

2025-26 KEY DATES

Sept. 15 – Oct. 15	NHL Unites celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month
Sept. 17	NHL training camps open
Sept. 17-21	USHL Fall Showcase (UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex, Cranberry Township, Pa.)
Sept. 20 – Oct. 4	2025-26 NHL preseason
Oct. 6	Deadline for teams to submit opening-day rosters (5 p.m. ET)
Oct. 7	Opening day of 2025-26 NHL regular season (3 GP): Florida Panthers raise Stanley Cup banner against Chicago Blackhawks, who begin centennial season New York Rangers open centennial season (vs. PIT)
Oct. 9	Detroit Red Wings begin centennial season (vs. MTL)
Oct. 11	All 32 NHL teams in action
Oct. 15	NHL Board of Governors Meeting (New York, N.Y.); Deadline for IIHF National Associations to submit lists of 42 skaters and five goaltenders for Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026
Oct. 20	NHL Central Scouting releases Preliminary Players to Watch list
Oct. 28	All 32 NHL teams in action
Nov. 1-30	NHL Unites celebrates Hockey Fights Cancer and Indigenous Peoples Heritage
Nov. 9	Hockey Hall of Fame Game (CAR at TOR)
Nov. 10	Hockey Hall of Fame Induction Celebration (Toronto, Ont.): Class of 2025 Inductees: Jennifer Botterill, Zdeno Chára, Brianna Decker, Duncan Keith, Alexander Mogilny and Joe Thornton (Player category); Jack Parker and Daniele Sauvageau (Builder category)
Nov. 11	NHL General Managers Meeting (Toronto, Ont.)
Nov. 14-16	2025 NHL Global Series presented by Fastenal (2 GP): Nashville Predators vs. Pittsburgh Penguins (Avicii Arena, Stockholm, Sweden)
Nov. 19	NHL Central Scouting updates Players to Watch list
Nov. 22	2025 Stanley Cup Final rematch (EDM at FLA)
Nov. 25	2025 CHL/USA Prospects Challenge (Scotiabank Saddledome, Calgary, Alta.)
Nov. 26	NHL Founders Day (1917); 2025 CHL/USA Prospects Challenge (VisitLethbridge.com Arena, Lethbridge, Alta.)
Nov. 28	2025 NHL Thanksgiving Showdown (NYR at BOS)
Nov. 29	2025 U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Game: Minnesota Golden Gophers at Denver Pioneers (Ball Arena, Denver, Colo.)
Dec. 1	Signing deadline for Group 2 free agents (5 p.m. ET)
Dec. 8-9	NHL Board of Governors Meeting (Colorado Springs, Colo.)

Dec. 10	U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Induction (Inductees: Bruce Bennett, Scott Gomez, Tara Mounsey, Zach Parise and Joe Pavelski) and Celebration of Lester Patrick (Recipient: Ray Shero) (St. Paul, Minn.)
Dec. 20-27	Holiday roster freeze in effect: For all players on an NHL active roster, injured reserve, or with non-roster and injured non-roster status as of 11:59 p.m. (local time) Dec. 19, a roster freeze shall apply through 12:01 a.m. (local time) Dec. 28, with respect to waivers, trades and loans, subject to the exceptions provided for in CBA Article 16.5 (d).
Dec. 24-26	Holiday break (no scheduled practices – dressing rooms closed)
Dec. 26 – Jan. 5	IIHF Men's World Junior Championship (St. Paul/Minneapolis, Minn.)
Dec. 31	Deadline for IIHF National Associations to submit provisional playing rosters (22 skaters and three goaltenders) for Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026
Jan. 2	2026 Discover NHL Winter Classic: New York Rangers at Florida Panthers (loanDepot park, Miami, Fla.)
Jan. 10-18	IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship (Sydney/Membertou, N.S.)
Jan. 13	NHL Central Scouting releases Mid-Season Rankings
Jan. 15	USA Hockey All-American Game (USA Hockey Arena, Plymouth, Mich.)
Jan. 17	Scotiabank Hockey Day in Canada (Host: Moncton, N.B.) – all seven Canadian NHL teams in action
Feb. 1-28	NHL Unites celebrates Black Hockey History
Feb. 1	2026 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series: Boston Bruins at Tampa Bay Lightning (Raymond James Stadium, Tampa, Fla.)
Feb. 6-24	2025-26 NHL regular season pauses for Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026
Feb. 10	2026 AHL All-Star Skills Competition (BMO Center, Rockford, Ill.)
Feb. 11	2026 AHL All-Star Classic and Hall of Fame Induction and Awards Ceremony (BMO Center, Rockford, Ill.)
Feb. 11-22	Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 (Milano Santagiulia Ice Hockey Arena and Milano Rho Ice Hockey Arena, Milan, Italy)
Feb. 25	2025-26 NHL regular season resumes
March 1-31	NHL Unites celebrates Women's History
March 2-8	Hockey Week Across America (USA Hockey); USA Hockey National Try Hockey for Free Day (March 7)
March 6	2026 NHL Trade Deadline (3 p.m. ET)
March 16-18	NHL General Managers Meeting (Manalapan, Fla.)
March 19	2025 Stanley Cup Final rematch (FLA at EDM)
April 1-30	NHL Unites celebrates Green Month
April 9-11	NCAA Frozen Four (T-Mobile Arena, Las Vegas, Nev.)
April 16	Last day of 2025-26 NHL regular season (6 GP); NHL Central Scouting releases Final Rankings
April 18	2026 Stanley Cup Playoffs begin

TBA	2026 NHL Draft Lottery
April 22 – May 2	IIHF Under-18 Men's World Championship (Piestany/Bratislava, Slovakia)
May 1-31	NHL Unites celebrates Asian and Pacific Islander Month
May 15-31	IIHF Men's World Championship (Zurich/Fribourg, Switzerland)
May 21-31	2026 CHL Memorial Cup (Prospera Place, Kelowna, B.C.)
May 31 – June 6	2026 NHL Scouting Combine (LECOM Harborcenter, Buffalo, N.Y.)
June 1-30	NHL Unites celebrates Pride Month
June 15*	Deadline for first club-elected salary arbitration notification (5 p.m. ET) <i>(* later of June 15 or 48 hours after the conclusion of the 2026 Stanley Cup Final)</i>
June 21	Last possible day for 2026 Stanley Cup Playoffs
June 26-27	2026 NHL Draft (TBC)
July 1	Free agency begins (12 p.m. ET)
July 5	Deadline for player-elected salary arbitration notification (5 p.m. ET)
July 6	Deadline for second club-elected salary arbitration notification (5 p.m. ET)
July 20 – Aug. 1	Salary arbitration hearings held
Aug. 3	Deadline for salary arbitration decisions to be rendered