, D, HC Davos (NL)

Nate Clurman, D, Laval Rocket (AHL)

Axel Kumlin, D, Univ. Notre Dame (NCAA)

Oskar Jellvik, FW, Boston College (NCAA)

Tinus Luc Koblar, FW, Leksands IF (SHL)

Joel Kellman, FW, Färjestad BK (SHL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Dan Tangnes' comments about the team's goals in the CHL:

"We're excited about the opportunity to measure ourselves against some of the best teams in Europe. We approach every game with the ambition to win and these international match-ups provide valuable experience for our group. Playing meaningful games this early in the season is an important part of our development."

Head Coach Dan Tangnes' comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Dynamo Pardubice: "Pardubice are one of the most accomplished and experienced teams in European hockey right now. As the reigning Czech champions, they'll be a very tough challenge for us."

HC Pilsen: "They had an excellent season last year and have shown they can compete at a high level. As with every opponent in this competition, preparation will be key and we'll make sure we're ready."

HC Davos: "Davos are a team I know well from my time in Switzerland. In many ways, they play a style of hockey that is similar to ours, so it will be an interesting match-up. They're a very strong team and among the best in Europe."

Red Bull Salzburg: "Salzburg consistently combine experienced players with outstanding young talent. They've built a strong track record in the CHL, so we know we'll face another high-quality opponent."

Tappara Tampere: "Tappara are a club that have been among Europe's elite for many years. Rögle have faced them before in important games and I've also played against them with Zug. As always, I expect a demanding game against a top-class opponent."

HK Nitra: "Nitra will be a new opponent for us and that's one of the exciting aspects of this competition. Facing teams you don't see regularly is a great experience, and we'll make sure we're thoroughly prepared."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Kenth "Swiss" Svensson

Lennart Åkesson

Mattias Sjögren

Kenny Jönsson

Roger Elvenes

Stefan Elvenes

Jakob Johansson

CLUB TRIVIA

Originally founded as a bandy club, Rögle's story began on the natural ice of the Rögle ponds just outside the city of Ängelholm – where the club first took shape. In the 1950s, the organisation transitioned into an ice hockey club and gradually began its journey towards the top. During the 1960s, 70s and 80s, local entrepreneur Gösta Carlsson played a vital role in supporting the club's growth, which eventually led to its first promotion to the top division. After years of ups and downs, with multiple promotions and relegations, Rögle have now established themselves as a consistent team in the upper half of the SHL.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Dennis Everberg – won the CHL with Rögle in 2022, won gold with Team Sweden at the IIHF World Championship in 2018.

Calvin de Haan – has played over 700 NHL games.

Anton Bengtsson, Daniel Zaar, Leon Bristedt, Rasmus Sandin and Calle Clang – won the CHL with Rögle in 2022.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Leon Bristedt – A skilled investor and public speaker outside of hockey.

Daniel Zaar – Born and raised close to the arena. He enjoys playing golf and is interested in weather forecasting. He also has his own weather station at home.

Oskar Jellvik – Enjoys playing golf and can solve a Rubik's Cube in 35 seconds.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Ishockey

Faceoff = Tekning

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeyklubba

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Utvisning

Referee = Domare





**HERNING
BLUE FOX**



FOUNDED

1947

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 17 - 1973, 1977, 1987, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2026

CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCE

First CHL season

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Kvik Hockey Arena

Address: Holingknuden 1, 7400 Heming, Denmark

Capacity: 4,120

Year opened: 1988

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



Website:

www.bluefox.dk



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/hemingbluefox



Instagram:

www.instagram.com/bluefoxheming



YouTube:

www.youtube.com/user/BlueFoxHemingAS



TikTok:

www.tiktok.com/@bluefoxherning

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Claus Fedder Sørensen

CEO: Peter Regin

General Manager: Peter Regin

Head Coach: Garth Murray

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Peter Eg Larsen

E-Mail: pl@egmedia.dk

Phone number: +45 42 67 99 39

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

For accreditation for CHL home games please contact Peter Eg Larsen.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Morten Poulsen: Team captain and a home-grown player with a decorated career. Poulsen has played 98 games in 14 IIHF World Championships and is a two-time Olympian, representing Team Danish.

Mathias Bau: Bau has been one of the best players in the Danish league for over a decade. Regular national team player for Team Denmark.

Hjalte Thomsen: Young, but already established, player from Herning. Hjalte has a very bright future ahead of him.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Kevin O'Neil, FW, Adirondack Thunder (ECHL)

Phillip Schultz, FW, Esbjerg Energy (Metal Ligaen)

Anton Linde, FW, Chicoutimi Saguenéens (QMJHL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Garth Murray's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We're excited to play against the hardest competition in Europe and see how we match up. We enter the competition knowing we're the underdog every time we step on the ice but we're here to compete."

Head Coach Jason O'leary's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

KooKoo Kouvola : "Runners-up in Finland last season, KooKoo will be a very hard game for us!"

SaiPa Lappeenranta: "Saipa have been a top team in Finland under Helminen. It will be fun to see how we match up against two good teams from Finland in our first weekend of the CHL."

Bílí Tygři Liberec: "A big and skilled team!"

Eisbären Berlin: "The German champions. We're excited to play in Berlin in front of their great fans."

Kölner Haie: "The regular season winner of the DEL last season. A strong team in their arena!"

Fribourg-Gottéron: "Fribourg are the Swiss champions, they're very skilled and very good on penalty kill."

TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Todd Bjorkstrand – most goals and points

Daniel Nielsen – most games played

Frans Nielsen, Frederik Andersen, Oliver Bjorkstrand, Peter Regin and **Nicklas Jensen** – five NHL players coming out of Herning

CLUB TRIVIA

Most Championships of any club in Denmark.

Supporters (fan club) are called "SEKTION 18", named after Daniel Nielsen #18

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Emil Kristensen – played for KooKoo between 2017 and 2019.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Morten Poulsen and **Frederik Storm** (Kölner Haie) have been roommates during national team duty since 2011.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Ishockey

Faceoff = Faceoff

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

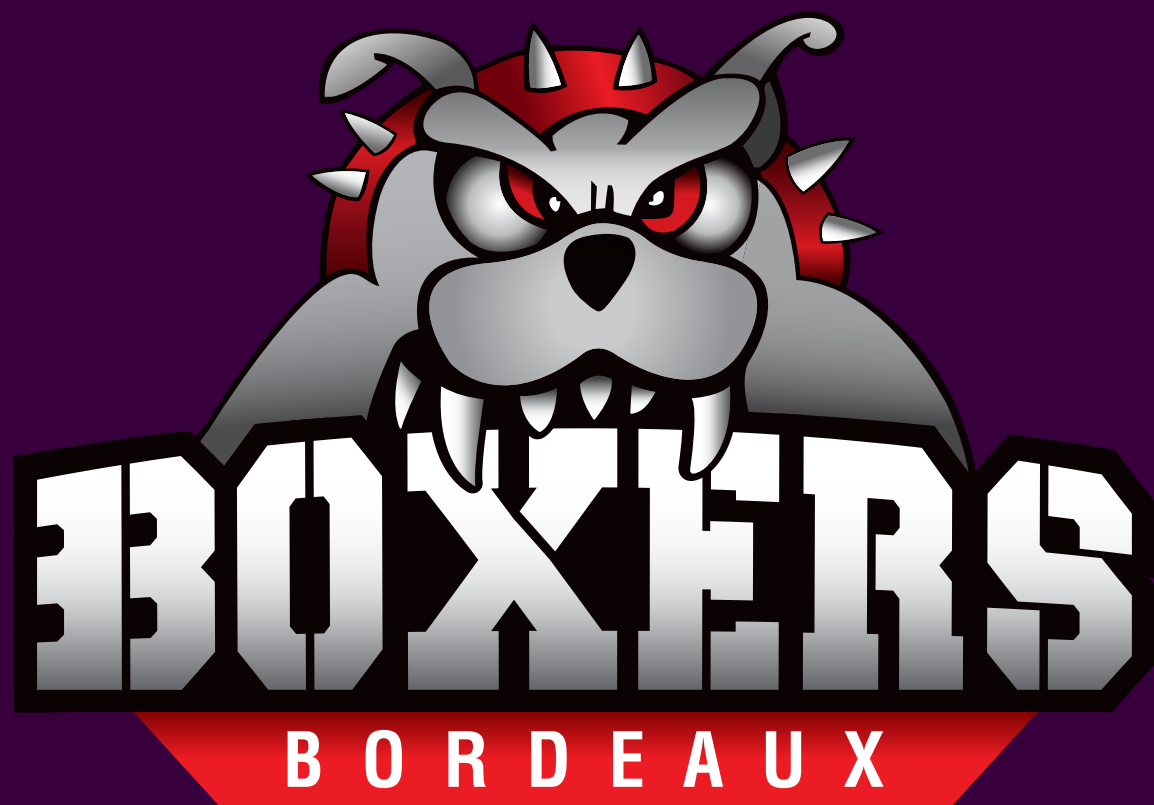
Hockey stick = Hockeystav

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Udvisning

Referee = Dommer





**BORDEAUX
BOXERS**



FOUNDED

1998

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 1– 2026

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

First CHL season

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Patinoire Mériadeck

Address: 95 Cours du Marechal Juin, 33000 Bordeaux

Capacity: 3,500

Year opened: 1981

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.hockey-boxers-de-bordeaux.fr

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/boxersdebordeaux.official

 **X:**

x.com/BoxersBordeaux

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/boxersbordeaux

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@TVBoxers

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@boxersbordeaux

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Thierry Parienty

CEO: Thierry Parienty

Sport Director: Stephan Tartari

Head Coach: Olivier Dimet

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Arthur Boie

E-Mail: boie@hockey-boxers.fr

Phone number: +33 6 37 98 69 14

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please contact canellas@hockey-boxers.fr or boie@hockey-boxers.fr for accreditation for CHL home games.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Quentin Papillon: Last season, Papillon played 38 regular season games, finishing as the league's top goaltender (93.29% save percentage), along with 10 playoff games (92.42%). During his first year in Gironde he finished fourth in the regular season among goaltenders in save percentage (92.67%). In the playoffs, having played 17 of the 18 games up to Game 6 of the final against Rouen, he posted a 92.77% save percentage, finishing just behind Rouen's netminder Matija Pintaric.

Quentin arrived three years ago directly from Mulhouse, where he had already been named the league's best goaltender. It was in Rouen that he first laced up his skates, and it was with the Dragons that he made his Ligue Magnus debut at the age of 18, winning the Continental Cup, the Coupe de France and the Ligue Magnus title, as well as the World Championship Division I-B title with the French U20 national team. The following season, he reached the third step of the podium at the U20 World Championship Division I-A. He spent the next two seasons between 2017 and 2019 under a two-way contract with the Caen Drakkar in Division 1, making only a few appearances in Ligue Magnus with Rouen.

In 2019, he decided to leave Normandy for Mulhouse, spending two consecutive seasons with the Scorpions. He reached the Ligue Magnus quarter-finals in his first year before a health crisis disrupted his second. For 2021/2022, he moved abroad, signing with Grüner, an Oslo-based club playing in Norway's top tier, before returning to Mulhouse the following year, where they qualified for the Ligue Magnus quarter-finals. To date, the Bordeaux netminder has played 195 regular season games and 57 playoff games in Ligue Magnus.

Tommy Giroux: Canadian forward Tommy Giroux, the team's leading scorer this season, is staying on for a third season with the Boxers. Throughout the past French championship-winning season, 33-year-old Giroux played like a true technical leader. He wore the "golden helmet" (casque d'or) as the team's top scorer at the end of the 44-game regular season, in which he played every single game. With 39 points (16 goals, 23 assists), he edged out fellow countrymen Jérémy Beaudry and Pierre-Olivier Morin, who both finished with 37 points. He also wrapped up the playoffs in the golden helmet, racking up 17 points (7 goals, 10 assists) in 14 games.

Jules Boscq: After a successful loan to the Boxers in the 2025/26 season, Boscq has signed with us and will continue his journey with the Boxers further into the future. Jules Boscq, 24, arrived in January on a loan until the end of the season from Hämeenlinnan Pallokerho, better known as HPK, which plays in the Finnish Liiga. The Bordeaux native, who first laced up his skates at Mériadeck, chose to return home. He played two games at the end of January in Grenoble and against Amiens before leaving with the French national team, of which he is a cornerstone, to prepare for the Olympic Games. Once the Olympic tournament concluded, he got back to work with the Boxers against Angers on February 24 and never left the line-up until Game 5 of the final against Grenoble and the French championship title. In total, he played seven regular season games (1 assist) and all 14 playoff games (7 assists).

Boscq left Bordeaux at the age of 13 to pursue his development at Anglet's Elite Development Center (Pôle Élite). A left-handed, offensive defenceman, he joined the Hormadi U17 team, then split time between the U17 and U20 squads the following season, racking up a total of 59 points in 45 games (26 goals) across both age categories. That same season, he also earned his first call-up to the U16 national team.

In 2018/2019, while continuing to play with the Hormadi U17 (where he was named captain) and U20 teams, he played 22 games with the French U18 national team and participated in his first World Championship in Grenoble as alternate captain. The following year, he made his Ligue Magnus debut and played 17 games with the French U18 and U20 national teams, including 5 at the U20 World Championship Division I-B in Ukraine, where he captured a silver medal.

In 2020/2021, he recorded nine points (2 goals, 7 assists) in 23 Ligue Magnus games, was named the league's Rookie of the Year (meilleur espoir) and joined the senior national team for the first time. Then, at the age of 20, he decided to return to the Boxers, where he reunited with head coach Olivier Dimet, who had coached him for two years in Anglet. He went on to play 40 Ligue Magnus regular season games (8 points, 2 goals, 6 assists), 4 playoff games against Grenoble, and 4 Coupe de France matches (1 goal). On the international stage, he competed in the Division I-B World Championship with the U20 team and earned 6 caps with the senior squad.

During his second season in Bordeaux, he tallied 29 points (5 goals, 24 assists) in 44 regular-season games and 4 playoff games. In 2023, he headed to the United States to play for the Iowa Heartlanders in the ECHL. During his second North American season, he played 72 games (31 points, including 9 goals)

before moving to Finland. With the French national team, he played 7 games in both the 2024 and 2025 World Championships. He also played 5 games during the recent Division I-A World Championship in May.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Gaëtan Richard – The 27-year-old French goaltender makes his big return to Bordeaux (where he has previously played), arriving from Rouen. Following Alex Dubeau's departure to Angers, he will form the team's goaltending duo alongside Quentin Papillon.

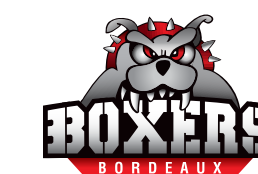
Jarod Hilderman – This solid 29-year-old Canadian defenceman (6'1", 210 lbs) arrives straight from the Nottingham Panthers (UK) after previously experiencing Ligue Magnus with Grenoble.

Luke Santerno – This 29-year-old Canadian forward, a former ECHL player and 2025 Hungarian champion, arrives from the Gap Rapaces to boost the Gironde offense.

Steven Fournier – At 23 years old, this prolific Quebecois forward lands in Bordeaux after two highly impressive seasons in Division 1 with the Tours Remparts.

Yvan Mongo – At 29 years old, he arrives in Bordeaux after spending his first four professional seasons in the United States with the Reading Royals. The Royals are an ECHL affiliate of the Washington Capitals, competing in a league widely considered the third tier of North American professional hockey, just below the NHL and the AHL.

Félix Girard – A true major signing for the Boxers, 32-year-old Girard is a highly experienced leader and a major figure in Ligue Magnus, he also brings an impressive North American background, having played nearly 400 games in the AHL and being a former draft pick of the Nashville Predators.



STATEMENTS

Head Coach Olivier Dimet's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"For us, taking part in the Champions Hockey League is something historic. It is the first time that the Bordeaux Boxers will compete in the Champions Hockey League. It is a great reward for the work we have done over the past few years and for winning the French championship last season. We know that we are going to face teams with much more experience than us at this level. Our main objective is to learn, to challenge ourselves and to be competitive in every game. We want to discover this level of European hockey while remaining true to our identity and the way we want to play. It is an incredible opportunity for our players and our staff to test themselves against some of the best teams in Europe. It is also an important experience for the whole club and a special moment to share with our supporters. We want to make the most of this adventure, gain experience and, above all, make sure that every game helps us grow and continue to move the Boxers de Bordeaux forward."

Head Coach Olivier Dimet's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

KAC Klagenfurt: "Klagenfurt are a very experienced team and a club with a strong European tradition. They are used to playing in this kind of competition and have players who know this level very well. For us, starting our first Champions Hockey League campaign in Klagenfurt will be a big challenge. But it is also a great opportunity for our players to discover this level and see how we can perform against such an experienced team."

Graz99ers: "Graz are the reigning ICE Hockey League champions, which obviously shows the quality of this team. Winning this championship requires a great deal of consistency throughout the season. I expect a very intense and physical game. We will have to be ready from the start, stay disciplined and be able to match their pace. It will be a very good test for our team."

Adler Mannheim: "Mannheim are a big club with an important history in German and European hockey. They have a lot of quality throughout their roster and a great deal of experience at the highest level. For us, welcoming Mannheim to Mériadeck will be a very special moment. This is the kind of game our players and our supporters want to experience. We will have to enjoy the occasion while staying focused on ourselves, our game and our ability to compete."

HC Pilsen: "Pilsen are a very good Czech team. Czech hockey is known for its high technical and tactical level, with players who

are capable of playing at a very high pace. It will be a demanding game for us. We will have to be disciplined, manage the pace of the game well and, above all, be able to play our hockey. This is exactly the kind of opposition we want in this competition."

Dynamo Pardubice: "Pardubice are the Czech champions. They are a very talented team, with a lot of depth and international players who are used to playing at the highest level. Having a team like Pardubice coming to Mériadeck will be something special for Bordeaux. For our players, it will be a fantastic opportunity to test themselves against one of the best teams in Europe, and for our supporters, it will be a great night of hockey. We know the challenge will be significant, but we want to learn from this kind of game while also challenging them and making the game as competitive as possible."

Frölunda Gothenburg: "Frölunda is one of the biggest names in European hockey and has an incredible history in this competition. They are the reigning champions, so it is obviously a huge challenge for us. Finishing our Regular Season in Gothenburg against the defending champions will be a very special experience for our players and for the whole club. We know the level of this team, but it will also be a fantastic opportunity to test ourselves against one of the best teams in Europe. We will go to Gothenburg with the desire to learn, play our hockey and be as competitive as possible."

TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Stéphan Tartari

François Paquin

Maxime Moisand

Clement Fouquerel

Loic Poudrier

Julien Desrosiers

CLUB TRIVIA

The Bordeaux Boxers reached their absolute historical pinnacle in April 2026, officially becoming French Champions by winning Ligue Magnus for the very first time. Demonstrating an incredible trajectory of competitiveness, this historic title victory marked the second time in just three seasons that the team reached the Ligue Magnus finals. An important part of this success is the long-standing, stable leadership of Head Coach Olivier Dimet and General Manager Stéphan Tartari, who embodies the ultimate club transition, having served as a long-standing former team captain before taking the reins of off-ice leadership to engineer this championship era. On the ice, players like Aïna Rambelo represent the living history of the club, having stuck with the team to climb through every single division of French hockey all the way to the very top.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Quentin Papillon – achieved a huge league milestone by overcoming major injuries to secure a heroic comeback on the ice. His outstanding performance under pressure earned him the title of playoff MVP, cementing his status as one of the most dominant and resilient goaltenders in the league.

Aïna Rambelo – represents an incredible milestone of longevity and developmental loyalty, he is a homegrown pillar who has climbed every single division of French hockey with the Boxers. His journey spans from the lower leagues all the way to capturing the Ligue Magnus national title and entering the Champions Hockey League.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Aïna Rambelo – Member of the "600 Club": Entry into the top 10 most capped players in Ligue Magnus history (over 650 games played at the highest French level).

Julien Guillaume – completed 10 years of higher education after his baccalauréat.

Kaylian Leborgne – has Galop 3 qualification in horseback riding.





STORHAMAR HAMAR



FOUNDED

1957

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 10 – 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2018, 2024, 2025, 2026

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2025/26: Round of 16

2024/25: Regular Season (21st place)

2018/19: Round of 16

2015/16: Round of 16

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: CC Amfi

Address: Kornsilovegen 54, 2316 Hamar, Norway

Capacity: 7,000

Year opened: 1992

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.sil.no

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/StorhamarHockey

 **X:**

www.x.com/storhamarhockey

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/storhamarhockey

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@storhamarhockey

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Steinar Andersen

CEO: Espen Løvås

Sport Director: Sjur Rakstad-Larsen

Head Coach: Petter Thoresen

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Dorthen Engh

E-Mail: dorthe@sil.no

Phone number: +47 930 13 997

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Accreditation by email to presse@sil.no – at least 24 hours before the game.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Andreas Martinsen: Captain of the national team. Martinsen is a strong, physical forward with experience from the NHL.

Simon Hjalmarsson: Hjalmarsson is a forward with many years of experience from the SHL, KHL, ICE, Liiga and the Swedish national team.

Jacob Berglund: A natural goal scorer and playmaker, captain of the team and national team player for Norway. In his eighth season with the club.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Tyler Parks, GK, HK Poprad (Slovak Extraliga)

Jesper Lilleberg, D, Sparta Sarpsborg (EHL)

Eirik Salsen, FW, Iserlohn Roosters (DEL)

Stian K. Nystuen, FW, Vålerenga (EHL)

Simon Hjalmarsson, FW, Sport Vaasa (Liiga)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Petter Thoresen's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We will go into every game believing we can win. A strong belief in ourselves is important — then we'll see if our skills are enough."

Head Coach Petter Thoresen's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

HC Davos: "A big Swiss club and amongst the elite in European hockey. We look forward to playing them in their beautiful arena!"

Genève-Servette: "We have played them before and know what we are up against."

KAC Klagenfurt: "One of the top Austrian clubs, great history and a good team with lots of experience in the CHL. We look forward to playing them at home!"

Frölunda Gothenburg: "One of the best clubs in Europe and a tough opponent. A well-known club which will draw fans to our building on a Saturday night!"

Tappara Tampere: "Another team we have met in the past in the CHL. One of the best teams in the competition and another tough test for us!"

Graz99ers: "Another top Austrian team that will surely give us a good, competitive game at our arena!"



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Erik Kristiansen

Pål Johnsen

Christian Larrivé

Alexander Smirnov

Ole Eskild Dahlstrøm

Tom Erik Olsen

Petter Salsten

Jim Marthinsen

CLUB TRIVIA

Storhamar, named after the part of Hamar, that in the Middle Ages was the old town of Hamar. Known as the farmers of Norwegian hockey as the town is situated in the middle of Norway's biggest and most important agricultural district. The club was founded In 1957 by a group of youngsters who had seen hockey at the 1952 Winter Olympics in Oslo. They played outdoors until 1981 and made their first forays into the top league on an outdoor rink with naturally frozen ice! Storhamar is a top club in Norway since the mid-nineties. Well known for our great fans joinin us on away trips. Lots of very loyal, friendly fans.

PLAYERS TRIVIA

Simon Hjalmarsson – has played for both Frölunda and Graz.

Sander Hurrød, Eirik Salsten, Andreas Martinsen, Martin Rønild and **Jacob Berglund** were all in the Norwegian team that won bronze at the IIHF World Championship in Switzerland earlier this year.

Sander Hurrød – joined Storhamar Hamar from the Stavanger Oilers in 2023 and has now won five championships in a row.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Jacob Berglund – a native of Sweden, has settled in Hamar over the years and become a Norwegian citizen.

Simon Hjalmarsson – his wife lived in Norway and suggested he continued his career here as she found it a very nice country to live in.

Andreas Martinsen – is working with the local council and businesses to build a hockey rink in the village of Brøttum where he lives.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Ishockey or normally just hockey

Faceoff = Dropp

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Ishockeykølle or just simply kølle

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Utvising

Referee = Dommer





FOUNDED

1971

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 7 – 2005, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2025, 2026

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2025/26: Regular Season (24th place)

2019/20: Group Stage (4th in Group F)

2018/19: Group Stage (4th in Group C)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Stadion Zimowy Tychy

Address: ul. de Gaulle'a 2, 43-100 Tychy, Poland

Capacity: 2,535

Year opened: 1968

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Website:

www.gkstychy.info

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/gkstychy.oficjalny

X:

www.x.com/GKSTychy1971

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/gkstychy

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@GKSTychyTV>

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Jolanta Mrówczyńska

CEO: Jolanta Mrówczyńska

Sport Director: Jarosław Rzeszutko

Head Coach: Pekka Tirkkonen

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Krzysztof Trzosek

E-Mail: rzecznik@tyski-sport.pl

Phone number: +48 508 568 123

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Journalists can submit accreditation requests via email (rzecznik@tyski-sport.pl) or through the Accredito website.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Filip Komorski: Club captain Filip Komorski has been a key part of our team since 2015, with only a brief one-season stint in the Czech Republic interrupting his stay. Known for his calm leadership and confidence, Filip is one of the team's most recognizable personalities. Comfortable in front of the camera and always ready to speak on behalf of the team, he combines experience, professionalism, and a great sense of humour. Friendly and approachable, he is a favourite among media representatives and fans alike. With his communication skills and natural charisma, a future career in sports marketing would not come as a surprise.

Tomáš Fučík: Tomáš Fučík is a goaltender who never stops believing in himself. After a difficult start to last season, he faced criticism and doubts from many sides. The challenge grew even bigger when another experienced goaltender joined the team just before the playoffs, increasing the competition for the starting role. Instead of letting the pressure affect him, Tomáš responded in the best possible way – on the ice. When the playoffs began, he elevated his game to another level and became the true backbone of our team. His outstanding saves, consistency, and composure in crucial moments gave the team confidence and helped lead us to the championship. When it mattered most, Tomáš proved exactly why he is one of the league's top goaltenders and a player the team can always rely on in the biggest moments.

Mateusz Bryk: One of the most experienced players in our locker room, Mateusz Bryk is a true veteran who brings stability, leadership, and composure to the team. Having won multiple championships throughout his career, he knows exactly how to handle the pressure that comes with the biggest games, and his calm presence is invaluable in crucial moments. Off the ice, Mateusz is known for his positive attitude and genuine smile. He is always approachable and never turns down a request from the club's media team – whether it's an interview, a photo shoot, or even a funny social media video. A respected veteran and a great personality in our dressing room.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Aleksi Ainali, FW, Nidaros Hockey (EHL)

Lauri Sertti, D, HK Dukla Michalovce (Slovak Extraliga)

Szymon Kielbicki, RW, JKH GKS Jastrzębie (THL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Pekka Tirkkonen's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We want to win some games, and we believe that we have a chance in every single game."

Head Coach Pekka Tirkkonen's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

HC Davos: "Davos are a fast and good skating team with five players from last year's national team."

Genève-Servette: "Geneva are an experienced team with good, skilled imports."

Tappara Tampere: "Tappara have a new, experienced coach. They are sure to be a very disciplined team tactically."

Dynamo Pardubice: "Pardubice are a strong, offensive team with some top European players, such as Roman Červenka and Lukáš Sedlák."

HC Pilsen: "Pilsen are another typical Czech team: strong with the puck, strong in one-on-one battles and creative offensively."

Adler Mannheim: "Mannheim are one of the biggest clubs in Germany. They play a North American style of hockey - fast, direct and focused on getting the puck to the net in the offensive zone."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Mariusz Czerkowski

Henryk Gruth

Krystian Woźnica

Krzysztof Oliwa

CLUB TRIVIA

A wolf is the official mascot of the club. His name is Tysek. The animal was selected from among 170 proposals submitted by children as part of an art competition to design a mascot for GKS Tychy. The wolf is directly connected to the legend surrounding the founding of the city of Tychy, specifically the district of Wilkowyje ("wilk" means "wolf").

Last season started with a unique boost for our team. During the pre-season preparations, NHL forward Kaapo Kakko joined GKS Tychy practices while getting ready for the upcoming NHL campaign. The Finnish star trained with our players thanks to his friendship with defenceman Olli Kaskinen, with whom he played in the TPS Turku youth system. Sharing the ice with an NHL player was a great experience and an extra source of motivation for the team ahead of the season.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Mateusz Bryk – is set to make history in the upcoming season as the first Polish player to participate in five CHL campaigns. Having previously represented both GKS Tychy and JKH GKS Jas-trzębie in the competition, the experienced defenceman continues to be one of the most recognisable Polish faces on the European club ice hockey stage.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Karol Sobecki & Henri Knuutinen – in last year's Media Guide, we revealed that defenceman Karol Sobecki occasionally worked as a Glovo delivery driver. That fun fact led to an even funnier story. Just before the start of last season, new signing Henri Knuutinen ordered food to his apartment. The delivery arrived and the driver was none other than Karol Sobecki. The best part? The two players officially met for the first time in the dressing room the following day.

Filip Komorski – our captain holds an official boat skipper's licence. While that may not help him score goals, it certainly proves that he has the credentials to steer the team in the right direction. Fortunately for us, he is just as comfortable leading a hockey team as he is navigating on the water.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = hokej

Faceoff = wznowienie

Offside = spalony

Puck = krążek

Hockey stick = kij hokejowy

Goal = gol, bramka

Penalty = kara

Referee = sędzia





HK NITRA



FOUNDED

1925

GLORY TIMES

IIHF Continental Cup titles: 1 – 2023

National titles: 3 – 2016, 2024, 2026

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2016/17: Round of 32

2015/16: Group Stage (3rd in Group D)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2026/27 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: TIPOSBET Arena

Address: Jesenskeho 2, 949 01 Nitra, Slovakia

Capacity: 3,600

Year opened: 1966

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.hknitra.sk

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/hknitra

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/hk_nitra_official

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@HKNITRATV

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Miroslav Kovacik

CEO: Tomas Chrenko

Sport Director: Tomas Chrenko

Head Coach: Erik Caladi

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Matej Zorad

E-Mail: adiri.hk@gmail.com

Phone number: +421 918 862 887

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Journalists from Slovakia and abroad can apply for media accreditation either via email or phone.

Email: rajtar.pavol@gmail.com

Phone: +421 917 433 492

Application Deadline: No later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day of the game. Late applications will not be processed.

All accreditation requests must include:

- 1.Applicant's Full Name
- 2.Name of the Media Outlet
- 3.Type of Accreditation Requested (PRESS or PHOTO)

Applicants will be notified via email/phone regarding the approval of their request. Approved accreditations can be collected starting two hours before the game at the entranceto Stand B, located at the back side of the stadium.

Further Information: for any additional questions or media inquiries, journalists may contact the provided email address or phone number.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Michal Kristof: A highly skilled and creative center who developed through Nitra's hockey academy and grew into a home-grown fan favorite. A long-time staple of the Slovak national team, he brings tremendous international experience from top European leagues, including the Finnish Liiga and the KHL. Known for his exceptional ice vision, playmaking abilities, and high hockey IQ, Kristof is expected to be the primary offensive engine and a key leader for the team in the Champions Hockey League.

Matej Paulovic: A powerful and versatile forward with an excellent combination of size, skating, and scoring touch. Drafted by the Dallas Stars in 2013 and possessing extensive experience from the Czech Extraliga, Paulovic is a proven winner who knows what it takes to perform in high-stakes games. His ability to play in all situations, win battles along the boards, and produce in clutch moments makes him a crucial asset for Nitra's European campaign.

Branislav Mezei: The ultimate club legend, team captain and a towering defensive presence. A former 10th overall NHL Draft pick with 240 NHL games under his belt (Florida Panthers, New York Islanders), Mezei continues to be the heart and soul of HK Nitra even at 45 years old. Bringing an unmatched level of experience, physical play and leadership, the veteran defenceman remains a crucial anchor on the blue line and an invaluable mentor in the locker room.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2026/27

Adrian Holesinsky, FW, HC Pilsen (Czech Extraliga)

Brett Pollock, FW, HC Bolzano (ICE)

Matej Marinov, GK, Quinnipiac University (NCAA)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Erik Caladi's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We're not just here to take part – we're here to compete and win hockey games. We've built a team that we believe can go toe-to-toe with top clubs in Europe, and our ambition is to make it out of the group and into the knockout rounds. Representing Belfast and the Elite League at this level is an honour, and we want to show that we belong among Europe's best."

Head Coach Erik Caladi's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Skellefteå AIK: "A traditional Swedish club with a rich history. This will be another great test against a top-tier Swedish side, and I believe we can build upon and replicate our successful performances against them from 11 years ago."

Växjö Lakers: "Despite their relatively short history, Växjö have established themselves at the absolute forefront of Swedish hockey. I have been closely following the club since coach Sam Hallam's tenure, as he left an extraordinary legacy and blueprint there."

Rögle Ängelholm : "One of my personal favourite teams in Europe; in fact, Rögle, was a team I was hoping to draw in the Regular Season. Facing a former CHL Champion will be a huge challenge and a great benchmark for our team."

Kookoo Kouvola: "A traditional Finnish club coming off an outstanding season where they marched all the way to the finals. They will undoubtedly want to carry that momentum forward, so we must be thoroughly prepared for their style of play."

SaiPa Lappeenranta: "A very hard-working team that captured bronze, largely thanks to head coach Raimo Helminen. He is a massive personality behind the bench and it will be a true privilege for me to compete against him in this match-up."

Fribourg-Gottéron: "The Swiss champions are widely known for their incredible fanbase and electric atmosphere in the arena. The National League is exceptionally demanding, so we are fully aware of the sheer strength this club possesses. It is another fantastic challenge for us to prepare perfectly and push for a successful result."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Jozef Stumpel

Dusan Milo

Ivan Hrtus

CLUB TRIVIA

Origin of the Club Name: The club's hockey roots date back to the 1925/1926 season. While the club have gone through various sponsor-related name changes over the decades, they have always returned to their core identity – HK Nitra. The club are deeply tied to the historical city of Nitra and the majestic Zobor mountain that overlooks it.

The White-and-Blue Tradition: Nitra's traditional colours are white and blue. The team are universally known in the country as "Corgoni" (The Corgons). This nickname comes from the local legend of Corgon, a powerful blacksmith from Nitra who, according to folklore, was so strong that he single-handedly saved the city from an invading Ottoman army.

The Mascot: The official club mascot is a massive, muscular character named Corgon, representing the legendary blacksmith. He is a fan favourite, creating an incredible atmosphere in the arena and regularly interacting with the crowd during home games.

Famous Fans & Atmosphere: Nitra are legendary across Central Europe for having one of the most passionate, loyal and loud fanbases in hockey. Our home arena is famously nicknamed "Peklo pod Zoborom" (Hell under Zobor) due to the electric, non-stop chanting, white-and-blue tifo displays and a completely packed standing section that drives the team forward.

Special Rituals: A unique post-game ritual happens after every home victory. The players return to the ice for a special "dakovac-ka" (victory celebration), where the entire stadium chants in perfect unison with the team, creating a powerful bond between the players and the fans.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Branislav Mezei – our team captain, former NHL player and Slovak national team player

BEYOND HOCKEY

Matej Marinov – is a US university student.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Ľadový hokej

Faceoff = Vhadzovanie

Offside = Postavenie mimo hry

Puck = Puk

Hockey Stick = Hokejka

Goal = Gól

Penalty = Vylúčenie

Referee = Rozhodca





CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE

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Gubelstrasse 24, 6300 Zug
Switzerland

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www.CHL.hockey
[#championsgobeyond](https://twitter.com/championsgobeyond)