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Here



Concerning our Hockey Michigan community operating within the Amateur Athletic Union

HOCKEY MICHIGAN

2012-2013

Keith Kloock
21220 Wellington
Woodhaven, Michigan 48183
(734) 692-5158
hockey-michigan.org



Amateur Athletic Union (AAU)
aausports.org

AAU Hockey
aauhockey.org

Louis Stout,
AAU National President

Keith Noll,
National Chairperson, Hockey
(715) 231-4000

Jon Roux,
National Director, Hockey

Keith Kloock,
AAU Michigan
Director, Ice Hockey
(734) 692-5158

**SPORTS FOR ALL,
FOREVER!**

July 1st 2012

AAU — CULTURE OF SAFETY

As the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) enters into its 124th season, the organization has announced a **Culture of Safety** initiative. AAU is implementing a series of historic child protection measures, in order to insure the safety of youth athletes.

These policy changes have followed a six-month review process conducted in the form of two AAU-commissioned task forces, which were focused upon child protection and adult volunteer screening. One such policy change will be the mandatory background screenings of all staff, coaches and volunteers. These screenings will begin for this coming season (Sept. 1, 2012 — Aug. 31, 2013). In the past, AAU had conducted random screenings and/or when questions had arisen concerning an individual's conduct.

AAU has contracted with **Lexis-Nexis Risk Solutions** to conduct these background screenings. The company is generally considered to be the gold-standard of the industry and is already responsible for conducting over 5.5 million background checks on behalf of other non-profit organizations such as: the Boys & Girls Clubs, Little League Baseball and the Boy Scouts.

AAU membership fees will be increasing by an additional \$2, in order to defray the costs of these background screenings.

In addition to the background checks mentioned above, policies will prevent adults from being alone in rooms with youth athletes and will have a zero-tolerance policy concerning hazing. AAU is also creating a child protection manual, in order to guide its members.

AAU — POSITIVE COACHING ALLIANCE

AAU coaches are required to participate within the Free online coaching education program, which is administered by the Positive Coaching Alliance. For the 2012-2013 season, any coach who is just arriving at AAU will be required to take **Dual-Coach course Part 1**. Returning AAU coaches who have already taken and passed Part 1 must take **Dual-Coach course Part 2**.

USA HOCKEY — SUMMER MEETING

USA Hockey has completed their Summer Meeting in Colorado Springs, which was held from June 6th through 9th. The big concern for Mites and their families around the nation was the proposed change in the definition of the U8 playing surface. Many USAH Districts have already eliminated or limited Mite full-ice hockey. The USAH Board of Directors has voted to:

'Set the standard of the playing surface for games and scrimmages at the 8U age level as either cross-ice or half-ice, or on a surface that is equal to or less than the dimensions of cross-ice or half-ice, beginning with the 2013-14 playing season, with a provision that allows affiliates an opportunity to apply for an exception for a limited number of full ice games or scrimmages.'

Several USA Hockey Districts had already instituted Cross-Ice and/or Half-Ice as their standard playing surface for U8. Obviously, MAHA did so last season. In areas where the District had not mandated a smaller playing surface, many of the state associations have.

It is important to note that USA Hockey has also voted to switch from a 2-year rule-change cycle to a 4-year rule-change cycle. This will mean that the U8 smaller playing surface should remain in effect, at least through the 2016-2017 season.

MAHA — SUMMER MEETING

Now that USA Hockey has completed their summer meeting, attention will switch to MAHA. They are preparing for their summer meeting, which will take place on July 12-15th.

Of course, many already know that last season MAHA adopted a U8 prohibition on full-ice (as well as Mite Travel), which were to be phased in over the course of 2 years. However, apparently in response to the great success of AAU here in Michigan, MAHA has suspended their U8 mandate for this Spring and proposed a substantial reinstatement of Mite full-ice and Mite Travel for the 2012-2013 season.

So now comes the dilemma. Will MAHA actually adopt a single season rule change? Of course, this would mean that Mites would have been whip-sawed from full-ice in 2010-2011, to cross-ice in 2011-2012, to full-ice in 2012-2013 and again back to cross-ice in 2013-2014.

Obviously, AAU Michigan and Hockey Michigan continue to view cross-ice, half-ice and full-ice to be voluntary matters, which should be decided by teams and/or their respective leagues.

AAU MICHIGAN - ICE HOCKEY ANNUAL MEETING

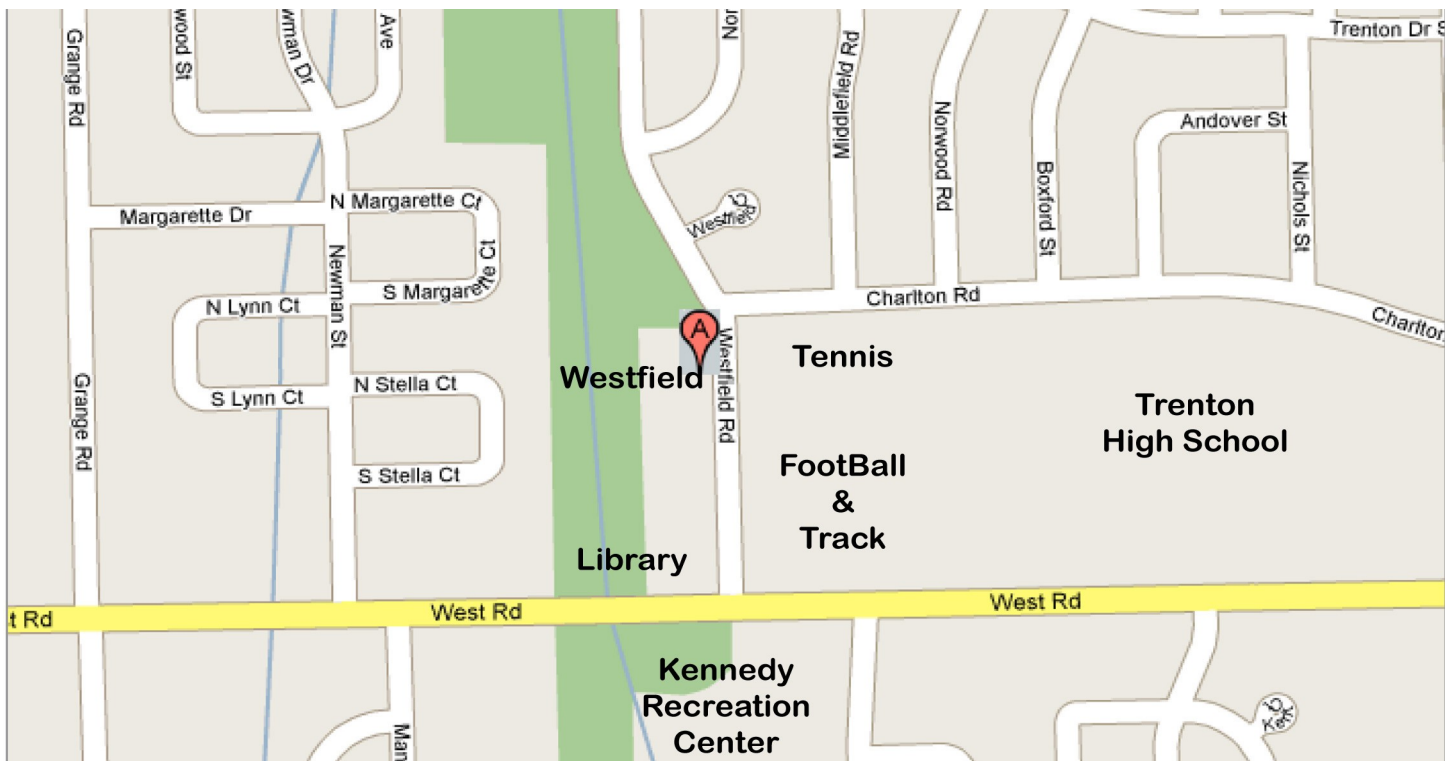
The AAU Michigan - Ice Hockey Committee will be hosting its Annual Meeting on Sunday **July 22nd 2012 at 11:00am** @ the **Westfield Activity Center** (the Westfield is located at 2700 Westfield in Trenton Michigan).

Each AAU ice hockey club will be permitted to cast one vote on any given issues (only individuals who are listed as a Club Representative possess voting rights for that given club). However, all AAU members are welcome to attend.

Additional notices will be repeated and an agenda will be provided as we approach the date of the meeting. However, initially expect that topics will likely include (but not be limited to):

- a report on the 2011-2012 season and plans for 2012-2013.
- a review of USA Hockey (USAH) and Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) changes.
- a review-update of likely; Age Classifications, Division and Team for the 2012-2013 season.
- Plans for State Playoffs in 2013.
- Votes affecting AAU Michigan - Ice Hockey; By-Laws, Rules & Regulations, etc.

We would also like to begin forming a State Playoff committee. Hopefully we can utilize our State Championships to continue our theme concept. Last season our Mites State Championship was used as a platform to allow Military Moms United to collect materials and funds to aid our armed forces serving overseas. Hopefully, each Championship can be used to benefit a separate charity.



AAU YOUTH LEAGUES ARE FORMING NATIONWIDE

Many of us involved in the creation of the Hockey Michigan full-ice mite alternative were caught by surprise last season, with far greater acceptance and growth than originally expected. Ultimately spreading into 4 nearby states, while seeing 4-5 times as many teams as originally anticipated here in Michigan.

During this Spring we have witnessed addition AAU program already forming in other states, including;

- Baltimore-DC: <http://www.rlacmetros.com>
- Hockey Colorado: <http://www.hockeycolorado.org>
- Greater Niagara Amateur Hockey League: http://www.wheatfieldblades.com/AAU/applications_forms/GNAHL.aspx
- St Louis: <http://www.hpcstl.com>

Several surveys and campaigns are ongoing in other locations to determine interest in replicating what we've done here in Michigan. Some of these include;

- Southern California: <http://www.fullicehockeycampaign.com>
- Western New York: <http://www.wnyaauhockey.com>

As word travels concerning the moves toward District and National cross-ice mandates, we expect to see continued expansion of AAU programs throughout the summer, which will ultimately provide coast to coast AAU youth teams for the 2012-2013 regular season.

TROPICAL ELITE JUNIOR LEAGUE

Yet another junior league has been sanctioned by the AAU. Our newest arrival is the Tropical Elite Junior Hockey League (TEHL). The league expects to host 6 teams for the 2012-2013 season, initially operating in central Florida.

Tropical Elite (TEHL www.icefactory.com) joins the Midwest Junior Hockey League (MWJHL www.mwjhl.com) joins the Northeastern Junior Hockey League (NJHL www.thenjhl.com), the Western States Hockey League (WSHL www.wshl.org). Collectively, these leagues now give AAU junior hockey a coast to coast presence of over 40 teams (and still growing).



Several other junior leagues are considering a switch to the AAU over the summer.

HELP WANTED @ AAU HOCKEY

Obviously, the AAU Michigan - Ice Hockey Committee was begun in a hurried fashion during 2011-2012. Currently we are working on our By-Laws and a structure needed for moving forward.

We are seeking resumes, interest and/or nominations for volunteers to serve in several positions. Keith Kloock was initially appointed to get our AAU Michigan's Ice Hockey operations up and running. Keith has been serving as the Director-Treasurer-etc. However, eventually all positions will need to be filled through elections.

After creating our formal By-Laws (a vote will likely occur in July of this year), then we will schedule our first formal election of officers. It may be wise that we create staggered elections, in order to maintain some continuity from our officers.

At the moment, our most urgent needs are:

- Coach-In-Chief
- Referee-In-Chief
- Secretary

Please contact Keith @ (734) 692-5158 if you are interested in any of these volunteer positions or if you are interested in serving on our 2013 State Playoff Committee.

HELP WANTED @ AAU MICHIGAN

AAU Michigan currently has several vacancies at the State level. Please be advised that these are also volunteer positions.

Lt. Governor: This position is normally a 4-year office and was set to expire in 2014. However, with a recent resignation the position is now vacant. AAU Michigan is researching options under their By-Laws (whether to appoint or to hold a special election).

This position is generally considered to be a stepping stone for someone who is interested in becoming the governor of AAU Michigan. Obviously, it's important to get members thinking about whether they may wish to step up now and learn the ropes from some very experienced state officers.

Sport Director - Taekwondo and/or Martial Arts: AAU currently offers the sports of; Chinese Martial Arts, Judo, Karate and Taekwondo. Unfortunately, at present AAU Michigan doesn't have a Sport Director. Obviously, we have a very large community of martial artists within our state. AAU offers outstanding insurance at a rather low cost. This position could provide a great opportunity for someone to draw programs together from around our state for more widespread cooperation and competition.

Please contact AAU Michigan - governor Cindi Trombly cinditrombly@aol.com if you have any interest in these positions or even if you merely wish to help out at the state level.

SPORTS FOR ALL FOREVER



AGE GROUPS:

6U THRU JUNIOR HOCKEY

MEMBERSHIP:

**\$14.00 YOUTH & JUNIORS
(Adult Ice Hockey coming soon)**

COVERAGE:

12 MONTHS/365 DAYS

INSURANCE:

ARGUBALLY THE BEST SPORTS INSURANCE PROGRAM - \$10 MILLION LIABILITY PER OCCURRENCE PER CLUB/TEAM

FORMAT:

**ON-LINE CLAIM FORMS AVAILABLE 24/7
CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE ONLINE 24/7
(MUST BE A CURRENT MEMBER)**

ENTRY FEES PAYABLE TO: ONLINE REGISTRATION

**NATIONAL COACHES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
NATIONAL REFEREE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
NATIONAL BACKGROUND SCREENING PROGRAM**

**PROGRAM LEADERS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR PROGRAMS - PARENT REPRESENTATIVE INVOLVEMENT
AAU SANCTIONS OVER 40 SPORTS**

Established in 1888 - philosophy is "sports for all, forever"

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PLAYER, TEAM OR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP, CONTACT AAU OFFICES at 407-934-7200 OR VISIT www.aauhockey.org