

We  
**Honor**  
the  
**Game**  
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](http://hockey-michigan.org)



Amateur Athletic Union (AAU)  
[aausports.org](http://aausports.org)

AAU Hockey  
[aauhockey.org](http://aauhockey.org)

Louis Stout,  
AAU National President

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

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

***SPORTS FOR ALL,  
FOREVER!***

**September 1st 2012**

## **WELCOME TO 2012-2013**

Year 2 of Hockey Michigan. Following an amazing season last year, we've seen changes at both USA Hockey (USAH) and at the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA). USAH is heading to nationwide Cross-Ice for 2013-2014, while MAHA has reversed itself heading back to Full-Ice (at least for this season and for part of Michigan, while other areas of the state are left out).

We've also see AAU Mite programs spreading throughout other regions (Cleveland, Denver, Buffalo, Virginia, etc). And into other age classifications as well. We see AAU Junior leagues now spreading coast to coast. And we see our scholastic programs (HS Varsity, JV and Middle Schools) spreading beyond the state of New York.

We are also seeing more tournament opportunities for AAU Hockey in Canada, as the Canadian Independent Hockey Federation continues to grow north of the border (see the article on page 2).

AAU is currently working on a redesign of the national website, to split Ice Hockey and Inline Hockey into separate sites (better serving both sports).

Those who were part of Hockey Michigan last season will recall that things completely changed as the season progressed. At first it was thought that we would only have a handful of Mite Travel teams, operating exclusively in Michigan. Then we quickly added Mite B leagues and before long we found ourselves with 33 Mite teams in Michigan and others in Ohio, Indiana and Missouri.

So as things progress during this season, please remember to keep checking our website [hockey-michigan.org](http://hockey-michigan.org) and watch emails for updates.

**CANADIAN INDEPENDENT HOCKEY FEDERATION**

A new organization has been formed in Ontario Canada. The 2012-2013 season witnesses the birth of the Canadian Independent Hockey Federation (CIHF), which signals a change within North American youth ice hockey. The federation website is at: [www.cihfhockey.com](http://www.cihfhockey.com)

At present, the CIHF includes members from; the Barrie-Innisfil (Simco county) Knights hockey league and the Dragons Select [www.plcsports.com](http://www.plcsports.com), the Burlington-based Original 6 hockey league and the Griffins Select [www.wavehockey.ca](http://www.wavehockey.ca), the London-based Red Circle hockey league [www.redcirclehockeyclub.com](http://www.redcirclehockeyclub.com) and the Toronto-based TNC hockey league [www.tnchl.com](http://www.tnchl.com).



These organizations have operated for 9 years as a loose affiliation of House League programs operating outside of Hockey Canada. Eventually they expanded to include Select (allstar) programs. And now beginning in their 10th anniversary season, by popular demand they are expanding to include Travel as well. The CIHF currently hosts age classifications from Tykes (7U) through Juvenile (Junior).

Last season, following the birth of our own Hockey Michigan (AAU) Mite hockey programs, we were contacted by these organizations and offered the opportunity for our teams to participate within their tournaments. Over the summer, these same organizations decided to create a more formal structure, which will allow the CIHF to begin certifying coaches and referees, while also sanction their leagues and tournaments.

**MIDWEST JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE**

This inaugural season the Midwest Junior Hockey League will feature 7 teams from Michigan. The Dayton Aeros (Monroe), Great Lakes Lightning (Fraser), Hartland Hounds (Hartland), Holland River Bandits (Holland), Michigan Ice Dogs (Wayne), Soo Firehawks (SSM) and Tennyson Chevrolet (Brownstown). These Michigan teams will join the Bloomington Jr Blaze (Illinois), NWO Grrrowl (Toledo, OH) and the Rhinelander Street Cats (Rhinelander, WI).

The MWJHL [www.mwjhl.com](http://www.mwjhl.com) joins 3 other AAU sanctioned leagues now hosting 47 Junior teams nationwide including the 22 team Western States Hockey League [www.wshl.org](http://www.wshl.org), the 7 team Northern States Junior Hockey League [www.northernstateshockey.com](http://www.northernstateshockey.com) and the 8 team Tropical Elite Hockey League [www.tropicalelitehockey.com](http://www.tropicalelitehockey.com)

**AAU MITES**

Of course, for this 2012-2013 season its still a bit early to know where we stand here in Michigan. The Michigan Director has been helping members to get registered, while also tracking down AAU friendly tournaments and updating the website as information comes in.

Efforts are well underway outside of Michigan to create other AAU Mite programs, both leagues and independents. The Director is just beginning to track where these efforts have succeeded. Currently it looks good from Denver through Buffalo, with more nearby teams forming this year in Ohio. Keep in mind that last season it was about October 1st before all leagues were formed and some independent teams registered as late as November.

We ask that all AAU Michigan teams please check in with your updated contact information, so that an accurate database can be created. In addition, anyone planning to obtain an AAU sanction for a tournament or any tournaments willing to accept AAU teams should check in with their tournament details. Keep in mind that many non-Michigan AAU teams also check our site.

**MAHA MITE RULES FOR 2013-2014?**

During their annual meeting (as was previously reported) USA Hockey 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, ... 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.**

USA Hockey Districts (such as MAHA) must now provide a transition plan to USAH and apply for permission to allow for a limited number of Full-Ice games from 2013 onward. Of course, MAHA had already instituted a Cross-Ice mandate in July of 2011. Yet they've reversed themselves this summer.

MAHA suffered an exodus of Mites in response to their 2011 Cross-Ice mandate. And in response to those losses, this summer MAHA voted to reinstate Mite Travel (both A & AA) and to allow a return to Full-Ice Mites, with the requirement that leagues also offer some Cross-Ice, in order for teams to be permitted more then 20 Full-Ice games.

Further, MAHA has created a split in Michigan. Some MAHA Districts are permitted to continue a ban on Full-Ice while others are reverting to Full-Ice. So for 2012-2013, a large portion of the state is now Cross-Ice only and another large portion has mixed Cross-Ice and Full-Ice.

Of course, the question for 2013-2014 remains. What will MAHA do next year? A recent article from [www.MIHockeyNow.com](http://www.MIHockeyNow.com) quotes several MAHA officers as follows:

MAHA president Atkinson has explained (referring to the USAH rule change) that "MAHA will be required to meet the USA Hockey Sept. 1 deadline next year for the change in playing surface."

## **AAU — POSITIVE COACHING ALLIANCE**

AAU coaches are required to participate within the Free online coaching education program, which is being administered by the Positive Coaching Alliance. The program is called **Double-Goal Coach: Coaching for Winning and Life Lessons (AAU)**. A Double-Goal Coach has two goals: the first is to win, but the second, more important goal is to teach life lessons through sports.

For the 2012-2013 season, any coach who is just arriving at AAU will likely be required to take **Double-Coach course Part 1: Coaching for Winning and Life Lessons**. Returning AAU coaches, who have already taken and passed Part 1, must take **Double-Coach course Part 2: Culture, Practices and Games**.

The course will take about 60 minutes to complete and is followed by a short test (maybe 90 minutes if you watch all the videos). Coaches will need an 80% or better score in order to pass. Although you can save your spot and return to complete the course later, it's a good idea to allow yourself enough time to take the entire course and test all in one setting.

As a long-time coach, I've been through more than my share of coaching clinics. Some were interesting, some not so much. However, the process of taking the Double-Coach parts 1 & 2 courses was a joy. AAU has made a great move by teaming up with the Positive Coaching Alliance for their coaching education program. The training isn't specific to any given sport, although there are quite a few examples and videos from ice hockey. Instead the instruction focuses more upon best practices for coaching within all sports. Encouraging a rejection of the win-at-all-cost mentality (which is so prevalent today) in favor of a shift toward coaching to win and toward the teaching of life lessons.



## **AAU — BACKGROUND SCREENING**

This season AAU has instituted a mandatory Background Screening program for all adult non-athlete members (officers, administrator, coaches and volunteers), which is being administered by **Lexis-Nexis Risk Solutions**. The process has been built into the standard AAU online registration process.

All reports are that the program has been proceeding well, is easy to navigate and fairly quick. Depending upon how many screenings are being conducted at a given time, the approvals can take very little time at all or as much as a few days. Adult non-athlete members won't receive their AAU membership number until their Background Check is approved. So if you are the person who will be registering a club, league or tournament then please don't delay. You'll need your individual membership number in order to register an AAU club or to obtain a sanction.

**BE PREPARED**  
**2013 AAU Memberships**  
**No Longer Instant**  
**READY, SET, PROTECT**

# **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](http://www.aauhockey.org)**