

# AAU Ice Hockey

April 1, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 1

## AAU Hockey announces the 2014 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS in Minnesota for Mites & Squirts

On March 7-8, AAU Hockey - National Chair, Keith Noll and Trevor Hartwig (AAU National Staff) hosted the inaugural AAU Ice Hockey meeting for Mites (7U-8U) and Squirts (9U-10U) at the RiverCentre in St. Paul, MN. The AAU meeting coincided with the 2013 Let's Play Hockey Consumer Expo (the World's largest such consumer expo for hockey) [www.letsplayhockey.com/expo.html](http://www.letsplayhockey.com/expo.html) and the Minnesota State High School Boy's Ice Hockey Tournament.

The expo hosted 150+ exhibitors and was attended by over 40,000 hockey players and fans. The state HS Tournament hosted nearly 120,000 fans, with the games being played at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, which is home to the Minnesota Wild. The tournament and expo facilities are connected to each other.

Representatives from 18 states attended the AAU Hockey meetings discussing opportunities for the AAU Mite and Squirt programs on a National basis. The committee agreed to a National format for this program. As a result of the meeting, the AAU Ice Hockey Program is happy to announce that the inaugural, '**AAU Ice Hockey National Championships**' for Mites and Squirts.

The Nationals will be conducted March 6 – 9, 2014 in Edina, Minnesota with the host facility being the Minnesota Made Ice Center. The Committee will be expecting in excess of 1,500 youth hockey players at the AAU championships. There will be free time during the championships so that the teams will have an opportunity to attend the 2014 Let's Play Hockey Consumer Expo and the Minnesota State High School Boy's Hockey Tournament. These events will provide extra excitement for the athletes, coaches, parents and families.

Further information on the youth ice hockey program will be released soon. Hockey National Chair: Keith Noll (715) 231-4000 [slapshot@wwt.net](mailto:slapshot@wwt.net)

River Centre in St. Paul Minnesota



Sports for all, Forever



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Published monthly for the benefit and interest of AAU Ice Hockey participants.

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## AAU Ice Hockey – Mite-Squirt Nationals

AAU Hockey has selected Minnesota to host our AAU 2014 Mite and Squirt National Championships. Minnesota Made Ice Center in Edina is the host AAU club. However, games will be played at selected facilities throughout the greater Minneapolis-St.Paul area.

The timing of these Nationals will coincide with two other major hockey events, being held on the same weekend (March 6-9, 2014) in St.Paul, MN. These are the Minnesota State High School Boy's Hockey Championships and the Let's Play Hockey Consumer Expo.

Admission into the Expo is free. This is a premiere event and loaded with hockey related exhibits, activities and hockey celebrities. Players, families and coaches should find plenty of events and activities to keep them busy throughout the weekend.

AAU plans to include 72-84 Mite teams and 36-48 Squirt teams participating at several competition levels within the tournaments. Teams will be selected from AAU Leagues and Event throughout the nation.

### National Championship Rules

AAU Hockey adopted most of the playing rules already being used by USA Hockey, except for several amendments detailed below.

- All teams playing within AAU sanctioned leagues must be registered with AAU by October 15th, in order to be eligible to participate within the AAU Hockey Nationals.
- Mite and Squirt games shall utilize a 9-Dot Faceoff system (please note that 9-Dot Face-off systems are currently being used within the IIHF, NHL, NCAA and within most High School programs).
- Mite and Squirt games shall include 3 periods using 15-minute Stop-time. However, if during the 3rd period if the Goal-Differential = 5 or more than timekeeping with switch to run-time. Further, in calculating tiebreakers, the maximum Goal-Differential shall be +5 or -5 for any team.
- Mite classifications shall be played within a conventional Full-Ice Format, as within other age classifications.
- Mite classifications shall utilize Black Pucks. This amendment merely applies Equipment Rule 306(a) to the Mite classification and deletes Rule 306(b). However, AAU Districts and/or sanctioned Leagues are permitted to utilize Blue Pucks by adopting Equipment Rule 306(b) locally.



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**“AAU plans to include 72-84 Mite teams and 36-48 Squirt teams ... “**

**“All teams playing within AAU sanctioned leagues must be registered with AAU by October 15th ... “**

### PLEASE NOTE

During the AAU National Championships, both the Mite & Squirt classifications will use:

- Full-Ice Format
- Black Pucks
- 15-minute Stop-time periods
- 9-Dot Face-off

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## AAU Ice Hockey – Club Names & Registration

Many of our AAU Ice Hockey Clubs (Teams & Association) do have members who are Individual Participants within both AAU Hockey and within USA Hockey and/or its affiliates.

Of course, dual participation with separate programs is permissible within both organizations. However, USA Hockey has stated that participation in both organizations can lead to some confusion for USAH, Leagues, Tournaments and Administrators. USA Hockey has asked that our Clubs (Teams, Associations & Leagues) who may have members participating within both organizations begin using AAU names that can differentiate the AAU programs from USA Hockey affiliated programs.

For example, let us assume that an existing USAH-based association is named the National Hockey Association (NHA) and some or all of their members (players and/or coaches) wish to participate within both USAH and AAU. It would be preferred that such a new AAU-based association should use a name something like National Hockey Club (NHC).

Similarly, they ask that our Clubs (Teams, Associations & Leagues) purchase and/or contract for ice-time under the name of their AAU Team or Club (not simply purchase ice-time through a USAH-based organization for use by an AAU-based club).

Team Coaches and/or Managers should assure that they use their AAU names when playing within AAU games and that Associations use their AAU names when hosting AAU events.

AAU memberships may be purchased online at: [aausports.org](http://aausports.org). Please assure that AAU Hockey participants elect the Extended Benefits (AB) membership option (\$16 for youth players and \$18 for non-player adults). Members may register as a specific individual AAU Team or within a larger AAU Club (which may including multiple teams within a larger Association and/or an entire League). The exact structure should be determined locally according to local needs.

## AAU Ice Hockey – Scoresheets

Some of our AAU Ice Hockey districts (for example Michigan) have created AAU Ice Hockey scoresheets. We suspect that some of our new AAU leagues may create their own scoresheets, as well.

Similar to the story on the previous page concerning Club Names, it would be helpful for any teams who do obtain any AAU scoresheets to then only use them for AAU games. This would be another way to help differentiate between AAU games and USAH games.

AAU Ice Hockey  
National Mite-Squirt  
Committee



“... purchase and/or contract for ice-time under the name of their AAU Team or Club ...”

“... elect the Extended Benefits (AB) membership option (\$16 for youth players and \$18 for non-player adults).”

AAU 2013 Junior Olympics  
Detroit - July 24 - Aug 3





## AAU National Qualifier Tournaments

AAU Hockey will be selecting teams to participate within the Mite and Squirt national championships by several methods.

- Teams will be selected from various AAU sanctioned leagues around the nation.
- Teams will also be selected from AAU sanctioned State, District and Regional Championships.

AAU Hockey anticipates that some areas may have difficulty in creating formal AAU sanctioned leagues or in hosting such tournaments. So, AAU Hockey will be sanctioning a series of regional Qualifying Tournaments throughout the United States, to provide the opportunity for less traditional and/or smaller markets to participate within AAU Nationals.

“... AAU Hockey will be sanctioning a series of **Regional Qualifying Tournaments** throughout the United States, to provide the opportunity for less traditional and/or smaller markets to participate within AAU Nationals.”

## AAU 2014 Great Lakes Regional Championship

Michigan has already hosted Mite Regional Championships for each of the past 2 seasons. Therefore, Michigan has opted out of consideration for hosting the 2014 Great Lakes Regional tournament (provided another state within the region is willing to host the event). The idea being to allow neighboring states to have the opportunity to host this event.

It is hoped that a location within Ohio, Indiana, Illinois or Wisconsin will be selected and that in the future we can begin rotating a Regional Tournament between several states. Michigan has also suggested that other AAU programs consider viewing the President's Day weekend (February 14-17 during 2014) to be the prime-time weekend for hosting such regional playoffs. This can help minimize the amount of school missed by players and work missed by parents & coaches.



Watch for our 2014 Regional Tournament

## Michigan 2014 State Championship

The proposed dates for the Michigan 2014 State Championship has been selected for January 17-20, 2014 (which is the MLK holiday weekend). Proposed age classifications include both Mites & Squirts (House & Travel). PeeWees and older may be added if necessary.

Location(s) for the Michigan State Championships are still to be determined. However, as in the article above, the MLK holiday weekend has been selected to help minimize the amount of school missed by players and work missed by parents & coaches.

“... the Michigan 2014 State Championship has been selected for January 17-20, 2014 (which is the MLK holiday weekend).”

“... age classifications include both Mites & Squirts (House & Travel).”

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## Hockey Colorado - 2013 Mite Major - State Champions



## Hockey Colorado - 2013 Mite Minor Champions





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## New York - HS State Championship (Mixed School)

The City Honors/Cardinal O'Hara Club Varsity team has won the New York State Championship for mixed-school club hockey, going 5-0 through the state tournament.

CHCOH had finished their regular season with a 27-8-1 record, which won the White Division in WNY and earned a spot at the State tournament held at the Northtown Center in Amherst, NY.

During the tournament CHCOH defeated South Park/Riverside 8 - 1, Lynbrook/East Rockaway 7 - 6, and Jamestown 7-1. During the semi-finals CHCOH defeated Alden 5-1.

The State Championship game on Sunday March 3rd pitted CHCOH against their arch rival Jamestown. These teams had previously split (3-0 and 5-3) during their 2 regular season meetings.

Lead by forward John Liberti, defenseman Tom Samar and goaltender Will Kuettel, CHCOH defeated Jamestown 8-2 to capture the State title.



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## 2012-2013 All-MWJHL Team

The Midwest Junior Hockey League, a proud member of the Amateur Athletic Union, has announced their All-MWJHL Team for the 2012-13 regular season.

**Forwards:** Peter Carlin, Rhinelander Street Cats (Buffalo, NY), Matt Donley, Bloomington Jr. Blaze (Mt. Pleasant, MI), Alex Drulia, Soo Firehawks (Fort Erie, Ont.), Jake Henrikson, Hartland Hounds (Commerce, MI), Thomas Kerr, Hartland Hounds (Howell, MI), Cam Miglia, Hartland Hounds (Brighton, MI), Nick Murphy, Soo Firehawks (Waterford, MI), Abram Prince, Holland River Bandits (Holland, MI), Steven Smoltz, Bloomington Jr. Blaze (Livonia, MI), Bryce Stenstrom, Holland River Bandits (Hampshire, Ill.), James Subu, Michigan Ice Dogs (Rives Junction, MI) and Devan Vander Wyk, Rhinelander Street Cats (Agassiz, B.C.).

**Defense:** Tommy Emery, Tennyson Chevrolet (Leonard, MI), Todd Huotari, Rhinelander Street Cats (Ontonagon, MI), Kevin Killips, Soo Firehawks (Sault Ste. Marie, MI), P.J. Krystyniak, Hartland Hounds (Howell, MI), Andrew Shalawyo, Great Lakes Lightning (Clinton Township, MI) and Tyler Textor, Michigan Ice Dogs (Erie, MI).

**Goaltenders:** Andrew Brownlee, Hartland Hounds (Fowlerville, MI), Gavin Carlson, Bloomington Jr. Blaze (Palatine, Ill) and Brandon Hansen, Soo Firehawks (Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.).

## MWJHL Junior A – Veteran's Memorial Cup

On March 22nd through the 29th, the Midwest Junior Hockey League (MWJHL) wrapped up their 2013 Veteran's Memorial Cup championship series. The league's top four teams advanced to playoffs.

In the opening round, the top-seeded Hartland Hounds defeated the fourth seed Bloomington Jr. Blaze in both of their games on March 22 and 23 at the Kensington Valley Ice House in Brighton, Michigan and the third seed Tennyson Chevrolet defeated the second seed Soo Firehawks in games at the Big Bear Arena in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

This set up the Veteran's Memorial Cup final series, where Hartland defeated Tennyson 6-1 on March 28th and a close 3-2 on the 29th. The Hounds finished the regular season with a record of 47-W, 0-L, 1-OTL, 307-GF & 83-GA. Going 4-0-0 with 19-GF & 5-GA during playoffs.



Veteran's Memorial Cup  
Junior Playoffs  
March 22-30, 2013



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"... Hartland defeated Tennyson 6-1 on March 28th and a close 3-2 on the 29th.

... Going 4-0-0 with 19-GF & 5-GA during the playoffs."

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## NSHL – Junior A

The 2012-13 season was the Northern States Hockey League's inaugural year in AAU/UHU sanctioning. The goal of the league is to develop and promote amateur junior A hockey players with the ability and desire to play at the college level.

The seven teams in the league span all of New England, New Jersey and New York. Currently, the teams include; Trenton Habs, Lake George Fighting Spirit, Syracuse Stampede, Cape Cod Islanders, Eastern Kodiaks, Junior Mariners and New England Stars. The success of these teams has attracted additional teams for the 2013-14 season. Beginning next season the league will expand to include teams from Vermont and Maine.



By all measures of junior hockey success the NSHL has done remarkably well during its inaugural AAU season.

The success began at the beginning of the season when a team competed in the Woodchuck Classic and were competitive against EJHL teams, including the reigning USA Hockey national champion. This success was parlayed into other teams playing teams from as far away as Richmond, Virginia

to gain exposure for players as well as notoriety for the league.

Throughout the season there were a number of well played games. New rivalries were created and old ones rekindled. The standing rivalry of Lake George Fighting Spirit and Syracuse Stampede was a flash back to league championship play last season.

The culmination of the league's success was the college placements. This year there have been six college commitments already. Syracuse has placed four players. They have one going to play for Ferris State (D1), SUNY Morrisville, SUNY Canton and Western New England University. Lake George Fighting Spirit has two players committed to Southern Maine University and SUNY Canton. And finally, the Trenton Habs have a player committed to Worcester State.

For a new league with AAU affiliation these college placements are the pinnacle of junior hockey success. The league looks forward to building on this season's success next year with an expanded league with even more college placements.



**NSHL Playoffs  
March 22-24, 2013**

**"The success of these teams has attracted additional teams for the 2013-2014 season. Beginning next season the league will expand to include teams from Vermont and Maine."**

**"This year there have been six college commitments already. ... one going to play for Ferris State (D1), SUNY Morrisville, SUNY Canton and Western New England University. ... Southern Maine University and SUNY Canton. ... Worcester State."**



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## WSHL Junior A – Thorne Cup

The Western States Hockey League (WSHL) advanced 6 of their 22 teams into the Thorne Cup Finals, held in McCall Idaho on March 28-31, 2014.

Teams advancing to the league finals were:



Dallas Ice Jets (Midwest Champs), Southern Oregon Spartans, El Paso Rhinos (Mountain Champs), Bay Area Seals (Pacific Champs), Idaho Jr Steelheads (Northwest Champs) and the Fresno Monsters.

The Bay Area Seals defeated high-scoring Dallas on Friday (4-2) and then advanced into the semi-finals on Saturday where they defeated El Paso (7-2). Idaho came into the tournament with a league leading record (44-wins, 1-loss and 1-OTL). Defeating Southern Oregon (3-2) in their semi-final game.

On Easter Sunday the host Idaho Jr Steelheads and the Cinderella story of tournament Bay Area Seals met for the final game of the Thorne Cup. The Steelheads won their 3rd Thorne Cup in a row with a close 4-2 victory over the Seals.

## AAU Junior – National Championship

UHU/AAU Nationals: April 5-9, 2013 (Friday-Tuesday) at the Las Vegas Ice Center.

Teams from the Midwest Junior Hockey League (MWJHL), the Northern States Hockey League (NSHL) and the Western States Hockey League (WSHL) will be competing.

The MWJHL representatives to Nationals are the Hartland Hounds (the Veteran's Memorial Cup champions from Hartland, MI) and Tennyson Chevrolet (the Veteran's Memorial Cup finalists from Brownstown, MI).

The NSHL representatives to Nationals are Syracuse Stampede (the NSHL-Cup champions from Syracuse, NY) and Lake George Fighting Spirit (the NSHL-Cup finalists from Lake George, NY).

The WSHL representatives to Nationals are the Idaho Jr Steelheads (the Thorne Cup champions from McCall, ID) and Bay Area Seals (the Thorne Cup finalists from San Jose, CA).



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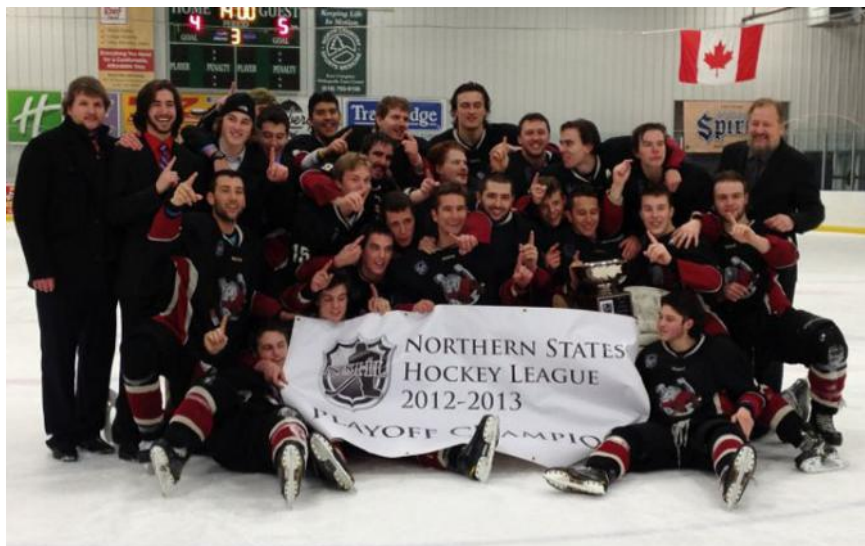
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“Hartland Hounds from Hartland, Michigan. Veteran’s Memorial Cup Champions advance to the Junior A Nationals”



“Syracuse Stampede from Syracuse, New York. NSHL Cup Champions advance to the Junior A Nationals”



“Idaho Jr Steelheads from McCall, Idaho. Win their 3rd consecutive Thorne Cup and advance to the Junior A Nationals”





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## Our new look and format

It is likely that readers were already aware of the monthly newsletter published by Hockey Michigan.

AAU full-ice Mite hockey programs had begun in Michigan for the 2011-2012 regular season. These Michigan programs were not the only AAU ice hockey programs. Or even the first. However, they were the first such recent programs to begin operations at the Mite level.

In order to help promote the further expansion of AAU Mite hockey within Michigan and the surrounding states, a Hockey Michigan newsletter was created. Even during that first season, the Hockey Michigan newsletter experiment succeeded in drawing others to some degree. Seeing further expansion during 2011-2012 within Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Missouri.

Then for 2012-2013, we found new AAU Mite and Squirt programs forming around the US, requiring the creation of a our new AAU Mite-Squirt committee, which will assist others in this growth (please see the story on page 2 for further details concerning the AAU Mite-Squirt Committee).

Since AAU Mites and Squirts have evolved into a national program, it would now appear to be a good time to expand past the Hockey Michigan newsletter into a larger and more inclusive National Newsletter. Hockey Michigan may continue or it may become a section or page within the National editions. So here we go with our new look and format. Welcome to our inaugural edition of the AAU Ice Hockey national newsletter.

## Articles & Notices Wanted

AAU ice hockey Leagues, Teams, Coaches, Managers and/or Tournament operators are encouraged to submit articles or notices for publication within future newsletters. Please submit items by the 15th of each month to: [keith@hockey-michigan.org](mailto:keith@hockey-michigan.org)

The editor reserves the right to exclude any articles and/or statements, which appear to be in poor taste or that violate the principles found within our Positive Coaching Alliance courses. In other words, please no bashing of: opposing clubs, opposing players, opposing coaches, referees, etc.

This publication should be concerned with the positive aspects of our AAU programs and with providing **Sports for all, Forever.**



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### **Youth**

Hockey Colorado:	<a href="http://www.hockeycolorado.org">www.hockeycolorado.org</a>
Hockey Michigan:	<a href="http://www.hockey-michigan.org">www.hockey-michigan.org</a>
Minnesota:	<a href="http://www.minnesotamadehockey.com">www.minnesotamadehockey.com</a>
Oklahoma:	<a href="http://www.fulltilthockeyok.com">www.fulltilthockeyok.com</a>

### **Scholastic**

WNYHSCHL:	<a href="http://www.eteamz.com/wnyhshchl">www.eteamz.com/wnyhshchl</a>
Long Island, NY:	<a href="http://www.longislandhshockey.net">www.longislandhshockey.net</a>

### **Junior**

MWJHL:	<a href="http://www.mwjhl.pointstreaksites.com/view/mwjhl">www.mwjhl.pointstreaksites.com/view/mwjhl</a>
NSHL:	<a href="http://www.northernstateshockey.com">www.northernstateshockey.com</a>
WSHL:	<a href="http://www.wshl.org">www.wshl.org</a>

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A single low cost AAU membership will provide benefits and opportunities for events in over 40 sports including:

