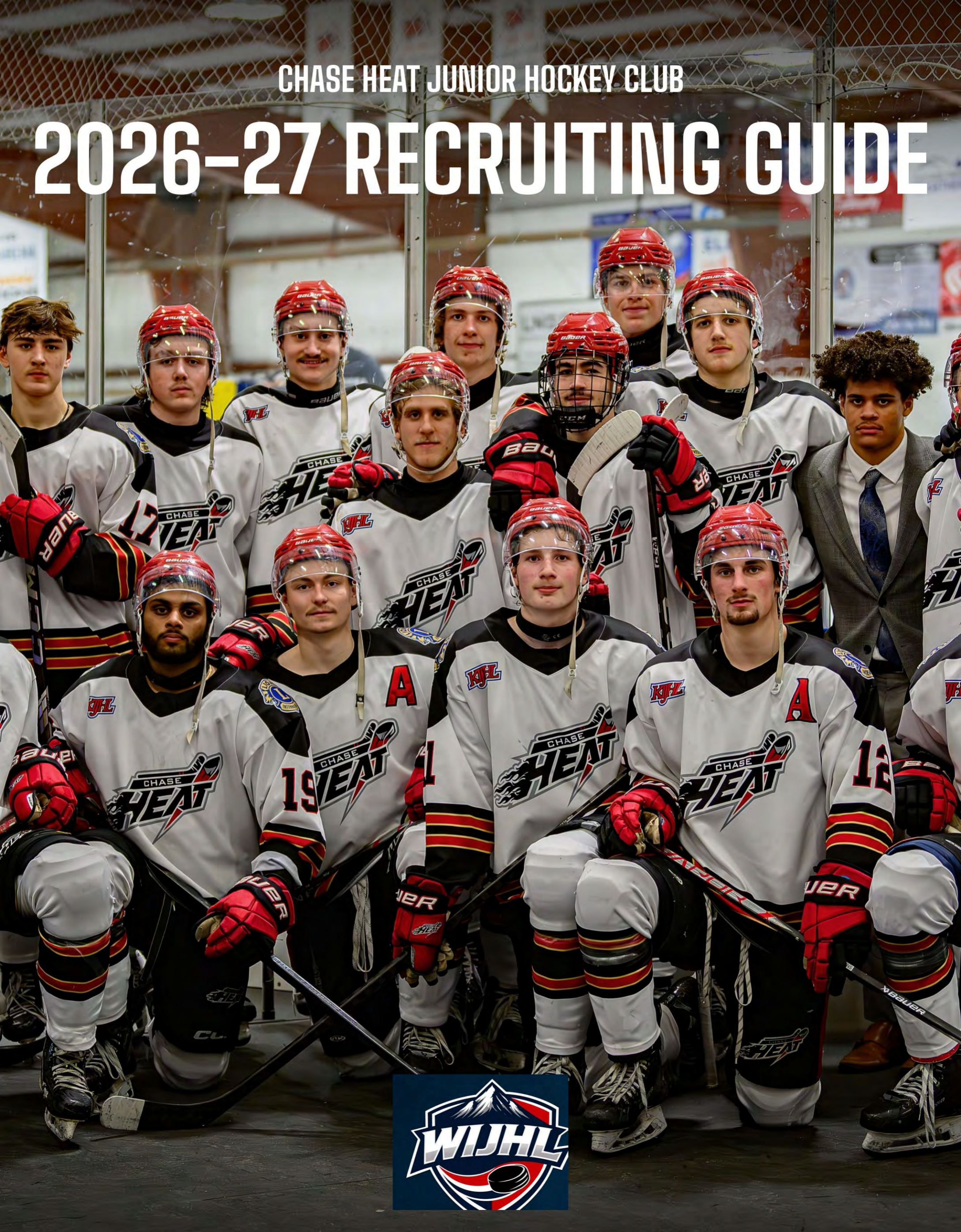
CHASE HEAT JUNIOR HOCKEY CLUB

2026-27 RECRUITING GUIDE



The Chase Heat are a Junior hockey club based in Chase, BC. We are a non-profit, community-owned franchise which is run by a board of directors, all of whom are residents of the Village of Chase. We are one of 8 founding members of the Western International Junior Hockey League (WIJHL), an independent Junior hockey league launching for the 2026-27 season.

Our goal is to provide a first class experience for our players, both on & off the ice. With daily practices, video sessions, workouts & professional coaching, our players' hockey experience is one that will compare to any Junior A program. Away from the rink, our players spend a lot of time giving back to the community and getting to partake in unique experiences & team building events unique to the area. We pride ourselves on our family-like atmosphere and creating a fun & competitive environment for our players to develop.

The Heat joined the KIJHL in 2011 as an expansion franchise and made a KIJHL finals appearance in 2017. As founding members of the WIJHL, we are entering an exciting new chapter in 2026-27. As an independent league, we are open to recruiting Canadian, American, and European players. Our 2026-27 roster is currently being built — we're continually looking to improve, both on and off the ice, to make Chase one of the premier franchises in the WIJHL.

OUR PROGRAM

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 4-5 PRACTICES PER WEEK
- 2 STRENGTH SESSIONS PER WEEK
- 1 YOGA SESSION PER WEEK
- 1 POWER SKATING SESSION PER WEEK
- WEEKLY GOALIE COACHING
- TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL VIDEO FEEDBACK
- WEEKLY TEAM BUILDING SESSION
- MINOR HOCKEY MENTORSHIPS

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- EXTRA SKILLS & SPECIALTY COACHES ON A REGULAR BASIS
- STATE OF THE ART CHARTER BUS TO ALL ROAD GAMES
- MEALS & HOTELS INCLUDED FOR ROAD GAMES
- GYM PASS TO VILLAGE FITNESS INCLUDED WITH PLAYER FEES
- TEAM EVENTS & ACTIVITIES ON A REGULAR BASIS

SAMPLE WEEK

MONDAY

8:30 AM
Gym

10:00 AM
Focus Work

10:15 AM
Video

10:30 AM
Practice Prep

11:30 AM
Practice

TUESDAY

7:15 PM
Focus Work

7:30 PM
Positional Seminar

8:45 PM
Practice

WEDNESDAY

8:00 AM
Power Skating

10:45 AM
Practice

12:30 PM
Gym

5:30 PM
Team Builder

THURSDAY

11:00 AM
Yoga

12:00 PM
Chapel

1:30 PM
Goalie Ice

2:00 PM
Practice

3:15 PM
Pre-Scout

FRIDAY

10:00 AM
Pre-Game Skate

7:00 PM
Game vs Sicamous

SATURDAY

3:00 PM
Bus Departs

7:00 PM
Game at Kelowna

BROADCAST & VIDEO

FLOHOCKEY

TPE
THE PROSPECT EXCHANGE

ReactVIEW

GAME BROADCASTS
All Heat games stream
live on FloHockey

VIDEO ANALYTICS
Team & individual
video review platform

DRAWING & FEEDBACK
Tactical drawing &
individual player feedback

GETTING HERE

BY AIR

- Kamloops Airport (YKA) — 45 minutes west of Chase via Hwy 1 & Hwy 5
- Kelowna International Airport (YLW) — 1 hr 30 min from Chase via Hwy 1 & Hwy 97

BY CAR

- On the Trans-Canada Hwy 1, between Kamloops & Salmon Arm
- 4 hour drive east of Vancouver | 6 hour drive west of Calgary
- Multiple bus companies stop in Chase

OUR COMMUNITY

The Village of Chase is located in the beautiful Shuswap region of British Columbia along the Trans Canada Highway. With Kamloops & Salmon Arm being 40 minutes away and Kelowna being under 2 hours away, Chase provides the small town atmosphere with easy access to the big city ammenities. Chase has a permanent population of roughly 2500 residents, with that number increasing exponentially in the summer months.

Chase & the Shuswap region is an outdoor playground during all months of the year. During the summer months, Chase becomes a popular destination for boaters, fishermen, golfers & outdoor enthusiasts. During the winter months, Chase is conveniently located within close proximity of several ski hills, snowmobile areas, and several other outdoor activities

OUR LEAGUE – THE WIJHL

The Chase Heat are a proud founding member of the Western International Junior Hockey League (WIJHL), an independent Junior hockey league launching for the 2026-27 season. The WIJHL is comprised of 10 teams currently, spanning the BC Interior and into Spokane, Washington: the 100 Mile House Wranglers, Castlegar Rebels, Chase Heat, Creston Valley Thunder, Enderby Icemen, Golden Rockets, Kelowna Chiefs, Oliver Outlaws, Sicamous Eagles, and Spokane Braves.

The league is independent to allow for players increased opportunities. The WIJHL prides itself on preparing players for higher levels of hockey and is committed to providing its players with a first class experience. The league is continually increasing its operating standards and providing more opportunities to highlight their players for better exposure.

As an affiliated league of the British Columbia Hockey League (BCHL), the WIJHL provides Chase Heat players with direct affiliation opportunities. Players can be called up to BCHL rosters, gaining exposure to higher levels of Junior hockey and creating a clear development pathway to advance their careers.

EDUCATION

HIGH SCHOOL

Most school-aged and high school players will complete their studies through online schooling, giving them the flexibility to balance a demanding hockey schedule with their education. For players who prefer in-class learning, Chase Secondary School - which shares an athletic field with the arena - has welcomed Heat players for years.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY

Players ready to get a jump on post-secondary studies have strong options nearby. Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops - one of BC's premier universities - is a short drive down Highway 1 and offers a wide range of programs. Okanagan College, with a campus in nearby Salmon Arm, is ideal for upgrading classes or starting a few courses before transferring full-time.

EDUCATION ADVISOR

JAMES MINTZ

Our dedicated Education Advisor works one-on-one with players and families to coordinate online schooling, transfers and course planning throughout the season, keeping every player on track academically.

FACILITIES

The Heat are proud to call the Art Holding Memorial Arena our home. The Art, as it's affectionately known, is one of the more intimate buildings in the **WIJHL,** but can get very rowdy during Heat playoff games. The Heat have our own private wing of the building which includes our private dressing room & lounge, sharpening & workshop area, kitchenette, coaches office, private entrance and more.

Team strength workouts will take place at Village Fitness & Tanning, located in downtown Chase, a short walk/drive away from the Art.

PLAYER EXPERIENCE

PAINTING THE ICE - COMMUNITY TRIBUTE

HEAVY EQUIPMENT SIMULATOR AT ROAD BUILDERS ROADSHOW

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION WALK

TEAM TRIP TO SUN PEAKS RESORT

CURLING AT THE CHASE CURLING CLUB

NORTHERN LIGHTS OVER THE LAKE

SKATE WITH COMMUNITY KIDS

FAMILY NIGHT & SENIOR RECOGNITION

MEET THE COACHES

NICK DESCHENES

HEAD COACH & GENERAL MANAGER

A distinguished playing career took Nick from Junior B in Morinville, Alberta to a National Hockey League contract with the Philadelphia Flyers. He graduated from Yale University in 2003 and played professionally across North America and Europe.

Behind the bench, Nick has developed 20+ NCAA Division I players plus several NCAA Division III and ACHA players, and has coached a Doug Birks Division Defenceman of the Year, an MVP and two Rookies of the Year. Nominated for Division Coach of the Year in 2023-24, his teams reach the playoffs every season.

Away from the rink, Nick owns a CrossFit gym and a landscaping business and competed at the 2025 CrossFit Games, placing 17th in the men's 45-49 age group. His son Luc, 16, is a goalie.

ASSISTANT COACH

To Be Announced

SPECIALTY COACHES

MICHAEL HAILS

GOALIE COACH

Michael played at the highest levels of his age group before earning a hockey scholarship to Lindenwood University, where he played ACHA Division I for the Lindenwood Lions and won a National Championship in 2016. He now leads the Heat's goaltending through his own program, One Stop Goaltending.

MICHELLE PEPIN

POWER SKATING · "PEP"

A competitive hockey player and Top-10 Masters world-ranked speed skater, 'Pep' blends both disciplines into a unique power skating program. A certified Skate Canada Power Skating coach at the highest level with 23+ years of experience, she builds skaters from the fundamentals up - and the confidence to match.

Alumni

Gavin Mattey
La Ronge Ice Wolves/Logan Lake Miners BCIHL

Trevor Kennedy
Arizona State Red Devils ACHA

Trevor Okino
Jamestown ACHA/ Ockelbo HC (Sweden)

Jack Osmond
Augustana Vikings ACAC

Brayden Haskell
IFK ORE (Sweden 3)

Lyden Robertson
Logan Lake Miners BCIHL

Colton Nikiforuk
Indiana Tech ACHA

Jalen Davidson
University of Opole (Poland)

Alex Durbeniuk
Central Oklahoma ACHA

Connor Venne
Central Oklahoma ACHA

Mathew Ens
Logan Lake Miners BCIHL

Braeden Huth
Logan Lake Miners BCIHL

Joshua Bourne
Nanaimo Clippers/ERV Schweinfurt(Germany4)

Jacob Biensch
Augustana Vikings ACAC

Kaleb Preymak
Lewis Univeriversity ACHA

Josh David
Lewis Univeriversity ACHA

Dylan Handel
La Ronge Ice Wolves/ Concordia ACAC

Logan Mostat
Salmon Arm Silverbacks

Malachi Franklin
Jamestown ACHA

Matthew Poole
Jamestown ACHA

Curtis Johnson
Central Oklahoma ACHA

Reece Foreman
Minot State ACHA

Lucas Quellette
Vancouver Island University BCIHL

Kiev Kineshanko
Jamestown ACHA

CONTACT US

NICK DESCHENES

HEAD COACH & GENERAL MANAGER

250-575-7758

NICK@CHASEHEAT.COM

STEVE SMYTH

PRESIDENT

250-641-5780

BROADCAST@CHASEHEAT.COM

DARRYL ADAMSON

GOVERNOR

250-682-0237

DARRYL@CHASEHEAT.COM

@CHASEHEAT

@CHASEHEAT