



2025-26 Travel Season Coach Announcements

From Rob Trantin, The Tri-City Eagles Hockey Director:

Based on our team projections for the 2025-26 season, we are very pleased to begin announcing the coaching staff of the Tri-City Eagles for the 2025-26 travel season! As we all know, the responsibility of coaching is heavy, with these individuals having an extraordinary impact on the experience and quality of a season. Knowing that complexity, we take a tremendous amount of pride and care in our head coach selection process and continue to invest considerable resources into coach development.

Having put this all together, it really sticks out how much connection exists within our coaching staff. Most of the individuals below have ties that go deep below the surface, whether that be with myself, each other, or the club itself. It is truly inspiring to be surrounded by so many humble and passionate coaches, and I am thrilled to be working directly with all of them!

2025-26 Youth Travel

Nicholas Minarik - 12U Blue (Upper A)

Entering his 5th year coaching at Tri-City, Nicholas has been an integral part of the success we've found at the younger age groups. He possesses a unique ability to understand the balance necessary to encourage and motivate young players. He does a fantastic job of building players up and growing their confidence so that they feel prepared to take their next step. I'm very excited to continue to work with Coach Minarik and look forward to the impact he will have with this team.

Jon Mahaffee - 12U Gold (Lower A)

No stranger to coaching, Jon joins the Tri-City Eagles with a resume that includes youth, high school, juniors, and college level experience. Through all of this experience, he has developed a well-rounded vision for hockey growth and development. Personally, I've known Jon for over 25 years, dating back to our time as high school teammates. Most recently, I've had the pleasure of coaching with Jon on a high school bench and he has very quickly established himself as someone I trust and rely on. I'm thrilled to have him join us and excited for what he is going to bring to the table.

Ted Scott - 10U Blue (TBD)

Ted Scott has been a remarkable asset to the Tri-City Eagles for multiple seasons as he has placed his attention on the 8U programs. I'm very excited for him to take over at the 10U age group, continuing the amazing progress that has been made at our younger ages. Ted brings a lot of perspective to the table having seen and experienced hockey as far as California, Minnesota, and now here. His competitive yet calming demeanor is perfect for this age and I have no doubt the players are going to have a fantastic experience playing for his team.

As noted in our program guide, not all of our teams currently have coaches assigned. In these situations, we feel most comfortable allowing the tryout process to take its course prior to announcing a head coach. We still take great care in this process and will provide updates as soon as they are available.

Below, you'll see further announcements on coaches who will be working with our 14U and Older teams, tryouts for which begin on April 26th.

2025-26 Girls Travel

Liam Eden - 19U Girls Blue (AA)

Very surreal to announce Liam as our capstone Girls Travel team head coach. Seems like only yesterday he was the captain of both the high school and Tri-City Eagles 18U team that I coached. Even at that age, Liam's leadership characteristics were extraordinary. Since then, he's competed collegiately at University of Maryland and a year of professional hockey in Finland. He spent the 2024-25 season as the head coach of our 16U Blue (AA) team and I can't wait to see the continued progress he makes this year.

Melissa Kuyumjian - 16U Girls Blue (AA)

Since becoming Hockey Director in 2020, I think there's been a discussion every tryout season with us attempting to convince Melissa to join our coaching staff. I'm thrilled to announce we finally got her. Melissa played collegiately at University of Maryland and spent the last few years coaching within the St. James girls hockey program. We're thrilled to add Melissa's experience to our staff and look forward to the connection she will bring to this team.

Mary Robinson - 14U Girls Blue (A/AA TBD)

Mary returns after coaching the Tri-City Eagles 14U Girls Blue team in 2024-25. Her first year at the helm, Mary made great strides both personally as a coach and in developing our players. She is absolutely poised to take another big step forward in both those areas. As a former standout Eagle herself, she's a fantastic representative of this club and we can't wait for her continued growth.

2025-26 Youth Travel

Matt Vicinie - 18U Blue (AA)

Naming Matt Vicinie as our 18U AA head coach is an opportunity I truly enjoy. Ever since he joined us, “V” has done nothing but made a constant positive impact. His enthusiasm, gratitude, and humility have been felt at all levels during his two seasons coaching 16U. As an active duty member of the U.S. Army, Matt Vicinie sets clear expectations and does a fantastic job building a cohesive unit. Prior to joining the military, he grew up playing in Pittsburgh, PA and spent time coaching at both the high school varsity and 18U AA levels there. I’m just really proud to have someone of Matt Vicinie’s quality be a leader for the Tri-City Eagles.

Brennen Smith - 16U Blue (AA)

Brennen’s first year with us was remarkable. Coming from coaching collegiately, he brought a unique perspective that he successfully shared with last season’s 15U AA team. His poise and uncanny ability to mindfully and clearly communicate in such an emotional game was noticeable. We loved the progress Brennen’s group showed and are excited to fortify this year’s team around his coaching abilities.

Kellen Henderson - 15U Gold (AA)

One of this area’s most talented hockey people, Kellen is a game changer. And for the sake of time, I’m only going to briefly discuss his talents as a coach. Having known him since high school, I am so unbelievably impressed and proud of his growth. Kellen’s passion for the game is unrivaled and it’s something he freely shares with his players. He just has this unique ability to make everyone around him better. We are lucky to have him.

Matt Lewis - 16U White (Upper A)

Entering his 3rd season with the Tri-City Eagles, “Lew” has quickly become one of our most dependable coaches. I’ll say it’s really inspiring to have so much connection within our coaching staff, and Lew is another great example of that. He and I played on the same high school team, graduated the same year, and then reconnected four years ago when I coerced him into an assistant coach role. Since then he’s become the head coach of both club and high school teams and just steered our 16U Lower A team to the CBHL Finals. He’s flourishing and the results are obvious. I’m really looking forward to him taking another big step forward this year.

Again, stay tuned as we roll out more announcements for the rest of our teams. All told, we are so thankful to have so many fantastic coaches within our organization. We truly feel that it sets us apart.