

# AAU Ice Hockey

Jan 1, 2016

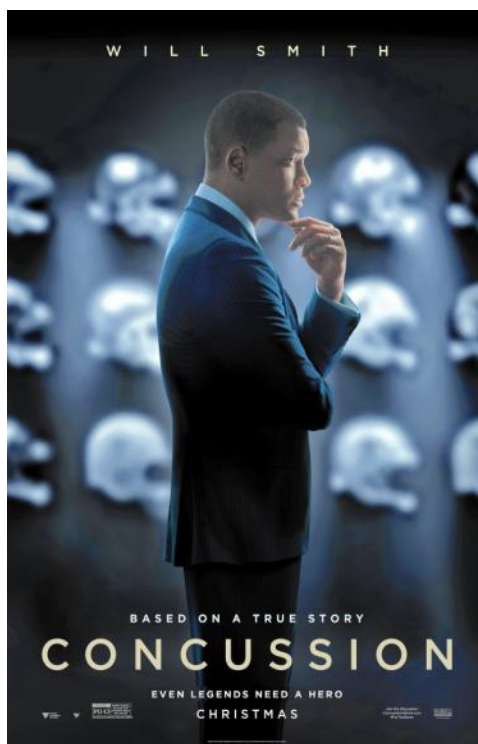
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## Concussion - why does our sport tolerate inferior helmets? *An editorial by: Keith Kloock*

Once upon a time in America, when kids would get bumps and bruises during a youth sport then almost invariably an adult would be there to say “rub some dirt on it and get back in the game”. Similarly, if a kid got his bell rung (as we all used to call it) then a coach may ask “are you OK ?” and almost every kid would always respond “I’m fine, just put me in coach”. Clearly this was an age of both innocence and ignorance.

It is widely expected that CTE (*Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy*) and the topic of concussions within youth sports will become more widely discussed during 2016. Sparked in part by the Christmas Day (of 2015) release of the film **Concussion**.

The movie stars Will Smith as it attempts to chronicle the work of doctor Bennet Omalu. IMDB.com describes it as “a dramatic thriller based on the incredible true David vs. Goliath story of American immigrant Dr. Bennet Omalu, the brilliant forensic neuropathologist who made the first discovery of CTE, a football-related brain trauma, in a pro player and fought for the truth to be known. Omalu's emotional quest puts him at dangerous odds with one of the most powerful institutions in the world.”, obviously referring to the NFL as Goliath.



Of course, the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) instituted its concussion policy many years ago. And two following articles in this newsletter describes a strengthening of AAU's commitment to addressing these concerns within youth sports. In addition, several of AAU's contact sports (such as Football and Hockey) have adopted and further developed concussion policies over recent years.

It is important for all of our coaches and parents to be aware that now all 50 states do have Sport Concussion Laws in place.

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Sports for all, Forever



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### Contents

Concussion	1
Concussion Policy	3
Safety Portal	4
Record AAU Growth	5
What is Hockey	6
National Directors	8
Let's Play Hockey	9
ORHL kicks off	10
Red Line Athletic	11
New England	13
WSHL Tier II Junior	14
WSHL Showcase	16
NCPHL	22
Tournaments	23
Leagues	27
AAU Contacts	30

Of course, the US Congress has been conducting hearings on the subject of concussions within youth sports for years (it takes years for the US Congress to do anything about anything and they certainly excel at having hearings). However, we can all be sure that a national change is coming, and the movie Concussion may very well speed this process up.

Progress has been made and continues on many fronts. Medical research into identifying and treating these injuries advances every year. The NFL has come around and is now taking an active role in addressing concussions. Changes have come with regard to how we teach sports and how we respond to head injuries. And to some extent, contact sports have been revisiting rules and how these sports are played.

Yet keeping in mind that this author is only a lay-person, I'd still like to suggest that within the sport of Ice Hockey there is one area that has lagged behind the times. That area is Equipment design and manufacturing (i.e. Helmets). No matter what other changes do occur, there will always be head trauma within sports. At any time, any child may simply fall down and hit their head on the Ice or Boards in hockey (turf in other sport). At that time, our children are dependent upon their head gear. And unfortunately, within the sport of Ice Hockey that head gear simply is not up to the task.

Hockey parents should be aware that there is a helmet ranking standard, which was developed by Virginia Tech University and Wake Forest University. These rankings are not an absolute means of protecting children from suffering concussions. In addition, it should be noted that the ratings currently do test regarding rotational acceleration (which unfortunately has no currently accepted standard for testing). However, they are a means of gauging potential levels of protection between different helmets in the marketplace. The research began on Football helmets and was later expanded to include Hockey.

**Virginia Tech 5 Star Helmet ratings** (see ratings at: [www.beam.vt.edu/helmet/helmets\\_hockey.php](http://www.beam.vt.edu/helmet/helmets_hockey.php))

Virginia Tech helmet rating by sport	5 Star Best	4 Star Very Good	3 Star Good	2 Star Adequate	1 Star Marginal
## of Football helmets models available	14	8	5	1	1
## of Hockey helmets models available	0	0	1	6	17

Only 1 Hockey helmet achieves a 3 Star (Good) rating (the Warrior Krown 360, which is actually a moderately priced helmet), while other helmets only rate 2 or even 1 (some at even double the price). Within some youth Football programs it is recommended that participants use only 5 or 4 Star helmets. Yet in the case of Hockey, no such option is even available.

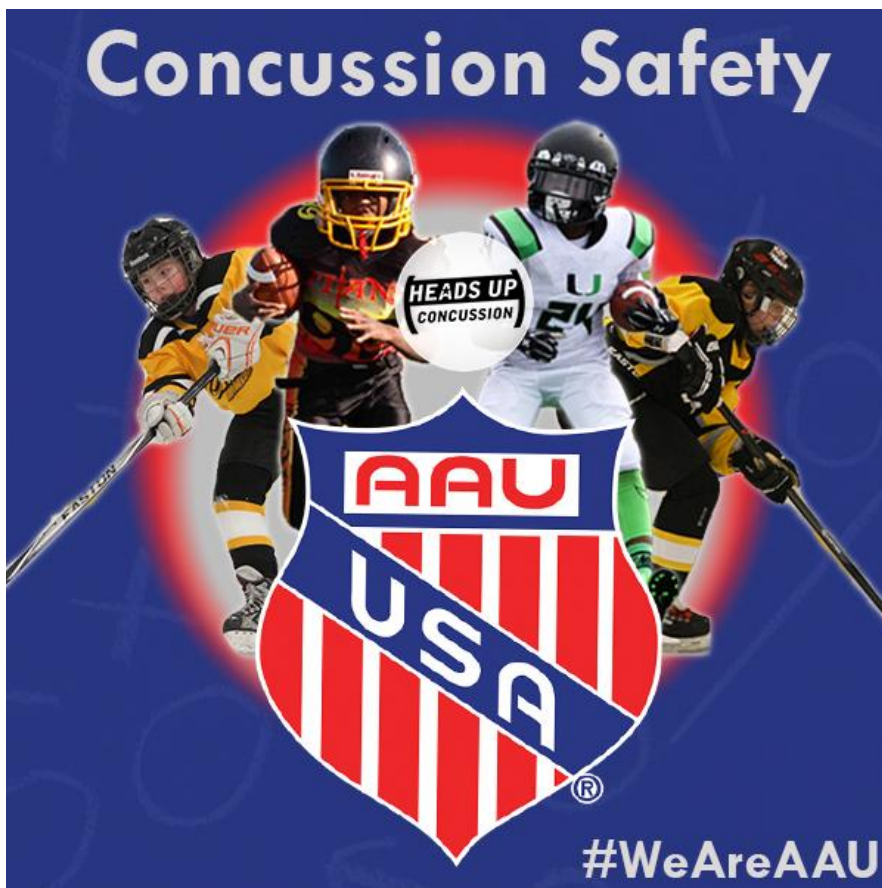
It is clear from the above chart that the design standards for Ice Hockey helmets have lagged far behind the standards for Football helmets. Of course, in the United States the certification process for Football and Hockey helmets are handled by different organizations. It appears that recently the USA Football, the NFL have been attempting to keep up with the times and have adopted more of a proactive stance in demanding more up to date safety standards. Isn't it time for Ice Hockey participants to demand safer helmets?

Hockey Helmet certifications within the United States are issued by the Hockey Equipment Certification Council (HECC). In Canada they are certified by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). The HECC may be contacted at: [admin@hecc.net](mailto:admin@hecc.net) or their president Dr Alan Ashare at: [alan.ashare.md@steward.org](mailto:alan.ashare.md@steward.org)

## AAU Demonstrates Unwavering Commitment to Health and Well-Being of Youth Athletes by Strengthening Current Concussion Policy

Enhanced concussion protocols and adoption of the USA Football coaching and teaching philosophy paves the way for safer game for youth athletes

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (Dec. 18, 2015) – The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) is advancing its current concussion policy offered in conjunction with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) HEADS UP to Youth Sports program, to mandate training courses on concussion safety for all football and hockey coaches and their event directors.



Adopting USA Football's coaching and teaching philosophy on proper tackling technique to limit the risk of significant head injury to youth athletes, the new policy would require anyone hosting an AAU licensed league or event to complete the course on concussion safety.

"Safety doesn't happen by accident," said Dr. Roger Goudy, AAU President and CEO. "The safety of our youth athletes has always been our primary focus. We believe we, as an organization, have taken significant steps to provide AAU events that are both safe and enjoyable for all who attend."

According to the organization's written concussion protocols, athletes with concussion-like symptoms are not allowed to continue participation in AAU licensed events without a medical release.

"The AAU recognizes the potential harm from head or neck injuries to our youth athletes is a serious matter," said Keith Noll, AAU Football and Hockey National Chair. "But the AAU is committed to limiting the potential harm and creating a safer environment for kids to come and compete."

No matter the sport, safety is the top priority for the AAU at all events. The organization recently endorsed the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) SafeSports program, which focuses on four primary objectives: addressing sexual and physical misconduct in sport; reviewing the guidelines across sports and other related organizations for responding to these issues; assessing the needs of athletes, coaches, staff, National Governing Bodies (NGBs), clubs and other sport organizations; and developing a set of recommendations to promote athlete well-being.

## AAU Football and Hockey Chair, Keith Noll Announces New Athletic Safety and Awareness Portal Provided by



AAU Football and Hockey are developing a new online program for coaches, parents, and athletes aimed to increase awareness regarding sport-specific safety issues. The online portal, The Athletic Safety and Awareness Portal, will feature training courses, health and safety resource guides, and AAU-specific policies and protocols for football and hockey. Beginning in [January] 2016, AAU Football and Hockey will be piloting this program with a course for parents and coaches: *Concussion Awareness and Responsibilities*. The course highlights important information related to concussions and provides information about the identification, minimization, and management of concussions. The pilot program will include access to Reference Guides on Concussion Signs and Symptoms as well as pertinent AAU policies.

Access to the portal will be offered free of charge to the first 2,000 members by our new partner, CFM Partners. CFM is a Governance, Risk, and Compliance company that works with organizations committed to implementing proactive and forward-looking education and information programs. They recently launched a state-of-the-art solution, The Athletic Compliance Portal for NCAA schools. The portal, designed to improve communication and education related to health and safety issues, includes education and training materials similar to those in our pilot program. AAU National Football and Hockey Chair recently stated, "Division 1 schools, including the University of Notre Dame, the University of Virginia, and the College of the Holy Cross, have implemented the training courses and are experiencing excellent results". AAU Football and Hockey hope to do the same.

The Portal will provide the platform to consolidate existing AAU content (videos, PowerPoint presentations, rules and regulations, etc.) as well as content provided by or through CFM, such as Concussion Training for young athletes. (Please note that while CFM currently develops content for adult audiences, we anticipate engaging the appropriate subject matter experts, learning and design specialists, and graphic artists to accommodate the needs of the younger audience.)

Look for an update on the release of this program in (early/mid/late) [January 2016] for instructions on how to take advantage of the portal, and help us evaluate what we hope will be a very valuable new resource.

[www.aaufootball.org](http://www.aaufootball.org) - [www.aauicehockey.org](http://www.aauicehockey.org) – [www.aauhockey.org](http://www.aauhockey.org)

## Record AAU Hockey Growth Continues from New York to California

Following the record growth during the 2014-15 the 2015-16 season has started out with record numbers in several districts for the 2015-16 membership season. AAU Hockey happens to be one of the top sports in the AAU's 40 + sports program witnessing accelerated growth, especially as more and more Mites are choosing to "Get Real with AAU" full-ice hockey opportunities and the Adult Non-Check Leagues now part of the AAU Hockey program.

Around the Great Lakes basin, AAU hockey has been growing at an even faster pace (up to almost 20,000 members in the first quarter of the 2015-16 membership year in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and New York), well ahead of the same period for last season. And not merely at the Mite classifications, but also at Squirts through Midgets, Scholastics (Middle School, Junior Varsity and Varsity) College and now even at the Adult (No-Check) classification.

AAU Hockey currently has record membership in 51 districts and Canada up from just 36 districts two years ago. Increases in the first quarter this season were significant in the states of New York, California, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Michigan and Illinois where some states have already surpassed the yearly totals from 2014-15.

**Hockey Minnesota**, continues to grow with over 40 Mites programs license by the AAU.

Hockey Illinois, which of course underwent a massive Mite expansion last season, continues to grow and currently has over 80 Mite Travel teams and a still undetermined number of Mite House teams.

**Hockey Michigan**, for the first time will field more than 100 teams. In the state where AAU Mites first began to Get Real with ideas like Full-Ice, Black Pucks, Delayed Off-sides and 9-Dot Face-offs, Michigan is currently fielding 56 Mite teams including 16 Minor teams at 7U (2008), 32 Major teams at 8U (2007) and currently 8 teams at 8U Mixed (2007-2008). The vast majority are playing within the Michigan Amateur Youth Hockey League (MAYHL). However, as word has been spreading about Michigan's new 8U Mixed classification there have been a lot of inquires asking how to form new AAU teams and/or leagues.

**Hockey Michigan** also hit record memberships expanding with scholastic-based JV-Prep hockey with 30+ teams (within 2 leagues including the Great Lakes Prep-JV Hockey League and the I-69 Hockey League) and has now by expanding into Adult No-Check hockey fielding numerous teams in several states.

**Hockey New York**, has benefited from a slightly different kind of expansion, as the Greater Niagara Amateur Hockey League (GNAHL) continues to significantly grow increasing a number of new organizations for the 2015-16 season. GNAHL is fielding a number of Mite teams (including teams at 7U and 8U level), yet the league has expanded into additional age classifications as well, adding 50+ teams ranging from Squirts through Midgets. Yet New York also fields 100+ scholastic teams (Middle School, JV and Varsity) competing within AAUs 2 oldest ice hockey leagues.

**Hockey Ontario**, because of growth in Ontario the AAU operations have split into 2 leagues. The Ontario Rep Hockey League (ORHL) is currently fielding a number of teams from Novice (Mites) through Midgets. And the North American Select Hockey League (NASHL) expects to have similar numbers, also from Novice (Mites) through Midgets.

The **Western States Hockey League** has seen another record year at Juniors with almost 29 organizations from 16 states competing in four divisions at TIER TWO and TIER THREE.

## Game Transition

*written by: Tom Molloy, AAU Hockey - Player & Coach Development*

I think before we plan practice for skills or system, it is important to define exactly what the game is. Here are some hockey facts.

### Three Game Situations

In a game between 2 equal teams with good skills you are on;

1. offense 35% of the time
2. defense 35% of the time
3. the puck is loose 30% of the time (not on someone's stick). For low skilled teams the loose puck situation is much higher.

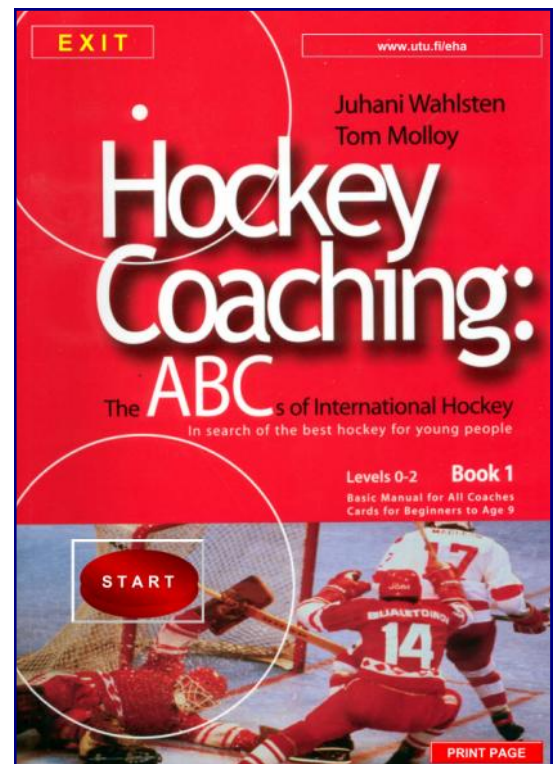
The average for someone to carry the puck is about 2.5".

The average for the team to have the puck is about 4.5".

Each team has possession and loses possession of the puck about 180 times during a game.

That means the puck changes hands 6 times every minute.

**Just click on the picture of Tom's book cover to the right in order to go to his book on his website. →**



### What Happens Every Shift in a Hockey Game

#### 'Hockey is a Game of Transition.'

In a game, the players are constantly transitioning between three situations, 0-Loose Puck 30%, 1-Offense 35%, 2-Defense 35%. On offense they are in one of two playing roles 1-Puck carrier, 2-Supporting the attack and on defense the two game playing roles are 3-check puck carrier, 4-cover away from the puck.

In one minute of playing time I counted 7 loose puck situations, 3 times Pittsburgh was on offense and 4 times on defense and 7 times Detroit is on offense and 3 times on defense because they won the majority of loose puck situations. This short clip is typical in a game and is a good example of the statement

So a hockey game is a constant transition between the 4 Game Playing Roles. Every player is always in one of these roles. There is never a time when a player has nothing to do.

**- continued on the following page -**

## Four Game Playing Roles

Role One: player has the puck.

Role Two: players supports the puck carrier, close player creating a 2-1 and farther away width and depth.

Role Three: player checks the puck carrier with either a pressure or contain decision.

Role Four: player gives either close or farther support to the first checker depending on whether the first checker pressured or contained.

If you look at the game in this manner then you realize that good habits like facing the puck, always having your stick on the ice, angling, moving to open ice quickly with the puck and again to open ice once you pass it are essential. It takes a team about 2" to get into good defending position after losing the puck, so quick transition to the attack is essential if you want to attack an unorganized defense as compared to an organized defense. Good technique at game speed are the tools you need.

The coach has to organize practices that not only work on one game playing role at a time but also on the constant transition between roles. Drills that work on one skill are fine for perfecting a technique but if you only do 1 on 1's in drills where the defender and attacker knows it is a 1 on 1 and after the shot they go back to the lineup then you are not practicing the reality of hockey which is

- a. both players read the situation.
- b. attack and defend with good technique.
- c. after the shot the attacker follow the shot for the rebound and defender deny a second shot.
- d. make a second play on offense or the defender start the breakout.

A coach who doesn't practice transition is missing the essence of the game.

### Some other numbers to consider are:

1. A turnover in the offensive end followed by an attack the other way results in a scoring chance about 5% of the time.
2. Neutral zone turnovers give up scoring chances 7-10% of the time.
3. Defensive zone turnovers give up scoring chances about 25% of the time. In other words the farther the puck is from your net the more time you have to get back and defend. (so what is the point of the neutral zone trap being a team's only forecheck)

Also teams that play systems that are purely contain or totally aggressive also don't understand the game. The plan should be to pressure when possible (you are within a half stick and have a good angle) and contain when there is no chance for the closest player to get a stick on the puck and body on body.

So hockey is more like a tennis game than like basketball (power plays are similar to basketball). i.e. hit the ball-offense, ball in the air - loose puck - get in defensive position to hit - defense. Constant changing of roles. Our practices and our team play philosophy should prepare our players for this constant transition between loose puck, offense and defensive situations.

## In 2015 MIKE HARTMAN & Tom Molloy were named as AAU National Hockey Directors for Player & Coach Development

AAU National Hockey Chair, Keith Noll is pleased to announce that Mike Hartman, former NHL New York Ranger athlete and Stanley Cup winner as the AAU On and Off Ice Hockey program director for Coaches, Athletes and Parents. Hartman stated, "My main purpose and objective is to help the athletes develop their skills and have fun playing hockey". Hartman's NHL Career included stops with the Buffalo Sabres, Winnipeg Jets, Tampa Bay Lightning and the New York Rangers where the Rangers won the Stanley Cup in 1994.

Click below for more information:

[www.betterlifetrainingacademy.com/mobile/coaching-](http://www.betterlifetrainingacademy.com/mobile/coaching-)

- Within the platform the coach, player or parent may ask questions 24/7
- Focus will be on skill development for our coaches, players and parents.
- The first 25 videos teaching skills off ice that a player can do in his or her driveway to develop their skills.
- Nutrition will also be provided to our members.
- There will be on ice training that will also focus on skating, puck handling, passing and shooting.
- All members have free access to the platform that is included as part of their AAU membership.

AAU National Hockey Chair, Keith Noll is pleased to announce Tom Molloy, co-author of the ABC's of International Ice Hockey (Volumes one & two). Noll stated, "Tom's interest and experience in player development and coaching will be of tremendous value to the AAU Membership."

AAU coaches are also invited to share ideas, ask questions and get access to practice ideas on the Hockey Coaching ABC's website at:

[www.hockeycoachingabcs.com/forum/viewtopic.php?showtopic=7308](http://www.hockeycoachingabcs.com/forum/viewtopic.php?showtopic=7308)

### About AAU

The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) is one of the largest non-profit volunteer sports organizations in the United States. Est. 1888. A multi-sport organization, the AAU is dedicated exclusively to the promotion and development of amateur sports and physical fitness programs.

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





## Let's Play Hockey Expo includes many exciting events during Mites Championship

*The 27th annual Let's Play Hockey Expo (SOLD OUT) returns with many new and exciting events on March 4-5, 2016 at the St. Paul RiverCentre.*

## AAU North American Mites Championships March 3-6 [www.aauicehockey.org](http://www.aauicehockey.org)

The world's largest consumer hockey trade show which attracts well over 40,000 hockey players, coaches, parents, families, retailers and administrators from around the United States and the World.

The show is held in conjunction with the Minnesota Boys' State High School Hockey Tournament, one of the largest high school sports tournaments in the country that attracted over 120,000 fans last year. Many new activities and product categories have been added to the 27th Annual Lets Play Hockey Consumer Expo for 2016.



### **These include:**

1. The addition of baseball, softball, lacrosse and golf crossover displays which are synergistic to hockey
2. The AAU National Mite Championships (March 3-6) will be held in Minnesota the same weekend with all players coming to the Expo to get their Free AAU National Championship T-Shirt and an AAU NC Bag. The last two years championship teams received championship rings. Teams from California, Colorado, Texas, Ohio, Wisconsin, Florida, New York, Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota competed in five division titles. [www.aauicehockey.org](http://www.aauicehockey.org)
3. AAU Sports including Hockey (Ice & Inline), Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse, will represent the AAU 40+ sports programs.
4. Live radio and internet broadcasts are scheduled each day from the show floor
5. The Upper Midwest's largest hockey sports cards and collectibles show along with special book signings
6. Many new companies register each year to exhibit that will bring the total to well over 200 companies and organizations in attendance.

## ORHL, kicks off its' Inaugural Tournament Season with two Successful Hockey Tournaments in Rochester, NY and London, ON, Canada

The Ontario Rep Hockey League "ORHL" operates as a part of the Canadian Independent Hockey Federation (CIHF) with over 1,000 members. The ORHL is also licensed by AAU Ice Hockey.

The Ontario Rep Hockey League "ORHL" was formed as a rep hockey program that offers unique opportunities to youth hockey players that has been missing in mainstream hockey in Canada. It was created with programming that focuses on better hockey development using the European and NCAA model of a higher practice to game ratio and much more off-ice training combined with professional instruction.

The ORHL has partnered with OneHockey [www.onehockey.com](http://www.onehockey.com) the Premier Tournament Group in North America, to develop its tournament program and provide the best events you will ever play in.

The 2015/16 season has seen two successful tournaments held in December in Rochester, NY and in London Ontario Canada. A total of 58 teams and 800 players participated in the tournaments, coming from Toronto, Oakville, Niagara, Burlington, Hamilton, Kitchener, Guelph, Barrie, Ste. Sault Marie, Pittsburgh, and Buffalo. This provided more tournament play, especially for the older teams in Pee wee, Bantam and Midget.



The ORHL is also currently managing 40 teams playing weekly in the league spread across Southern Ontario as well as in the Soo in Northern Ontario. We also have a very exciting partnership with the leagues from Buffalo and New York. The two leagues have played 29 exhibition games so far this season. The league looks to expand to over 60 teams next season having received a number of applications already.



Contact Mark Hetherman – Commissioner if you have any questions about the league.

Check out the ORHL at [www.orhl.net](http://www.orhl.net)

## RED LINE ATHLETIC CLUB of greater WASHINGTON, DC Takes Advantage of AAU Hockey Benefits

The Red Line Athletic Club of the Greater Washington, DC has been a special beneficiary of AAU sponsored sports and programs. RLAC runs hockey, soccer and lacrosse programming for youth through scholastic through senior age brackets. The Club's calendar is very "scholastic" in nature and would remind one of the NESCAC sports calendar or any New England Scholastic sports calendar in that it is very seasonal with little to no overlap in seasons.

RLAC runs a shortened winter hockey season from the third week of November through the third week of March and then another summer hockey season during the hot DC months from May to the end of July. In the spring and fall, RLAC has "arena soccer" and box lacrosse programming under a roof at the Wheaton Sports Pavilion (MD) which is a converted "open air" ice rink.

RLAC members are able to take advantage of AAU's member benefits because players and coaches that want to participate in 2-3 of these sports can do so without having to purchase multiple memberships, and without redundant background checks and insurance (and of course redundant fees).



Most of the RLAC programming is "in-house", but the Club has taken advantage of hockey completion from some of our AAU friends in NJ/PA and participated in the 2015 AAU National Hockey Tournament at Niagara University.

Besides the benefit of "full ice" hockey at the mite level, AAU has WAY more to offer other constituencies as well.

Any Clubs interested in hockey, indoor soccer or box lacrosse competition should feel free to contact Bob DeGemmis by phone at (703) 244-1916 or [rlacmetros@gmail.com](mailto:rlacmetros@gmail.com).

## RED LINE ATHLETIC CLUB invites all to Washington, DC!

As a native Connecticut Yankee, Bob DeGemmis never would have foreseen himself calling the Greater Washington, DC area home.

The Red Line Athletic Club Founder and Coach Bob DeGemmis found himself in Washington, DC in the fall of 1999 on the heels of being released by the (now defunct) Asheville Smoke of the UHL by none other than Keith Gretzky. The next step was to find a job and fast, so Bob headed to DC, to catch up with a former teammate from Villanova (former ECAC N/C/S) and Massachusetts native who happened to be working for the Member of Congress representing the Syracuse and Finger Lakes region. Bob soon found himself a low level staff job with a House Member from the Reading-Pottsville-Pottstown area of Pennsylvania.

Come the Summer of 2000, hockey beacons again and DeGemmis was hired at the Marketing and Public Relations Director for the Springfield Junior Blues of the NAHL for the 2000-2001 Season. As a school boy hockey alum from Connecticut, Junior Hockey was not yet a “thing” for Eastern Players and DeGemmis saw many players that went through the system with little to nothing to show.

As a result, Bob came back to DC in the spring of 2001 and re-established himself in government affairs with the Council of Northeast Farmer Cooperatives and American Nursery & Landscape Association, but also began intensive coaching at various levels around the day job. In 2008 during the financial crisis, Bob switched gears toward education and was an instructor for the American Civics Center and worked with visiting students from around the U.S. as well as Eastern Europe and the former Soviet States that came to DC for student trips. Eventually, with this “Official” Washington experience along with work with student-athletes, Bob and a good friend from Minnesota brought a high school girls team for summer DC hockey-education tour!

Today, as founder and operator of the Red Line Athletic Club, DeGemmis hope to bring in more AAU Hockey visitor for game and an educational visit that will be well worth the time! And of course, the Washington Capitals are looking for a deep Cup run in the spring!

If your team or Club is interested in visiting DC for games as well as educational tourism, be sure to contact Bob DeGemmis at: [rlacmetros@gmail.com](mailto:rlacmetros@gmail.com)



## NE Amateur Hockey League Starts "Split Season Full-Ice Mite" Division

The NE Amateur Hockey League (NEAHL) in central New England announced it will start a split season full-ice mite division season beginning December 15, 2015, ending in March, 2016 with a divisional season end tournament. The idea of a split season division was prompted by members of this AAU Hockey license league asking for a competitive, yet fun, organized league for their beginner players ages 5 - 8 years old.



Typically, these teams are made from players just entering the game of ice hockey from learn to skate or "intro" to hockey programs. After a few months of practice and skill development, players want to "play" the actual game like they see on television or watch at the local rinks. This "playing the game" keeps their interest in the sport so that they can "see" what practices lead to. Players see what stick handling, or passing, or shooting the puck drills lead to in an actual game environment.

Members of the league didn't have a place to play these teams in a competitive atmosphere. They usually played in house leagues, if their programs were large enough, or would set scrimmages against other area town programs. The NEAHL saw this lack of a structured league for these teams and started its own. Wes Riley, NEAHL League Administrator, added: "Several of these players will be trying out for travel teams in March without travel team experience. Some may have only played cross-ice and

are of an age where they will have to tryout for Squirt teams. This inexperience, at this next age level, places them at a disadvantage when trying out for teams that have players with full-ice and travel experience."

The NEAHL has several teams entered in this new division for its inaugural year. The members expect to add more - both in January and in seasons to come. "It fills a void in the game at this age level. Players get to play for a 'championship' and see their practice and skill sessions lead to more than just personal achievement" said Riley. "A six or seven year old wants to 'play' the game, be part of it, be part of a team. It's hockey and it's fun!"

For more information about AAU full-ice mites, both full season and/or split season, visit: [NEAHL.org](http://NEAHL.org)



## WSHL SHOWCASE – Is it really Tier II Hockey or not – The Unbiased Truth

Reprinted by permission from: [www.thejuniorhockeynews.com](http://www.thejuniorhockeynews.com)



As many readers know, TJHN has been critical of teams and leagues who make claims as to their level of play. Usually because those claims are completely biased and unsubstantiated.

When the WSHL decided to label itself Tier II, we weren't shy about punching holes in the claim. After all, the players I have seen first hand over the years were not Tier II caliber. The players I saw last summer at another event were not Tier II caliber.

Sometimes, even guys like me who have been around the game a very long time, can form opinions that are not based upon large enough sample viewing sizes. While I wouldn't classify every WSHL team as Tier II caliber, I will say that the players I saw in the past do not represent the quality of the league today.

I went out to the WSHL showcase last week in Las Vegas, with the intention of spending one day watching hockey and one day just gambling and shopping. That all changed when I saw the Oklahoma City Blazers team. I spent all my time at the rink from that point forward.

I went out expecting to see benders. I made the mistake of judging a book by the very small cover I had seen previously.

What I saw was far from a bunch of benders.

The WSHL does have eight or nine legitimate Tier II caliber teams. Yes, you read that right. These eight or nine teams would easily compete in any Canadian Junior A League. There are four of those teams that could contend with Canada's best Junior A teams for a championship.

There are no less than six absolute must see players who should be in the USHL or Major Junior playing in the league. I am saying these players are so unbelievably talented, that they would not be role players in any of those leagues.

There are another forty players that would easily be top line players in any other Tier II league in North America. Another eighty or so that could be every day players in other Tier II leagues, while another 20 or so that would be role players in any other Tier II league.

Does the WSHL have weaker teams? Absolutely. But someone needs to show me a league that doesn't have weaker teams. Do those teams deserve to be called Tier II? No, but I can point out some other Tier II teams in other leagues that don't deserve to be called Tier II either.

The addition of European players has made the difference. These are highly skilled Europeans, and not simply players who couldn't make teams in their home countries. One player is a highly regarded KHL prospect. These additions have helped in recruiting US and Canadian players as well.



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The real question to be asked is, "What are the scouts thinking?"

Well the WSHL answered that question too. The scouts showed up, and no one was leaving to go gamble. I am not talking about the typical bird dogs teams can send either. When you have Head Coaches from NCAA Division One and Division Three schools in the building, something must be happening.



One NCAA Coach said this to me; "I learned a long time ago that you can't just label a player based on the league he plays in. The initials of any league don't mean anything. The only thing that matters to me is can the player compete on my team and continue to develop."

Another said this; "I come here because my competition doesn't. They don't know about the league, or don't respect it. That's fine by me because I have all the access I want, and unlike some leagues, the players here appreciate me being here."

The greatest challenge facing the WSHL is geography. There simply aren't enough NCAA programs within its footprint which translates to limited viewing opportunity for scouts. That could change, as players move on and prove themselves scouts will likely add more time and money to their budget to get out to watch.

The event itself was very well organized. Games ran on time. Scheduling was done in a way that featured equally matched teams playing each other. Lots of overtime, and shootouts proved those points.

The scouting materials prepared by the league were ready and waiting at check in. No question about any player was left unanswered. Scouts were encouraged to get right into the thick of things and talk to players right away unlike at some other events where scouts are asked to not talk to players.

The six hours I spent in planes was a bit of a pain, but the event was worth the time and expense attending.

So, some of you are now asking yourselves what the WSHL has paid me to write this? Nothing. They have paid me nothing, and there is no deal in place for them to pay me in the future. I spent my own money going out there, and my own time writing this review.

Like any other league TJHN won't be bought when it comes to being accurate. If you have an issue, we will report it. But for today, the WSHL has earned and deserves to be recognized for what it has accomplished through hard choices and hard work. I for one will not miss next year's event.

Joseph Kolodziej – Publisher

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## Western States Shootout Showcase

On Saturday, December 19th the Western States Hockey League concluded its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Western States Shootout showcase tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada.

All 29 Tier II clubs from across the left half of the country competed in four regular season games each in front of scouts from over 77 different institutions. In addition for the Tier III teams from the Western Prospects League were also in attendance.

Arguably the greatest attribute at the Shootout was the opportunity it provided players to move onto the next level. The scouts mentioned earlier spanned NCAA (Division I, II, & III) and ACHA (Division I, II) schools from around the nation, but the most beneficial piece to the players was the College Seminar at Fellini's Restaurant. There hundreds of players had the opportunity to hear from **Frank Serratore** (Air Force Academy NCAA D-I), **Bill Moore** (St. Mary's University NCAA D-III), and **Mark Ostapina** (Milwaukee School of Engineering NCAA D-III) about the importance of higher education, and how hockey can be the tool to get them there.

The Shootout as a whole was a wonderful event hosted by the Stratosphere Hotel & Casino along with the Las Vegas Ice Center and the Sobe Ice Arena that provided 66 games of premium, well-balanced hockey.

One of the staples of the showcase is the parity of the scheduling. The WSHL waited until roughly two weeks prior to the tournament to release the schedule in order to see how teams would matchup against one another; the result was phenomenal hockey.

Out of all the teams playing, only the Arizona Hawks, El Paso Rhinos, Ogden Mustangs, and Ontario Avalanche went 4-0 in the tournament. Let's breakdown how each team fared in their weeklong stay in Sin City (see below).

As the New Year approaches the teams are currently enjoying the holiday season away from the rink, however on January 2, the WSHL All-Star Game will be held in Oklahoma City. The game is hosted by the Oklahoma City Blazers and will compete against 23 of the top players throughout the WSHL. The All-Star roster is as follows:

Goalies		Team		Forwards		Team	
<a href="#">Linus Rytter</a>		Valencia Flyers		Linus Dahlberg		Springfield Express	
<a href="#">Austin Piquette</a>		Colorado Eagles		<a href="#">Riley Roberts</a>		Colorado Eagles	
Noah Parker		Missoula Maulers		Heath Lantz		Cheyenne Stampede	
Defense		Team		Damon Hanson		Missoula Maulers	
<a href="#">Daniel Nordlander</a>		Dallas Snipers		<a href="#">Macky Power</a>		Idaho Jr. Steelheads	
<a href="#">Zach Balodis</a>		Wichita Jr. Thunder		<a href="#">Joel Lehtonen</a>		Vancouver Rangers	
<a href="#">Charlie Granath</a>		Salt Lake City Moose		<a href="#">Jakob Kranabetter</a>		Valencia Flyers	
<a href="#">Reed Scahill</a>		Colorado Eagles		<a href="#">Tomas Urbanec</a>		Long Beach Bombers	
<a href="#">Dmitri Jones</a>		Idaho Jr. Steelheads		<a href="#">Dominick Syneek</a>		Phoenix Knights	
<a href="#">Niklas Giers</a>		Valencia Flyers		Jacob Haynes		Fresno Monsters	
<a href="#">Brian MacDonald</a>		Arizona Hawks		<a href="#">Vincent Dekumbis</a>		Las Vegas Storm	
<a href="#">Nick Short</a>		Long Beach Bombers		<a href="#">Donovan Shambeau</a>		Ontario Avalanche	
Team Staff							
Bruce Miller		Coach		Steve Haddon		Coach	
Josh Berge		Coach		Bob Armando		General Manager	
				Ron White		League Commissioner	



The WSHL will begin the second half of the season on January 7, marching it's way to playoffs which begin on March 10 and ending with the WSHL League Championship on April 13.

Given the competitive nature of the league, although several teams stand out as possible favorites to take the league title, given the results of the showcase, any one of the top 16 teams has a viable chance to wear the crown.

## Showcase Results by Team:

### Arizona Hawks (4-0)

The Hawks were a team in need of some wins during the showcase, and they certainly rose to the occasion. One of just four teams that went 4-0, Arizona was able to jump out of the last spot in the Western Division.

**Final Results:** Butte (1-0 W in OT), Colorado Evolution (4-2 W), Tahoe (4-1 W), Casper T3 (3-1 W).

### Butte Cobras (1-2-1)

It was tough sledding for the boys from Butte as they could only scrape out one victory in Las Vegas; of their three losses one was a shutout in overtime to Arizona, and the other was at the hands of Ogden T3. The bright side is that the Cobras are still just six points out of a playoff spot in the Northwest Division.

**Final Results:** Arizona (1-0 L in OT), San Diego (4-3 W in OT), Ogden T3 (5-2 L), Colorado Evolution (6-1 L).

### Casper Coyotes (3-0-1)

Casper came to play this year going 3-1 against some very stiff competition, and their lone loss was in overtime so even then they scraped out a point. They owned the only blowout victories that occurred all week long, and even handed the reigning Thorne Cup champs a loss as well. Goaltending was critical to their success and both **Gabe Heifort** and **Rikard Landfeldt** played spectacularly.

**Final Results:** Long Beach (2-1 L in OT), Vancouver (10-1 W), Wichita (7-0 W), Idaho (2-1 W)

### Cheyenne Stampede (2-1-1)

Despite the 50% win percentage, it was a nice showing from the Stamps in the Shootout. Their two losses were both with one-goal margins, and one of them came in the extra period. In fact they seemed to enjoy playing in the tight games as their first win was also just a one-goal difference over the Las Vegas Storm. They also saw a brand new netminder, **Cameron Madrid** stop 21 of 22 shots in his debut.

**Final Results:** El Paso (5-4 L), Las Vegas (5-4 W), Seattle (5-1 W), Whitefish (3-2 L in OT)

### Colorado Evolution (3-1)

The Evolution found themselves in a little bit of an awkward spot at the showcase when flight delays due to inclement weather forced their first matchup to be rescheduled. Add up the long overnight stay at the Denver airport, the actual plane flight to Las Vegas, and the double-header to make-up for the missed game and there could've been every excuse in the book for Colorado to fail. However, after losing the first game they played, the Evolution recovered nicely to end with three straight victories before heading home.

**Final Results:** Arizona (4-2 L), Tahoe (5-3 W), San Diego (5-3 W), Butte (6-1 W)

## Colorado Eagles (2-2)

Colorado was a little bit of a mixed bag at this showcase. They had the tough task of taking on a fellow division leader in Oklahoma City for game one, and it just wasn't the start they were looking for. However, not only did they take on the Northwest and the Western division front-runners as well, but they beat both of them.

**Final Results:** Oklahoma City (5-1 L), Idaho (2-1 W), Valencia (6-2 W), Fresno (3-1 L)

## Dallas Snipers (2-1-1)

It was a rubber band effort for the Dallas Snipers on their way towards a 2-1-1 showing. They experienced a narrow win in overtime, a big win, a big loss, and a narrow loss in overtime. After their odd tournament, Dallas is still stuck in a three-way tie for last place in the Mid-Western Division.

**Final Results:** Las Vegas (3-2 W in OT), Whitefish (9-2 W), Superior (5-1 L), Ontario (3-2 L in OT)

## El Paso Rhinos (4-0)

After a very slow start to the season that saw the El Paso Rhinos come into the Shootout in last place in the Mid-Western Division, they caught a little bit of resurgence fever and came away with eight much-needed points. The first couple of wins weren't pretty (one coming in overtime), but two points are two points. El Paso is still sitting in the bottom of the division, but at least they have some company now with two other teams tied there with them.

**Final Results:** Cheyenne (5-4 W), Seattle (5-4 W in OT), Las Vegas (8-3 W), Phoenix (4-2 W).

## Fresno Monsters (2-1-1)

Fresno was arguably the most impressive two-win teams at the showcase. They played top opponents and either won by a multi-goal margin or lost by one. **Nathan Churchill** was a standout in net and veteran **Mike Nolan** impressed one last time at his final Western States Shootout. The Monsters were also able to take advantage of a rough showing by Valencia to take the top spot in the Western Division.

**Final Results:** Missoula (3-2 Loss in Shoot-Out), Springfield (6-2 W), Idaho (1-0 L), Colorado Eagles (3-1 W)

## Idaho Jr Steelheads (1-3)

Not quite the outing the Steelheads were hoping for this year in the desert. Started off with a tough luck loss to the Eagles, came back with a tight victory over Fresno, and after that it just seemed like Idaho couldn't catch any breaks. Every game they played in was decided by just one goal, and they were on the smaller side of the scoresheet for three of them. In the process, they've also allowed Missoula to close within one point of the top spot in the standings, and Idaho doesn't hold the tie-breaker. Should make for a very intriguing 2016.

**Final Results:** Colorado Eagles (2-1 L), Fresno (1-0 W), Valencia (3-2 L), Casper (2-1 L)

## Las Vegas Storm (1-2-1)

Despite the record, the Storm actually had a pretty decent turnout at the showcase their barn hosted. Of their three losses, only one of them was by a wide margin and they grabbed a point in another. Their win against Seattle was just the start they were looking for, but ultimately would be the only one they'd get.

**Final Results:** Seattle (3-2 W), Dallas (3-2 L in OT), Cheyenne (5-4 L), El Paso (8-3 L)

## **Long Beach Bombers (3-1)**

The Bombers had a good showcase that's allowed them to enter back into the picture of possible division winners. Starting off with an impressive win against Casper in overtime, Long Beach struggled against Wichita before cruising to a couple more wins. After taking six points in Las Vegas, the Bombers are now just 11 points behind the division-leading Monsters.

**Final Results:** Casper (2-1 W in OT), Wichita (7-3 L), Tulsa (6-3 W), Southern Oregon (4-1 W)

## **Missoula Maulers (1-1-2)**

With their sights set on catching Idaho in the standings over the showcase, Missoula fell just a bit short, but still played one heck of a week of hockey. The Maulers kicked off this year's tournament in nail-biting fashion by finishing off Fresno in a shootout. Despite good efforts throughout their time in Vegas, it would be the only win they'd leave with and still find themselves just one point shy of the Steelheads.

**Final Results:** Fresno (3-2 Win Shoot-Out), Ogden (2-1 L in OT), Oklahoma City (5-0 L), Springfield (4-3 Loss in Shoot-Out)

## **Ogden Mustangs (4-0)**

If the showcase proved anything it was this: do NOT sleep on the Ogden Mustangs. They had possibly, if not probably the best week in southern Nevada facing two division leaders along with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams, and beating all four of them. **Andreas Pettersson** was a phenom in net, and only allowed five goals in the three games he played in. The Mustangs are now just four points behind Colorado in the standings.

**Final Results:** Valencia (3-2 W), Missoula (2-1 W in OT), Springfield (3-2 W), Oklahoma City (3-2 W)

## **Oklahoma City Blazers (3-1)**

OKC came so close to getting that perfect record at the Western States Shootout, but ultimately the team just above got that last victory. Regardless of a one goal loss to Ogden, the Blazers played exciting hockey in their time beating two division leaders and blanking Missoula. In fact, that loss was the only game they didn't score five goals in. Oklahoma City still leads the Mid-Western Division, but will now go home and have an abbreviated rest as they prepare to host the All Star game on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Final Results:** Colorado Eagles (5-1 W), Valencia (5-2 W), Missoula (5-0 W), Ogden (3-2 L)

## **Ontario Avalanche (4-0)**

Well it took an extra period of play two times, but the Ontario Avalanche got the 4-0 they were looking for. With this being the unofficial mid-point of the season, it's usually a good time to take inventory and see where teams fit in the big picture of the league. The Avalanche proved they can win in gritty fashion during the tough games, and are sitting in a good position for playoffs assuming their ship stays the course.

**Final Results:** Seattle (3-2 W in OT), Superior (2-0 W), Whitefish (4-2 W), Dallas (3-2 W in OT)

## **Phoenix Knights (0-4)**

Only two teams left Las Vegas without a win, and unfortunately for Phoenix they were one of them. The Knights are still running in the middle of the pack in the Western Division, but just couldn't seem to find a way to scratch any points in the showcase.

**Final Results:** Salt Lake City (3-1 L), Tulsa (5-2 L), Southern Oregon (4-3 L), El Paso (4-2 L)

## **Salt Lake City Moose (2-2)**

After a little bit of a rough start to the week with a loss to Tulsa, the Moose rebounded nicely with two wins on Wednesday and Thursday, however Friday would bring a tough pill to swallow. Going up 2-0 early on against Vancouver, Salt Lake City allowed the Rangers to come from behind and ultimately take it 4-3. The Moose still have plenty of distance between them and the last place Evolution which sets them up nicely on course for the postseason.

**Final Results:** Tulsa (4-2 L), Phoenix (3-1 W), Southern Oregon (4-2 W), Vancouver (4-3 L)

## **San Diego Sabers (2-1-1)**

The southernmost California team had quite the showcase this season. After starting off with a 7-0 win against Ogden's Tier III squad, the Sabers suffered two losses in a row (one in a shootout) before finishing off the Tahoe Icemen in their finale. If it weren't for Arizona's four-win week, San Diego would've had a chance to catch them in the standings, but as it sits they're still four points back, and six out of a playoff position.

**Final Results:** Ogden T3 (7-0 W), Butte (4-3 L in SO), Colorado Evolution (5-3 L), Tahoe (4-1 W)

## **Seattle Totems (0-2-2)**

Although not winning any games at the showcase is never fun, the Totems fought hard in defeat with three of their losses having just a one point margin; one of the losses was even in overtime against the Thorne Cup runner-ups. Seattle is still holding on tightly to that last playoff seed in the Northwest, but Butte seems to be turning the corner and could be a factor late in the hunt.

**Final Results:** Las Vegas (3-2 L), Ontario (3-2 L in OT), El Paso (5-4 L in OT), Cheyenne (5-1 L)

## **Southern Oregon Spartans (2-2)**

The Spartans were hot and cold in the desert going 2-2 to help keep them in the same place they started going into the Shootout. Their week was bookended with a big win against Tulsa and big loss to Long Beach, the former game starting off with a lead that dissolved somewhat quickly. Southern Oregon is in the middle of a feast or famine Northwest Division and should be in a good spot come the 2016 portion of the season.

**Final Results:** Tulsa (5-2 W), Salt Lake City (4-2 L), Phoenix (4-3 W), Long Beach (4-1 L)

## **Springfield Express (1-3)**

It was not an easy trip westward for Springfield this season as they dropped three of four and almost lost the last one too if not for **Linus Dahlberg**; he scored twice to send his team to overtime and ultimately a shootout win. The Express struggled to keep pucks away from the net, and in one loss, **Nick Bretzger** made 43 saves (13 more than winning goalie **Ryan Gasparovic**). While there's no worry of losing out on playoffs (all teams in the Mid-Western Division advance), seeding is still incredibly tight. Just three points separate the bottom four teams, Springfield leading them.

**Final Results:** Vancouver (5-3 L), Fresno (6-2 L), Ogden (3-2 L), Missoula (4-3 Win Shoot-Out)

## **Superior RoughRiders (3-1)**

The RoughRiders impressed in Las Vegas as they not only won, but won in fine fashion; their only blemish was a 2-0 loss to Ontario. Putting up five goals against both Whitefish and Dallas, Superior had a bit of a tighter contest in their finale, against a very tough Wichita team, that originally saw them down 2-0 before

winning in OT.

**Final Results:** Whitefish (5-0 W), Ontario (2-0 L), Dallas (5-1 W), Wichita (3-2 W in OT)

### **Tahoe Icemen (1-3)**

After coming into the showcase sporting a 1-22 record, the Icemen were in desperate need of some wins. Unfortunately for them they would only get one, and that was against Casper's Tier III team. It just doesn't seem to be the year of the Icemen, but they still have time to jump back in playoff contention; after all, Seattle is only nine points up.

**Final Results:** Casper T3 (5-4 W), Colorado Evolution (5-3 L), Arizona (4-1 L), San Diego (4-1 L)

### **Tulsa Jr Oilers (2-2)**

The Oilers are one of those teams in the Mid-Western fight for better playoff positioning, currently in a three-way tie for last place, and not holding any tie-breakers. The showcase saw highs (big win over the Knights) and lows (tough loss to the Bombers) for Tulsa, but in the end kept them in the same spot they were in before the trip to Las Vegas: in the fight.

**Final Results:** Salt Lake City (4-2 W), Southern Oregon (5-2 L), Phoenix (5-2 W), Long Beach (6-3 L)

### **Valencia Flyers (1-3)**

Holders of probably the toughest schedule of the Shootout, the Flyers fought hard in their four games, but could only come away with two points in the end. The one big highlight for Valencia though was beating the defending Thorne Cup champs in the final game of their showcase on Friday evening. The Flyers now sit in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a few games in hand on Fresno.

**Final Results:** Ogden (3-2 L), Oklahoma City (5-2 L), Colorado Eagles (6-2 L), Idaho (3-2 W)

### **Vancouver Rangers (2-1-1)**

The Rangers had a decent showing in their first trip to the Western States Shootout. The expansion franchise started off with a win before dropping their next two (one in a shootout) and then bouncing back with a come-from-behind victory against a tough Salt Lake City Moose squad. Despite a tough schedule, Vancouver skated off with five important points

**Final Results:** Springfield (5-3 W), Wichita (6-5 L in SO), Casper (10-1 L), Salt Lake City (4-3 W)

### **Whitefish Wolverines (1-3)**

It was not an easy showcase for Whitefish this year as they struggled a tad in Las Vegas. Allowing 18 goals in their three losses, the biggest problem was just trying to keep the puck out of the net, and when they were able to do so against Cheyenne it got them their lone win. They're in the race for playoff positioning so a hot start to the new year will be critical.

**Final Results:** Superior (5-0 L), Dallas (9-2 L), Ontario (4-2 L), Cheyenne (3-2 W in OT)

### **Wichita Jr Thunder (2-1-1)**

Despite losing to Casper 7-0, the Jr Thunder played a solid Shootout this year with some big time wins against difficult opponents, most notably the Long Beach Bombers. Their five-point performance has them remaining in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Mid-Western Division with a nine-point lead over Springfield.

**Final Results:** Vancouver (6-5 W in SO), Long Beach (7-3 W), Casper (7-0 L), Superior (3-2 L in OT)

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For the latest article by Joseph Kolodziej - publisher of the Junior Hockey News regarding the WSHL, please go to: <http://thejuniorhockeynews.com/?p=52525>

## AAU Tournaments

<b>Summer Showdown</b> 6U, 7U & 8U (2008, 2007 & 2006)	<b>July 3-5, 2015</b> \$1500 (4-game min)	<b>Carlsbad, California</b> <a href="mailto:mdunaev@icetown.com">mdunaev@icetown.com</a>
<b>N. American Tier 1 Showcase - Chicago</b> 7U, 8U & 9U (2008, 2007 & 2006)	<b>Sept 11-13, 2015</b> \$1000 (4-game min)	<b>Chicago, Illinois</b> <a href="mailto:director@aaucanamaaa.com">director@aaucanamaaa.com</a>
<b>Cobra EarlyBird Classic</b> 7U (2008) & 8U (2007)	<b>Sept 18-20, 2015</b> \$900 (4-game min)	<b>Brownstown, Michigan</b> <a href="mailto:worz71@yahoo.com">worz71@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Glacier Pointe - Halloween Classic</b> 7U (2008), 8U (2007) & Mite House	<b>Oct 9-11, 2015</b> \$500 (4-game min)	<b>Port Huron, Michigan</b> <a href="mailto:glacierpointe@iwarp.net">glacierpointe@iwarp.net</a>
<b>N. American Tier 1 Showcase - Toronto</b> 7U, 8U & 9U (2008, 2007 & 2006)	<b>Oct 9-11, 2015</b> \$1000 (4-game min)	<b>Burlington, Ontario</b> <a href="mailto:director@aaucanamaaa.com">director@aaucanamaaa.com</a>
<b>Blue Collar - Aurora Borealis</b> 7U (2008), 8U (2007) & Mite House	<b>Oct 16-18, 2015</b> \$865 (4-game min)	<b>Detroit, Michigan</b> <a href="mailto:info@mybbt.biz">info@mybbt.biz</a>
<b>Blue Collar - Gale Force 5</b> 7U (2008), 8U (2007) & Mite House	<b>Oct 16-18, 2015</b> \$865 (4-game min)	<b>Chicago, Illinois</b> <a href="mailto:info@mybbt.biz">info@mybbt.biz</a>
<b>Pekin Flyers Invitational</b> 7U (2008) & 8U (2007)	<b>Oct 23-25, 2015</b> \$1350 (6-game min)	<b>Pekin, Illinois</b> <a href="http://www.nextgen-hockey.org">www.nextgen-hockey.org</a>
<b>Blue Collar - Little Dog</b> 7U (2008), 8U (2007) & Mite House	<b>Nov 6-8, 2015</b> \$865 (4-game min)	<b>Grand Rapids, Michigan</b> <a href="mailto:info@mybbt.biz">info@mybbt.biz</a>
<b>Dells Water Park Classic</b> 8U (2007) & Mite House	<b>Nov 6-8, 2015</b> \$945 (4-game min)	<b>Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin</b> <a href="mailto:john@ultimatetournaments.net">john@ultimatetournaments.net</a>
<b>St. Louis Blast</b> 8U (2007) & Mite House	<b>Nov 6-8, 2015</b> \$945 (4-game min)	<b>St. Louis, Missouri</b> <a href="mailto:john@ultimatetournaments.net">john@ultimatetournaments.net</a>
<b>Rochester Invitational</b> 7U (2008) & 8U (2007)	<b>Nov 13-15, 2015</b> \$1350 (4-game min)	<b>Rochester, New York</b> <a href="mailto:patti@invitationaltournaments.com">patti@invitationaltournaments.com</a>
<b>Thanksgiving Shootout</b> 8U (2008-2007 mixed CUHL D3 and lower)	<b>Nov 24-29, 2015</b> \$1095 (4-game min)	<b>Vernon Hills, Illinois</b> <a href="mailto:kjohnson@glacierskate.com">kjohnson@glacierskate.com</a>
<b>Northbrook-Winfield Wishbone</b> 8U (2008-2007)	<b>Nov 25-29, 2015</b> \$825 (4-game min)	<b>Northbrook &amp; Winnetka, Illinois</b> <a href="mailto:tom@winnetkahockey.com">tom@winnetkahockey.com</a>
<b>2nd Annual Thanksgiving Classic</b> 7U (2008) & 8U (2007)	<b>Nov 27-29, 2015</b> \$895 (4-game min)	<b>Oak Park &amp; Berkley, Michigan</b> <a href="mailto:ziskie05@sbcglobal.net">ziskie05@sbcglobal.net</a>

## AAU Tournaments (continued)

<b>Snowball Showdown</b> Mite Travel (8U)	<b>Dec 4-6, 2015</b> \$825 (4-game min)	<b>Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan</b> <a href="mailto:genep@leitzsportscenter.com">genep@leitzsportscenter.com</a>
<b>OneHockey - Rochester Red Lamp</b> 8U, 10U & 12U House-Select & Travel	<b>Dec 4-6, 2015</b> \$1495 (4-game min)	<b>Rochester, New York</b> <a href="mailto:sebastienf@onehockey.com">sebastienf@onehockey.com</a>
<b>London Selects Tournament</b> Select & Mixed (8U, 10U, 12U, 14U & 16U)	<b>Dec 11-13, 2015</b> \$1000 CAN (4-game min)	<b>London, Ontario</b> <a href="mailto:iclancy@homemail.com">iclancy@homemail.com</a>
<b>OneHockey - London Light the Lamp</b> 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U & 16U House & Travel	<b>Dec 11-13, 2015</b> \$1495 CAN\$ (4-game min)	<b>London, Ontario</b> <a href="mailto:sebastienf@onehockey.com">sebastienf@onehockey.com</a>
<b>Glacier Pointe - Christmas</b> 7U (2008), 8U (2007) & Mite House	<b>Dec 18-20, 2015</b> \$400 (4-game min)	<b>Port Huron, Michigan</b> <a href="mailto:glacierpointe@iwarp.net">glacierpointe@iwarp.net</a>
<b>Chicago Holiday Classic</b> 8U (2007) & Mite House	<b>Dec 26-29, 2015</b> \$945 (4-game min)	<b>Chicago, Illinois</b> <a href="mailto:john@ultimatetournaments.net">john@ultimatetournaments.net</a>
<b>Blue Collar - Urban Legends</b> 7U (2008), 8U (2007) & Mite House	<b>Jan 15-18, 2016</b> \$865 (4-game min)	<b>Detroit, Michigan</b> <a href="mailto:info@mybbt.biz">info@mybbt.biz</a>
<b>Dells Water Park Classic</b> 8U (2007) & Mite House	<b>Jan 16-18, 2016</b> \$945 (4-game min)	<b>Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin</b> <a href="mailto:john@ultimatetournaments.net">john@ultimatetournaments.net</a>
<b>St. Louis Blast</b> 8U (2007) & Mite House	<b>Jan 16-18, 2016</b> \$945 (4-game min)	<b>St. Louis, Missouri</b> <a href="mailto:john@ultimatetournaments.net">john@ultimatetournaments.net</a>
<b>Grizzly Growl</b> 8U (2007) & Mite House	<b>Jan 23-25, 2016</b> \$850 (4-game min)	<b>Rochester, New York</b> <a href="mailto:collins23k@gmail.com">collins23k@gmail.com</a>
<b>OneHockey - Flint Forecheck - NEW !</b> 8U 10U, & 12U Travel (10-10-15 periods)	<b>Jan 22-24, 2016</b> \$1295 (4-game min)	<b>Flint, Michigan</b> <a href="mailto:sebastienf@onehockey.com">sebastienf@onehockey.com</a>
<b>OneHockey - Flint Forecheck - NEW !</b> 14U, 16U & 18U Travel (10-15-15 periods)	<b>Jan 22-24, 2016</b> \$1295 (4-game min)	<b>Flint, Michigan</b> <a href="mailto:sebastienf@onehockey.com">sebastienf@onehockey.com</a>
<b>OneHockey - Flint Forecheck - NEW !</b> High School JV (10-15-15 periods)	<b>Jan 22-24, 2016</b> \$1295 (4-game min)	<b>Flint, Michigan</b> <a href="mailto:sebastienf@onehockey.com">sebastienf@onehockey.com</a>
<b>N. American Tier 1 Showcase - Detroit</b> 7U (2008) & 8U (2007)	<b>Feb 12-14, 2016</b> \$1000 (4-game min)	<b>Hazel Park, Michigan</b> <a href="mailto:director@aaucanamaaa.com">director@aaucanamaaa.com</a>
<b>Top Tier - Cleveland Shootout</b> 7U & 8 U (2008 & 2007)	<b>Feb 13-15, 2016</b> \$995 (4-game min)	<b>North Olmstead, OH</b> <a href="mailto:TopTierHockey@gmail.com">TopTierHockey@gmail.com</a>



## AAU Tournaments (continued)

<b>Dells Water Park Classic</b> 8U (2007) & Mite House	<b>Feb 13-15, 2016</b> \$945 (4-game min)	<b>Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin</b> <a href="mailto:john@ultimatetournaments.net">john@ultimatetournaments.net</a>
<b>Pekin Flyers Invitational</b> 7U (2008) & 8U (2007)	<b>Feb 13-15, 2016</b> \$1350 (6-game min)	<b>Pekin, Illinois</b> <a href="http://www.nextgen-hockey.org">www.nextgen-hockey.org</a>
<b>Western NY Invitational - Holiday Twin</b> 8U (2007) & 10U (2005)	<b>Mar 4-6, 2016</b> \$895 (4-game min)	<b>Buffalo, New York</b> <a href="mailto:markg@holidayrinks.com">markg@holidayrinks.com</a>
<b>Western NY Invitational - Holiday Twin</b> 12U (2003) & 14U (2001)	<b>Mar 4-6, 2016</b> \$1025 (4-game min)	<b>Buffalo, New York</b> <a href="mailto:markg@holidayrinks.com">markg@holidayrinks.com</a>
<b>AAU North American Championships</b> 7U (2008), 8U (2007) & 7-8U Mixed	<b>Mar 3-6, 2016</b> \$1250 (5-game min)	<b>Edina, Minnesota</b> <a href="mailto:stevem@mnmadehockey.com">stevem@mnmadehockey.com</a>
<b>AAU North American Championships</b> 9U (2006), 10U (2005) & 9-10U Mixed	<b>Mar 4-6, 2016</b> \$1250 (4-game min)	<b>Niagara Falls, New York</b> TBD
<b>AAU North American Championships</b> 11U (2004), 12U (2003) & 11-12U Mixed	<b>Mar 4-6, 2016</b> \$1250 (4-game min)	<b>Niagara Falls, New York</b> TBD
<b>AAU North American Championships</b> 13U (2002), 14U (2001) & 13-14U Mixed w/Checking	<b>Mar 11-13, 2016</b> \$1250 (4-game min)	<b>Niagara Falls, New York</b> TBD
<b>AAU North American Championships</b> 15U (2000), 16U (1999) & 15-16U Mixed w/Checking	<b>Mar 11-13, 2016</b> \$1250 (4-game min)	<b>Niagara Falls, New York</b> TBD
<b>AAU North American Championships</b> 18U (1997) & 17-18U Mixed with Checking	<b>Mar 11-13, 2016</b> \$1250 (4-game min)	<b>Niagara Falls, New York</b> TBD
<b>PLC No-Check World Championships</b> Select-Mixed (8U, 10U and 12U)	<b>Apr 8-11, 2016</b> \$1250 (4-game min)	<b>Barrie, Ontario</b> <a href="mailto:info@plcsports.com">info@plcsports.com</a>
<b>AAU North American No-Check Championships</b> 14U Mixed (2001-02)	<b>Apr 8-11, 2016</b> \$1250 (4-game min)	<b>Barrie, Ontario</b> <a href="mailto:info@plcsports.com">info@plcsports.com</a>
<b>AAU North American No-Check Championships</b> 16U Mixed (2000-99) & 17U (1998)	<b>Apr 8-11, 2016</b> \$1250 (4-game min)	<b>Barrie, Ontario</b> <a href="mailto:info@plcsports.com">info@plcsports.com</a>
<b>Blue Collar - Silver Skates</b> 7U (2008), 8U (2007) & Mite House	<b>Apr 22-24, 2016</b> \$865 (4-game min)	<b>Detroit, Michigan</b> <a href="mailto:info@mybbt.biz">info@mybbt.biz</a>
<b>Blue Collar - Spring Peepers</b> 7U (2008), 8U (2007) & Mite House	<b>Apr 22-24, 2016</b> \$865 (4-game min)	<b>Chicago, Illinois</b> <a href="mailto:info@mybbt.biz">info@mybbt.biz</a>

## AAU Tournaments (continued)

**AAU Youth Grinder - NEW !**

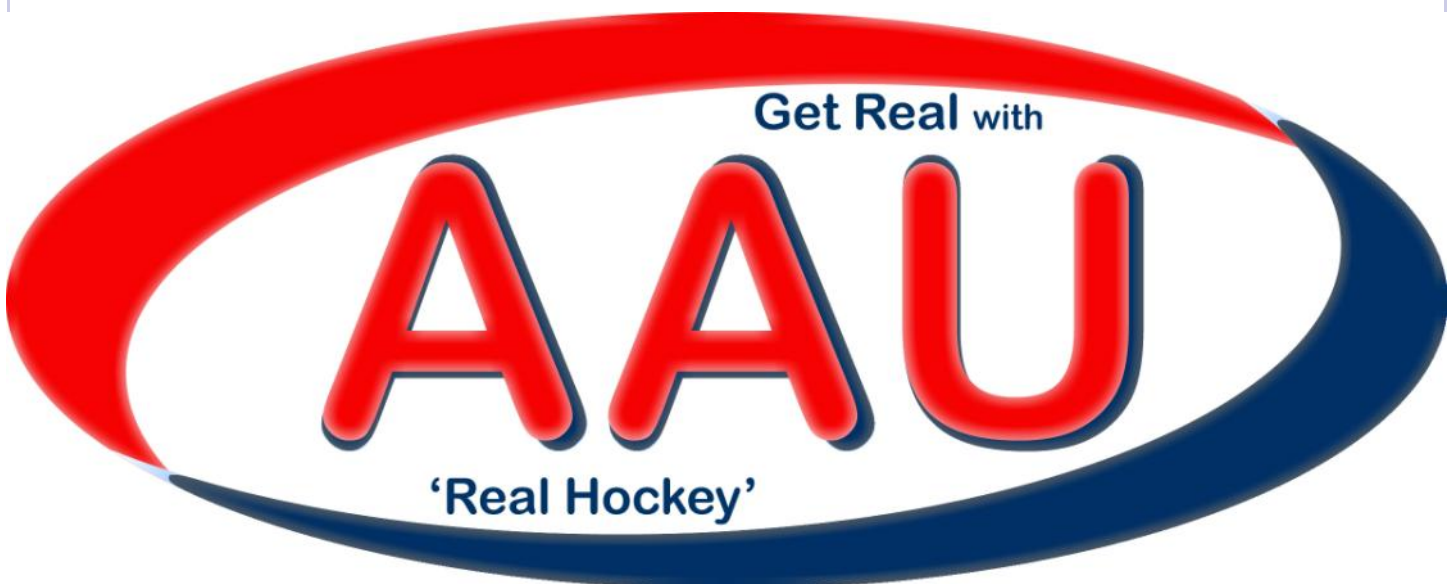
2009 & 2008 age divisions

**Apr 29 - May 1, 2016**

\$945 (4-game min)

**Hazel Park, Michigan**

[ziskie05@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ziskie05@sbcglobal.net)



## AAU Ice Hockey - Youth Leagues

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

<b>8U Prep League</b> 8U	<b>MA</b> <a href="http://www.nsyf.org">www.nsyf.org</a>
<b>Chicago United Hockey League (CUHL)</b> 8U	<b>Northern Illinois</b> <a href="http://chicagounitedhockey.com">chicagounitedhockey.com</a>
<b>Canadian Independent (CIHF)</b> 6U - 16U	<b>Ontario</b> <a href="http://www.cihfhockey.com">www.cihfhockey.com</a>
<b>North American (Tier 1 AAA) Showcase League</b> 6U - 16U	<b>Illinois, Michigan, Ontario &amp; New York</b> <a href="http://www.aaucanamaaa.com">www.aaucanamaaa.com</a>
<b>Empire Hockey League</b> 8U	<b>California</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/empirehockeyleague">www.facebook.com/empirehockeyleague</a>
<b>Greater Niagara Amateur (GNAHL)</b> 6U - 18U	<b>Western NY</b> <a href="http://www.gnahl.com/">www.gnahl.com/</a>
<b>Hockey Colorado</b> 6U - 12U	<b>CO &amp; WY</b> <a href="http://www.hockeycolorado.org">www.hockeycolorado.org</a>
<b>Hockey Illinois</b> 6U - 8U	<b>IL &amp; WI</b> <a href="http://www.aauhockeyillinois.org">www.aauhockeyillinois.org</a>
<b>Michigan Amateur Youth Hockey League</b> 6U - 18U	<b>MI &amp; OH</b> <a href="http://www.mayhl.com">www.mayhl.com</a>
<b>Mid-Atlantic Hockey League</b> 6U - 18U	<b>CT, MD, NJ &amp; PA</b> <a href="mailto:midatlantichockey@gmail.com">midatlantichockey@gmail.com</a>



## AAU Ice Hockey - Youth Leagues (continued)

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

<b>Minnesota Made - Choice Hockey League</b> 6U - 12U	<b>Minnesota</b> <a href="http://www.minnesotamadehockey.com">www.minnesotamadehockey.com</a>
<b>Mite Independent Hockey League (MIHL)</b> 8U	<b>Illinois</b> <a href="mailto:nmeo15@gmail.com">nmeo15@gmail.com</a>
<b>North American Select Hockey League</b> 6U - 18U	<b>Ontario</b> <a href="http://www.nashl.ca">www.nashl.ca</a>
<b>New England (NEAHL)</b> 6U - 18U	<b>MA, ME &amp; NH</b> <a href="http://www.neahl.org">www.neahl.org</a>
<b>Rapid Fire Hockey League</b> 6U - 14U	<b>WI &amp; MN</b> <a href="http://rapidfirehockey.com">rapidfirehockey.com</a>
<b>Redline Metros (RLAC)</b> 6U - 18U	<b>MD, VA &amp; greater Washington DC</b> <a href="http://www.rlacmetros.com">www.rlacmetros.com</a>



## AAU Ice Hockey - Scholastic Leagues

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

<b>Great Lakes Prep/JV Hockey League (GLPHL)</b>	<b>Michigan</b> <a href="http://www.glphl.com">www.glphl.com</a>
<b>I-69 Hockey League</b>	<b>Michigan</b> <a href="http://www.hometeamsonline.com/teams/?u=I-69HOCKEYLEAGUE&amp;s=hockey&amp;t=c">www.hometeamsonline.com/teams/?u=I-69HOCKEYLEAGUE&amp;s=hockey&amp;t=c</a>
<b>Long Island, NY</b>	<b>Metropolitan NY</b> <a href="http://www.longislandhshockey.net">www.longislandhshockey.net</a>
<b>San Diego District (SDDHL)</b>	<b>San Diego, California</b> <a href="http://districthockey.com/">http://districthockey.com/</a>
<b>Western New York High School Club Hockey League (WNYHSCHL)</b>	<b>Western NY</b> <a href="http://www.eteamz.com/wnyhschl">www.eteamz.com/wnyhschl</a>

## AAU Ice Hockey - UHU (Junior & College) Leagues

Ron White, UHU (Juniors) Director - (714) 231-2531

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

<b>National Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA)</b>	<b>CA, OH, NY, PA &amp; WA</b> <a href="http://ncha.us/">ncha.us/</a>
<b>Western States Hockey League (WSHL)</b>	<b>AZ, CA, CO, ID, KS, MO, MT, NM, NV, OK, OR, TX, UT, WA &amp; WY</b> <a href="http://www.wshl.org">www.wshl.org</a>
<b>World United Hockey League (WUHL)</b>	<b>Ontario</b> <a href="http://www.wuhl.net">www.wuhl.net</a>



# AAU Ice Hockey

Jan 1, 2016

Volume 3, Issue 3

## AAU Ice Hockey - National Committee

### National Support Staff

<p><i>AAU National Hockey Chairperson</i> <b>Keith Noll</b> 2409 Stout Rd., Suite #1 Menomonie, WI 54751 (715) 231-4000 <a href="mailto:slapshot@wwt.net">slapshot@wwt.net</a></p>	<p><i>AAU-UHU National Junior Hockey Director</i> <b>Ron White</b>  (714) 231-2531 <a href="mailto:RRWGlacial@aol.com">RRWGlacial@aol.com</a> <a href="http://www.wshl.com">www.wshl.com</a></p>
<p><i>Committee Vice-Chair</i> <b>Keith Kloock</b> 21220 Wellington St. Woodhaven, MI 48183 (734) 692-5158 <a href="mailto:keith@hockey-michigan.org">keith@hockey-michigan.org</a></p>	<p><i>Committee Vice-Chair &amp; Minnesota</i> <b>Bernie McBain</b> 7300 Bush Lake Rd. Edina, MN 55439 (952) 746-9033 <a href="mailto:Bernie@mnmadehockey.com">Bernie@mnmadehockey.com</a></p>
<p><i>AAU Membership Services</i> <b>AAU</b> PO Box 22409 Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830 (407) 934-7200 <a href="http://www.aausports.org">www.aausports.org</a></p>	<p><i>AAU National On/Off Ice Hockey Program Director</i> <b>Mike Hartman</b> (704) 752-8101 <a href="mailto:mikehartman100Ggmail.com">mikehartman100Ggmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.betterlifetrainingacademy.com/mobile/coaching">www.betterlifetrainingacademy.com/mobile/coaching</a></p>
<p><i>Senior Sports Manager - Hockey</i> <b>Trevor Hartwig</b> (407) 828-2723 <a href="mailto:trevor@aausports.org">trevor@aausports.org</a></p>	<p><i>Staff member</i> <b>Reggie Williams</b> (407) 934-7200 <a href="mailto:rwilliams@aausports.org">rwilliams@aausports.org</a></p>

## AAU Ice Hockey - Websites & Media

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

on Twitter [twitter.com/AAUIce](https://twitter.com/AAUIce)

on YouTube

[www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLd3hXZtrsD1R15iU7RgSq39cqmKrb-nvT](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLd3hXZtrsD1R15iU7RgSq39cqmKrb-nvT)

Sports for all, Forever



### Editor

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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)



### AAU Inline Hockey

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

