



Travel

Tournaments — On the Road Again....

By Karen Asmundson, Simply Ordered, LLC

Whether it's your first hockey season or your tenth, one of the best parts of hockey season is attending out of town tournaments. Teammates and their families have an opportunity to get to know each other, play together, socialize, and maybe swim at the hotel pool. Generally, teams at the Squirt level and above have at least one out-of-town tournament each season.

Going to a tournament isn't quite the same as going to a home game. Usually, tournaments are more than an hour away from home. Furthermore, your team usually plays more than one game in a short time. It isn't as easy to run home to pick up something that was forgotten. Encourage your kids to be responsible for their stuff as soon as they're big enough to carry their hockey bag. A little planning will make the tournament more enjoyable for both players and their families.

Your team manager or coach will provide tournament dates, rink location and hotel information.

Once you know the tournament dates and location:

- ❖ Add dates to your family calendar
- ❖ Book hotel room (team manager may have reserved a block or rooms but you need to call to request your own room and guarantee your reservation with a credit card)
- ❖ Let your team manager/coach know if your son/daughter will miss any games

Before you leave town:

- ❖ Get directions to the arena (www.RinkFinder.com)
- ❖ Get tournament schedule/bracket
- ❖ Coordinate transportation if you are carpooling with another family
- ❖ Get a list of cell phone numbers for each teammate's family, the coaches, and team manager

Hockey players and goalies:

- ❖ Sharpen skates if necessary
- ❖ Hockey equipment -check to make sure the player has EVERY piece of equipment. Double check.
- ❖ Home and away jerseys
- ❖ Home and away game socks (if necessary)
- ❖ Extra stick
- ❖ Stick tape, stick wax
- ❖ Extra laces, mouth guard
- ❖ T-shirt, socks and underwear for each game
- ❖ Extra contact lenses, lens solution, contact case or other prescription eyewear (if necessary)
- ❖ Medication (if necessary), toiletry kit
- ❖ Simple first aid kit (Band-Aids, anti-bacterial cream)
- ❖ Warm-up suit, hoodie, sweats, or other team apparel
- ❖ Coat, hat (or toque)
- ❖ Playing cards, videogames, or other supplies for entertainment between games (some hotels do not allow knee hockey in public areas)

Spectators:

- ❖ Winter gear (coats, hats, mittens/gloves, boots)
- ❖ Money for tournament passes, meals, concessions, tournament souvenirs (t-shirts, photos)
- ❖ Camera/videocamera
- ❖ Bleacher seat, lap blanket

- ❖ Health insurance card in case of a medical emergency
- ❖ Deodorizer (such as Atmoskleer™) for the hotel room and the car on the way home
- ❖ Winter survival kit for your vehicle (ice scraper, snow brush, shovel, etc.)

Family members:

- ❖ Winter gear (some arenas are really chilly)
- ❖ Clothing
- ❖ Toiletries
- ❖ Homework or other activities to pass time

For the pool

- ❖ Swimsuits
- ❖ Towels (don't rely on having enough towels at the hotel)
- ❖ Flip flops or sandals, goggles, lifejackets (for little ones)

Food

- ❖ Cooler, ice, beverages
- ❖ Snacks (fruit, cheese & crackers, cereal & milk, chips, granola bars)
- ❖ Serving utensils, paper plates, bowls, paper towels/napkins
- ❖ Dish to share (if having a team potluck)

Team Manager:

- ❖ Signed team roster, player birth certificates, signed player's conduct forms & coaches certification cards
- ❖ Roster labels for score sheets
- ❖ Extra team jerseys (just in case someone forgets one)
- ❖ Tournament t-shirt order (may need to send in ahead of time)
- ❖ Team banner
- ❖ Room signs for players
- ❖ See if hospitality room is available at the hotel

Coaches:

- ❖ Practice pucks
- ❖ Water bottles
- ❖ White board, marker and eraser

Everyone is a winner at tournaments. Have fun!

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