

# AAU Ice Hockey

January 1, 2014

Volume 1, Issue 10

Sports for all, Forever



Editor

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

AAU Leagues, Administrators, as well as Team Coaches and/or Managers are encouraged to submit articles and notices to:

[keith@hockey-michigan.org](mailto:keith@hockey-michigan.org)



## Online Registration for Mite-Squirt Nationals set to close on January 15th

Online registration for the **AAU Mite-Squirt Nationals** began on December 15th and will close on January 15, 2014. AAU Mite-Squirt Nationals will be taking place on March 6-9, 2014 in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota.

Many AAU Mite and Squirt teams who have already been awarded berths through a National Qualifier tournament have already been asked to register and have been doing so. Other teams who are being awarded League and/or At-Large berths should already be registering as well.

Each region, state and/or league has been allocated a number of berths based upon the size of their AAU ice hockey activities. Teams wishing to participate within the National Tournament and are not sure if they are permitted to register should contact their local league and/or their AAU state ice hockey chair (director) to determine if they may.



Additional information can be found at: [aaucehockey.org](http://aaucehockey.org) The direct link for registration to participate in Nationals is located at: [aaucehockey.org/org/divisions/register#content](http://aaucehockey.org/org/divisions/register#content)

## Hockey Michigan considers forming a Tyke (6U) program for 2014-2015

For the 2014-2015 season, Hockey Michigan director Keith Kloock is hoping to form a new AAU multisport program offering 6U ice hockey within Michigan and possibly for those within the surrounding region. Calling the new classification **Tyke**, which is a Canadian 6U term rather than Mini-Mite more often used here in the US. This name change is an effort to differentiate the concept from more traditional methods, which appear to be driving young athletes away from hockey rather than to it. Hoping to provide a more inclusive and fun approach to bringing young player into our sport, without imposing mandates.

Keith has been developing a Tyke Handbook, which is almost complete. The handbook explains some in-depth ideas about how to provide a more kid-friendly introduction to hockey. In broad strokes, leagues would attempt to incorporate a multisport rotation concept of 3 regular games. These games focus upon (1) Floorball played in a gym rather than on ice, (2) Half-Ice 3v3 hockey and (3) conventional 5v5 Full-Ice hockey.

Those interested in helping to form and build this new approach (especially rink managers, Parks & Recreation directors and/or school officials) are asked to contact **Keith** at either (734) 692-5158 or [keith@hockey-michigan.org](mailto:keith@hockey-michigan.org)

## AAU Hockey and AAU Baseball exhibits at the Let's Play Hockey Expo

TO ALL AAU SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS

On behalf of AAU President Henry Forrest, AAU National Baseball Chair Ed Skovron and myself, I am very pleased to announce the AAU will have tremendous presence at the "SOLD OUT Exhibitor space", **25th Annual Let's Play Hockey Expo** in St. Paul, MN on March 7-8, 2014.



The inaugural **AAU National Mites & Squirrels Ice Hockey Championships** [www.aauicehockey.org](http://www.aauicehockey.org), expects over 1200 student athletes/coaches to attend the championships including an estimated 6,000 parents and siblings are expected as well from March 6-9, 2014 at Minnesota Made Hockey in Edina Minnesota [www.minnesotamadehockey.com](http://www.minnesotamadehockey.com) including area facilities. The AAU Hockey leadership from across the country will attend sport meetings at the RiverCentre on March 5th & 6th.

The **Minnesota State High School Boy's Ice Hockey Championships** will be held at the **XCEL ENERGY CENTER** March 5-8. Last year over 110,000 fans attended the state high school championships with another 40,000+ attending the Let's Play Hockey Expo. AAU has secured a 10' x 40' exhibit space for the 25TH ANNUAL LETS PLAY HOCKEY EXPO including meeting rooms for seminars AAU will host.

Expo has added Baseball, Softball, Golf & Lacrosse to the exhibitors including simulators for the Titleist Long Drive contest including the Minnesota Twins holding clinics.

Hotel link...(Where the ice hockey teams are staying) near the Mall Of America. Next Bulletin will go out after the Holidays. [www.mmx2reservations.com/bloomingtonmn/reservations/index/step1/eventId/749](http://www.mmx2reservations.com/bloomingtonmn/reservations/index/step1/eventId/749)

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## Minnesota Wild vs St.Louis Blues

### Special Offer

The Minnesota Wild are offering ticket discounts for the AAU Mite and Squirt teams (and their families) who are participating during the AAU National Championships.

On **March 9, 2014** the Minnesota Wild host the St. Louis Blues, game-time is 7:00pm.

The special ticket price starts at only **\$26** each!

[oss.ticketmaster.com/html/go.html?l=EN&t=wild&o=9941161&q=890](http://oss.ticketmaster.com/html/go.html?l=EN&t=wild&o=9941161&q=890)

Please use the Special Offer Code: **Wild**

For ticket orders of 8 or more or with questions contact Minnesota Wild Group Sales Manager Jason Stern 651-312-3460 or [jstern@wild.com](mailto:jstern@wild.com)





## Michigan State - Mite Championships have been re-scheduled for March 13-16, 2014

The **Hockey Michigan (AAU)** state championships, which had originally been planned for the Presidents Day holiday weekend have been rescheduled for the weekend of March 13-16, 2014.

The primary facility for this year's season ending event will be the **Farmington Hills Ice Arena**, which is located at: 35500 8 Mile Rd in Farmington Hill, Michigan. However, if needed then additional facilities may be contracted for some games and/or divisions. At present count, 17 teams have applied for 4 separate competition levels within Michigan's third annual State Championship.

It was necessary to reschedule the event for March because most ice-time at facilities within the greater Detroit arenas had already been contracted through the month of February. The change allowed Hockey Michigan to consolidate as many of the Mite classifications as possible into a single high-quality location.



## Teach players to be accountable to the team

Throughout the years, I have often been asked how I would judge the success or failure of the typical Youth hockey coach. The answer is a simple one, and the subject matter that encapsulates today's column. By season's end, has he/she taught his/her player's precisely what it means to be "accountable to the team?"

In other words, can each and every player (when queried), easily rattle-off the correct answer as it relates to exactly what it means to be "accountable to his/her teammates?" Of course, the ideal response would - in so many words - be that "my responsibility as a good teammate is to insure that all of my actions in and around team functions are designed to help the team "become a better team!"

Having your former (and current) players answer in that fashion is indisputably what attaining an "excellence in coaching" moniker is all about, and is definitively what we all SHOULD BE STRIVING FOR!

So today, I am going to pass along an easily implementable tip that will allow for you – the average volunteer (non-paid) Youth ice hockey coach – to become that highly-regarded mentor and leader. One that leaves his players with the psychological infrastructure to succeed anywhere in life.

Within the initial meeting involving players and their respective parents or guardians, you MUST explain to all in attendance – in a clear and concise fashion – that you are going to introduce, teach and furthermore "expect" each and every player to understand and practice "accountability" with respect to his/her teammates from that moment on.

Essentially, being "accountable" to your fellow players involves the notion that EVERY time you participate in a team function – practice, team bonding or meeting, you will have made a conscious effort, in a large or small way, to make the team "a better team."

Examples may include: Being quiet and attentive because it inspires the other players do the same, working your absolute hardest at every drill with the goal of improving your individual skills because doing so will "aid

## Hockey Tips

written by:  
**Paul Lubanski**



**Hockey Tips** is a column written by: **Paul Lubanski of Hockey Weekly**

Paul's company, "Wilderness Xtreme Sports" creates dynamic new takes on traditional sporting competition-visit [www.wxsports.net](http://www.wxsports.net) for information.

**HockeyWeekly.com**

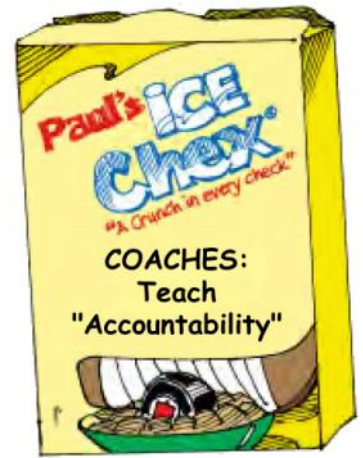
the team in succeeding,” concentrating to insure that each shot I take is on target because it helps our team score and our goaltenders improve, focus on making perfect passes because it makes our drills run more efficiently, being a good example to teammates by loudly calling for the puck when you are open, making certain not to body-check a teammate needlessly even though he/she may have had their head down and were vulnerable.

Finally, I would forewarn the players that before they leave your jurisdiction after any team function described above, that you will be requiring each to give a short statement as to what they may have done to “help the team.”

Now, that my friends is big-time coaching. Preparing them to tackle the “real world” by teaching them “accountability to the team” is both a fantastic and reach-able goal. Make it yours. Wins and losses DO NOT comprise what a truly meaningful mentor and leader is all about. What I put forth above does. Best of luck.

## BONUS TIP

Of course, getting your parents to “buyin” to the ACCOUNTABILITY concept is extremely important and useful. Having them reinforce your effort by also asking the identical question – “What did you do today to help our team become a BETTER TEAM?” – as soon as they hop into the car to head home would be a terrific aid. During your bi-weekly PCP (Parent- Coach-Player) meetings you can and should be comparing notes/ answers.



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Page 7

## AAU Mite-Squirt Qualifier Tournaments

This page will continue to be updated as additional Qualifiers become available.

Qualifying Tournaments have been announced from several AAU Hockey Districts and Regions.

Teams will be selected through a number of pathways including these remaining Qualifier Tournaments and through participation within various AAU sanctioned leagues throughout the United States.

<b><u>Squirt &amp; PeeWee Qualifier</u></b>	Jan. 24-26, 2014	Dallas, TX
<b><u>President's Cup</u></b>	Feb. 14-16, 2014	Tulsa, OK
<b><u>AAU Pacific Regional</u></b>	Feb. 14-17, 2014	Riverside, CA
<b><u>Cleveland Mite Shootout</u></b>	Feb. 22-23, 2014	N.Olmsted, OH

AAU National Ice Hockey Championships will be held from March 6-9, 2014 in Minneapolis-St.Paul, Minnesota. Mite teams and Squirt teams will compete within several competition level.



For additional information

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## AAU State Championships Tournaments

This section will continue to be updated as additional Championships become available.

**AAU 2014 Illinois State Championships** February 14-16, 2014  
Mites & Squirts @ greater Chicago, Illinois (exact location TBD)

**AAU 2014 Colorado State Championships** February 21-23, 2014  
Mites & Squirts @ Denver, Colorado

**AAU 2014 Michigan State Championships** March 13-16, 2014  
Mites & Squirts @ Farmington Hills, Michigan



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## AAU Mite-Squirt Leagues

This page will continue to be updated as additional league information becomes available.

### **8U Prep League**

[www.nsyf.org](http://www.nsyf.org)

Massachusetts. Offering opportunities at the 8U classification.

### **American Revolution (ARSS)** [www.americanrevolutionhockey.com](http://www.americanrevolutionhockey.com)

Louisiana, Oklahoma & Texas. Offering opportunities at the 8U through 18U classifications.

### **Choice League**

[www.minnesotamadehockey.com](http://www.minnesotamadehockey.com)

Minnesota. Offering opportunities at the 8U through 12U classifications.

### **Canadian Independent (CIHF)** [www.cihfhockey.com](http://www.cihfhockey.com)

Ontario. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 18U classifications.

### **Eastern Amateur (EAHA)**

[www.eahahockey.org](http://www.eahahockey.org)

Connecticut. Offering opportunities at the 8U through 12U classifications.

### **Empire Hockey League (EHL)** [www.empirehockeyleague.com](http://www.empirehockeyleague.com)

California & Nevada. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 8U classifications.

### **Greater Niagara (GNAHL)**

[www.eteamz.com/greatniagaraamateurhockeyleague](http://www.eteamz.com/greatniagaraamateurhockeyleague)

New York. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 10U classifications.

### **Hockey Colorado**

[www.hockeycolorado.org](http://www.hockeycolorado.org)

Colorado & Wyoming. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 12U classifications.

### **Hockey Illinois**

[www.aauhockeyillinois.org](http://www.aauhockeyillinois.org)

Illinois & Wisconsin. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 8U classifications.

### **Michigan Amateur (MAYHL)**

[www.mayhl.com](http://www.mayhl.com)

Michigan & Ohio. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 18U classifications.

### **New England (NEAHL)**

[www.neahl.org](http://www.neahl.org)

Maine, Massachusetts & New Hampshire. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 18U classifications.

### **North East Hockey League**

Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island & Vermont. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 18U classifications.

### **Redline Metros (RLAC)**

[www.rlacmetros.com](http://www.rlacmetros.com)

Maryland, Virginia & greater Washington DC. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 18U classifications.

### **Salt Lake County (SLCYHL)**

[www.youthhockey.slco.org](http://www.youthhockey.slco.org)

Utah. Offering opportunities at the 8U through 14U classifications.

### **Tulsa Jr Oilers**

[www.tulsajroilers.com](http://www.tulsajroilers.com)

Oklahoma. Offering opportunities at the 6U through 10U classifications.





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## National Mite-Squirt Committee

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## AAU Ice Hockey Leagues & Websites

AAU Ice Hockey on Twitter [twitter.com/AAUIce](https://twitter.com/AAUIce)  
[www.aauicehockey.org](http://www.aauicehockey.org)

### Scholastic

WNYHSCHL: [www.eteamz.com/wnyhschl](http://www.eteamz.com/wnyhschl)  
Long Island, NY: [www.longislandhshockey.net](http://www.longislandhshockey.net)

### Junior

MWJHL: [www.mwjhl.com](http://www.mwjhl.com)  
NSHL: [www.northernstateshockey.com](http://www.northernstateshockey.com)  
WSHL: [www.wshl.org](http://www.wshl.org)

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

