



THE CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE FUND

■ *Elevating the Men's Ice Hockey Program at Northeastern*

NETTING SUCCESS

For nearly 100 years, Northeastern Men's Ice Hockey has captivated fans, rising over the decades to become a regional powerhouse and the university's premier varsity sport. Since 1984, the Howlin' Huskies have achieved many successes with multiple Hockey East titles, NCAA Tournament appearances, and three consecutive Beanpot championships.

To build on the team's recent successes, Men's Ice Hockey aspires to boost its competitive edge by elevating the team's profile on the national stage. To achieve this ambitious goal, Northeastern has established the **Circle of Champions Competitive Excellence Fund**. Each year, the team's ultimate goal is to participate in and succeed in post-season tournament play, including Hockey East and the NCAA Tournament. **Circle of Champions** will provide the financial resources necessary to meet these lofty objectives by expanding and enhancing scheduling, and offering select charter flight opportunities while bolstering the already strong regional and national recruiting program.

An investment in **Circle of Champions** will improve the present and future program, and enhance the distinctive student experience, which will unleash and energize networks of engagement and pride.

EXPANDING AND ENHANCING SCHEDULING

To elevate Northeastern to the top echelon of men's intercollegiate ice hockey, the program must have national name recognition. To achieve this, the team must strengthen its home schedule by playing nationally ranked, non-conference opponents such as Notre Dame, Minnesota, and Minnesota Duluth. Home games against quality tournament opponents are important for recognition purposes, a factor in the PairWise rankings that determine NCAA Tournament



THE WINNING EDGE

"The Circle of Champions Competitive Excellence Fund provides our hockey program the resources that it takes to be a national contender in college hockey. It allows us to not only schedule the best competition in the country but to beat the best teams in the nation. Having the flexibility to play more games at Matthews Arena in front of our great fans as well as competing against top-ranked opponents is crucial to us making a run in the NCAA Tournament."

—JERRY KEEFE, COACH

eligibility. Percentage wise, the team is more likely to win at home. Over the past seven years, the team's record in Matthews Arena has held strong at 71 wins, 34 losses, and 11 ties.

The Circle of Champions Competitive Excellence Fund will provide the financial resources necessary for guarantees to entice nationally ranked, non-conference opponents to Boston. Playing a more challenging schedule will test our players on a weekly basis, and better prepare the team for the heightened competition of post-season play. Additionally, a more demanding schedule will lead to opportunities to participate in unique preseason and in-season tournaments regionally, nationally, and internationally. **Circle of Champions** will also provide the short-term benefit of financial guarantees to allow flexibility in local scheduling during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SELECT CHARTER FLIGHT OPPORTUNITIES

The biggest challenge facing all student-athletes is balancing their academic and athletic responsibilities.

In addition to attending classes, participating in co-ops, training, practicing, and competing, our student-athletes spend a great deal of time traveling to play the sports they love. **Circle of Champions** will elevate the Men's Ice Hockey program and improve the experience of our student-athletes by enhancing team travel resources with select charter flight opportunities.

Charter flights are an efficient, effective way to alleviate the rigors of commercial air travel to remote locations by allowing our student-athletes to return to campus quickly after games. They will benefit the team for scheduling and recruiting as well as on and off ice performance. Charter flights are the norm for many prominent national programs, and can improve our already successful recruiting program.

A BOOST TO RECRUITING

The lifeblood of any successful athletic program is robust regional, national and international recruiting. Northeastern Men's Ice Hockey is currently looked at as a destination where talent can be developed and fully realized. The increased recognition that comes with scheduling games against nationally ranked, non-conference opponents will lead to more successful and effective recruitment efforts in all channels.

While Northeastern Men's Ice Hockey attracts student-athletes because of its strong academic and experiential learning programs and unique Boston campus, enhancing scheduling and select charter flight opportunities will further the program's appeal and offer an invaluable boost to recruiting.



"Circle of Champions is very important to everything our team encounters during the season. It enhances our student-athlete experience, enables us to play more games at Matthews and nationally, and will assist us in reaching our goal of being a championship program. We owe a lot to Circle of Champions supporters, and we thank you for always being in our corner."

—ZACH SOLOW, AMD'21, CAPTAIN

*For more information on the **Circle of Champions Competitive Excellence Fund** or to make a gift, please contact Owen Devine, Director of Development for Athletics, at 857.407.8417 or o.devine@northeastern.edu.*