



NYS's BEST YOUTH HOCKEY TEAMS TO COMPETE FOR TITLE IN AMHERST

*Tournament brings thousands to WNY,
Champions Will Move on to Nationals*

For the next month, the Town of Amherst and the [Northtown Center](#) will host the New York State Amateur Hockey Association (NYSAHA) State Tournament, bringing more than 3,400 talented young hockey players together to decide the 2025 NYS champions.

"We're excited to welcome teams and supporters to Amherst for this high-level tournament. Not only does it showcase top hockey talent competing for a state title, but it also provides a great boost to our local economy, filling hotels, restaurants, and businesses. With all four ice pads at Northtown Center buzzing with action, we encourage the community to come out and cheer, especially for our local clubs. It's a great chance to see some of the best hockey in New York, right here in Amherst," said Deputy Supervisor Shawn Lavin.



First puck drops on Friday, Feb. 28 for the 2025 NYSAHA State

Tournament when the state's top Youth/Girls 12U and Youth 130 (Tier I) take the ice for three days of competitive hockey. Then, on March 7-9 is the State Tournament for Girls 14U/16U/19U, including the Amherst Knight's 19U team that is ranked 6th in the country going into the tournament.

Competition continues March 14-16 for Youth Tier I/II 14U/150 (Tier I)/16U/18U and concludes March 21-22 for Youth Tier III 14U/16U/18U. For some tiers, winners of the state tournament will go on to compete in the USA Hockey National Championship tournament.

"We are thrilled to welcome the New York State Amateur Hockey Association Championships to the Town of Amherst and are confident that our partners at the Northtown Center, along with the Cornerstone Arena in Lockport and the Dwyer Arena at Niagara University, will provide an exceptional experience for the thousands of participants and their families. This event is a testament to the strength and talent of youth hockey across New York State, and we encourage the local community to come out and support these dedicated athletes. It's an incredible opportunity to witness top-tier competition and celebrate the sport in Amherst and the WNY region," said Eric Guzdek, President of NYSAHA.

The players and the teams are a significant addition to the growing local sports scene. This is the 21st year that Amherst has hosted this large event. Throughout the four weeks, 8,300 hotel rooms will be booked with an estimated economic impact of more than \$6 million.

"Thanks to the hockey tournament, the tourism industry gets big boost this time of year," said Patrick Kaler, President and CEO of [Visit Buffalo Niagara](#) and the Buffalo Niagara Sports Commission. "Our collaboration with the New York State Amateur Hockey Association is one of the keys to our region's reputation as a destination for amateur sports."

The Hockey Hall of Fame, located in Toronto, Canada, will have a display onsite featuring the Art Ross, Calder Memorial, James Norris and Vezina trophies, just to name a few. It is free and open to the public. Visitors are welcome to visit the Hall of Fame's display on the second floor of the Northtown Center, located at the Wall of Fame featuring local hockey players and supporters who have advanced the game. The display hours are as follows:

- 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Saturday, March 1
- 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Friday, March 7
- 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Saturday, March 15
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 22

Admission and parking are free throughout the tournament. To view game schedules, please click here: [NYSAHA Tournament Schedule](#).