

AAU Ice Hockey

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Sports for all, Forever



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

AAU Leagues, Administrators, as well as Team Coaches and/or Managers are encouraged to submit articles and notices to:
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The Canadian Independent Hockey Federation and AAU Hockey join forces!

BARRIE ONTARIO: AAU Hockey is proud to welcome our Canadian members into the AAU family, forming a cross-border alliance of new opportunities. The CIHF website can be found at: www.cihfhockey.com

The Canadian Independent Hockey Federation (CIHF) brings their league, associations, teams and thousands of members into the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). AAU members may now cooperate to host AAU sanctioned tournaments in both the US and Canada.

CIHF competition levels range from House (HL) through Representative (Rep). For our US readers, Rep level could best be described here in the US as Select and/or (A) level travel.

US and Canadian teams should also be aware that the 6U (Mini-mite classification born in 2007 or later here in the US) are known as Tyke in Canada. Similarly, 8U (Mite born 2005 or later) are known as Novice and 10U (Squirt born 2003 or later) are known as Atom in Canada.

CIHF member communities have offered Safe Play hockey opportunities for over 10 years, although the federation was only recently created in response to their substantial growth throughout Ontario.

The CIHF had already been expanding in Barrie, Burlington, London, and Toronto. However, expansion is now well underway in Bradford, Guelph, Hamilton, Kitchener, Oakville, Orillia, Oxford County (Woodstock, Tillsonburg and Ingersoll), Toronto, Waterloo and York County (Newmarket & Aurora).

Community organizers in other Canadian communities wishing to create their own House level and/or Safe Rep Hockey teams, organizations and/or leagues, should feel free to contact CIHF president Peter Cardo at: (705) 733-9500 or email info@plcsports.com



Michigan forms a new AAU Hockey league for 6U through 18U

The Michigan Amateur Youth Hockey League (MAYHL) has been formed to offer 6U-18U opportunities for AAU teams, clubs and associations. The league will provide competition levels from B through AAA .

The MAYHL envisions seeding Travel Minor (A) and Major (AA) hockey into multiple competition levels (in order to provide a degree of parity within each division). MAYHL also plans to host divisional and statewide league playoffs.

Of course, as within any AAU sanctioned league, their Michigan teams will be eligible to apply for entrance into the AAU Michigan State Championships, which will also be seeded into multiple competition pools. Michigan AAU Hockey rules require participation within a sanctioned league to be eligible for States (no specific league, merely one that is AAU sanctioned).

Prior to the MAYHL announcement, Michigan had seen several leagues, which were all keyed to specific age classifications. There have also been non-league Michigan teams from additional age classifications that joined the AAU as independents (including Mite, Squirt and Junior Varsity).

Until now there hadn't been a league offering full-service covering the 6U through 18U age classifications. However, the MAYHL is advancing AAU Hockey within Michigan to the next step.



A notice from the Michigan Amateur Youth Hockey League (MAYHL)

At this time we are gathering information on the teams that will be interested in playing in the 2013-2014 Season. We ask that if your team wants to play within MAYHL then please go to: www.mayhl.com and input the information. This information will not be published anywhere. It will be used to keep you informed on coming league news and information. It will also allow us to help local Associations plan for next season. This may be a good way to let your association know all teams want a new direction and a different choice. This league is for all age groups and levels of play. There is no obligation at this time. However, I get ask all the time how many teams do we have, this will allow me to answer that honestly.

We are planning to host 2 tournaments, one at Thanksgiving and one at Christmas. We hope to have teams from all over the US and Canada. More details will be available on the website.

We have a Director that who is developing our AAA division; if you are interested in this division please email your contact information at: mayhinfo@gmail.com.

Why should your team play within the MAYHL? We are determined to make this league about the kids, keep the costs in line, and make the games competitive and fair. Most importantly give you, your team and the Youth Hockey Association a voice on how hockey is played. We could do things exactly as they are done now, but we look at this as an opportunity to return the game of hockey to where it belongs, the local teams and associations. No big overbearing group telling you how to run your organization, practices or teams; just plan common sense fair hockey rules.

AAU - Hockey Illinois announces 6U and 8U Full-Ice Mites AAU League

AAU Hockey Illinois is proud to announce that it will support a league format giving 6U-8U aged kids the opportunity to play competitive full-ice hockey from September 1, 2013 through March 15, 2014.

Hockey Illinois teams may also take part within AAU Showcase and Tournament opportunities.

The league will qualify two Illinois based AAU clubs to the Mite National Championships, being held on March 6-9 in Minnesota.

To learn more about AAU Hockey Illinois, please visit their website at: www.aauhockeyillinois.org

American Revolution Showcase Series

The **American Revolution Showcase Series** has been launched as a collaborated effort between AAU associations including the Dallas-based AAU-Ice Jets, Houston, Tulsa Jr. Oilers and Lafayette IceGators.



This new AAU tournament series format will provide 6U-18U opportunities for AAU teams, clubs and associations and will include teams from around the country.

It is important to note that the series will offer conventional full-ice games for Mite classifications and checking for Pee Wee hockey!

Mite and squirt clubs from Dallas, Houston, Tulsa and Louisiana have recently been formed to hold monthly games to prepare for the upcoming regional qualifiers for the national championships.

For additional information concerning the American Revolution Showcase Series, please visit the Ice Jets website at: www.icejets.com



Hockey Michigan - Update

During the spring hockey season, **Hockey Michigan** held several local meetings with coaches from the greater Detroit area, most have taken place Downriver (a local term for Detroit's southern suburbs) and in communities along the I-275 corridor (the western suburbs).

These meetings have been partly to gauge interest for AAU Hockey participation during the coming 2013-2014 season, partly to introduce representatives of the Michigan Amateur Youth Hockey League (MAYHL) and partly to answer questions for our newer coaches and prospective coaches.

So far, the general consensus from Mite teams has been:

First: most Mite House and Travel teams intend to register within AAU Hockey for 2013-2014,

Second: most Mite House and Travel teams have stated that they do not intend to registering within USAH-MAHA.

NOTE: During the past many Michigan Mite groups have chosen to register within both AAU Hockey and also USA Hockey, in order to get the best of both worlds. However, with the new restrictions being placed upon USAH-MAHA Mite programs, it appears that coaches no longer see any benefit to remaining within such a restrictive program.

Hockey Michigan would like to hold at least one meeting within the eastside and/or northern suburbs. Anyone wishing to help organize such a meeting should contact the AAU Hockey, Michigan Director Keith Kloock at: keith@hockey-michigan.org or call (734) 692-5158. Other communities please don't feel left out. Keith will gladly meet with coaches and organizers from communities throughout Michigan.

We also need volunteers wishing to serve on our AAU Hockey Michigan State Championship committee.

Michigan area AAU teams are invited to submit Tryout and/or Team Contact information to Keith for publication on the Hockey Michigan website. Parents have been contacting Hockey Michigan directly seeking AAU Full-ice teams. We will only publish such information following a request. FYI, in the past whenever these kind of team postings begin there is always a domino effect.

Hockey Canada bans checking at PeeWees

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND: On May 23, 2013 during their 94th Annual General Meeting, the Hockey Canada board of directors voted to end checking at PeeWees (12U) and younger. The only dissenting vote came from the Saskatchewan Hockey Association.

Quebec had already banned checking at PeeWees. Alberta and Nova Scotia more recently followed suit as the concept of a checking ban gained momentum last year. This was in the wake of a study showing that the rate of injury was three times higher in Alberta (when checking was permitted) than in Quebec (where it was not). According to Hockey Alberta, the study indicated that a ban on checking at the peewee level would prevent 400 concussions and more than 1,000 injuries each year within their province.

Hockey Canada now joins USA Hockey who banned checking from PeeWees during the 2011-2012 regular season.

New to the AAU: Box Lacrosse

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLORIDA: The AAU is excited to announce a new style of Lacrosse. AAU will now offer Box Lacrosse to current members, as well as new participants interested in the new style of lacrosse.

The essence of the game is still the same, but there are several elements that have changed. The goals

in box lacrosse are much smaller than field lacrosse and the goaltender wears much more protective padding and uses a traditional wooden stick, making the game faster and more skilled than the traditional Field Lacrosse.

The style of the game is quick, accelerated by the close confines of the floor and a shot clock. The shot clock requires the attacking team to take a shot on goal within 30 seconds of gaining possession of the ball.



In addition, players must advance the ball from their own defensive end to the offensive side of the floor within 10 seconds. This is a new and exciting style that the AAU is proud to offer.

For more information please visit: www.aaulacrosse.org

The above article by Kristina at AAU has been reprinted from the national website.

Floorball: a Fun teaching tool for Ice & Inline Hockey

As with Ice Hockey, Floorball is yet another adaptation to ancient Native American (First Nations) stick-ball games. During the 1950's and 1960's, students from schools within the United States often played Floorball during their Physical Education classes. The sport was exported to schools in Sweden and Finland where it became extremely popular and has since spread from Scandinavia into other parts of Europe. Recently the sport has been making a comeback here in the US and Canada. In fact, some of our newest Canadian AAU Clubs already host their own Floorball leagues.

One advantage of Floorball is that it doesn't require sophisticated ice skating skills. This permits younger players to more easily learn hockey tactics, stickhandling and shooting skills in a fun and inexpensive environment. As an off-ice teaching tool it permits valuable ice-time to be used more efficiently to refine and practice ice skating skills.

Of course, another advantage of Floorball is that it doesn't require an unused ice rink. Floorball may be played in a school gym or even at an Inline Hockey facility.



AAU: our MultiSport Advantage

The preceding articles concerning Box Lacrosse and Floorball provide an opportunity to highlight a benefit, which is available for our AAU ice hockey Clubs, Leagues and Members. Clubs and Leagues may offer members the opportunity to participate within multiple sports, by including those that are closely related to ice hockey. Either by providing them at the same time in order to give players cross-training and variety or in a progression, which advances from one season to another.

Within the US we can find National Governing Bodies (NGB), which are focused upon their single sport. And we can also find MultiSport Organizations (MSO) such as the AAU, which are not confined to any single sport. This MSO status of AAU provides our athletes and members with the opportunity to participate in over 40 individual sports for a single low-cost membership fee.

AAU Clubs and Leagues are capable of operating across a broad spectrum of sports. Sports such as: Floorball, Box Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Inline Hockey, Field Lacrosse or even Soccer, all of which are closely related in appearance and tactics to ice hockey. Yet can enhance the development of skills and athletic abilities of our ice hockey players. Both Floorball and Box Lacrosse offer the benefit of being played indoors, which removes concerns or disruptions due to the weather. Yet, each can provide athletes with variety, fun and an improved educational environment.

As described in the preceding Floorball article, this sport can be used as a great in-season method for more easily of teaching ice hockey skills and tactics, especially with younger players. Floorball can also serve as a great introduction program, drawing new players into ice hockey and building our local programs. I would suggest that Floorball should be a major inclusion to any Introductory hockey programs and to many 6U ice hockey Leagues, because they permit young athletes to play and have fun from Day One. Box Lacrosse is a sport originally developed within Canada. After the ice surface is removed from an arena during hockey's off-season then Box Lacrosse can provide participants with additional athletic competition.

In many regions of the US and Canada, sports such as: Field Hockey, Inline (Roller) Hockey and Lacrosse have served as off-season extensions for ice hockey participants. In some cases such as in warmer climates and where ice-time may be unavailable they've served as alternative to ice hockey. Yet rarely have we seen multiple sports being offered for along with hockey. AAU Clubs and Leagues can easily provide such options to our members, enhancing the value of their AAU memberships.

Develop your skills at Hockey Camp

In conjunction with Glacier Hockey, AAU players can develop their skills in a fun, fast paced environment. July 28th through August 1st, players can take advantage of a wonderful opportunity to train with Phoenix Coyotes' skating and skills coach, Mark Ciaccio.

This Five day camp provides players an extensive curriculum of skills training both on and off the ice. In addition to outstanding training, players will develop friendships with players from across North America that will be attending the camp in Appleton, Wisconsin on the campus of Lawrence University. Only a few spots remain. For more information, please contact Sandy Anderson at Glacier Ice Arena (847) 996-0948 or sanderson@glacierskate.com.

AAU Ice Hockey

June 1, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 3

Page 7

EDITORIAL: Can Body-Checking be safe?

This may be the hockey question of our time. With more and more concerns about concussions and medical studies looking into the long-term effects of such injuries, many would say that we are about twenty-plus years overdue in asking this question.

If not for the NHL and the few players who may someday advance to that level then there would be little or no justification for body-checking to exist within youth hockey. However, as long as age body checking remains part of the NHL then some will insist that it continue for youth hockey.

Yet, the question remains. History would suggest that we simply cannot teach and administer body-checking in a safe manner. Some insist that way back we didn't see the concussions that we see now. Of course, for decades we weren't even looking for concussions.

Some insist that if checking is going to exist then it should be taught at a younger age, not older. For example, former Calgary Flames player Theo Fleury, claims that learning how to check effectively was essential to his success in the NHL. "Being small and having had body checking in minor hockey I learned how to give and take a body check. Hockey is a game of contact, leave it in" ahead of Hockey Canada's vote.

Others contend that there is no evidence that learning to body-check earlier offers any safety benefit within older age classifications. Of course, we presently have no history or data showing us what happens when body checking is introduced at Bantams or older.

Providing a child's first introduction to body-checking at the Bantam age classification is reckless and dangerous. We should see problems begin showing up in the US during the 2013-2014. This will be the first season where USA Hockey players will advance into checking-Bantam without ever having checking in PeeWees. When checking was removed from Squirts in the US, we saw an exodus as players entered PeeWee and discovered body-checking. We'll likely see the same now at Bantams.

"You (Hockey Canada) have good intentions, but the road to Hell is paved with good intentions," Don Cherry warned on an edition of HNIC Coach's Corner. "You're going to be sorry. You watch and see, you will be sorry." Don Cherry has called for separate checking and non-checking leagues, which is essentially what Nova Scotia has done, by voting to end checking in the B and C levels of Bantam and Midget hockey (ages 13 through 18). Similar to Nova Scotia, the wiser course may be to provide safe non-checking recreational leagues for most players while allowing body-checking leagues in order to allow families a choice.



**AAU Full-Ice
Mite (2006-2005)**
Oct. 18-20, 2013
Rochester, NY
4-game minimum \$1050
rochesterinvitational.com



Watch for our 2014
Regional Tournament

**AAU Full-Ice
Frozen Biscuit**
Mite (2006-2005)
Dec. 26-29, 2013
Stamford, CT
4-game minimum \$1200
www.ctkingshockey.com

AAU Mite-Squirt Leagues

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

American Revolution Showcase Series Louisiana, Oklahoma & Texas	www.icejets.com	(8U-18U)
<i>Name coming soon</i> DC, Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, northern Virginia & Southern New Jersey	<i>1 or more leagues covering</i>	(6U-??)
California California	<i>link coming soon</i>	(6U-8U)
Choice League Minnesota	www.minnesotamadehockey.com	(6U-12U)
CIHF Ontario	www.cihfhockey.com	(6U-18U)
EAHA Connecticut	<i>link coming soon</i>	(6U-8U)
Full-Tilt Hockey Oklahoma	www.fulltilthockeyok.com	(6U-10U)
Greater Niagara (GNAHL) New York	www.eteamz.com/greatniagaraamateurhockeyleague	(6U-8U)
Hockey Colorado Colorado-Wyoming	www.hockeycolorado.org	(6U-12U)
Hockey Illinois Illinois	www.aauhockeyillinois.org	(6U-8U)
MAYHL Michigan-Ohio	www.mayhl.com	(6U-18U)



AAU Ice Hockey

June 1, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 3

Page 9

AAU Mite-Squirt Qualifier Tournaments

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

Qualifying Tournaments are already being announced from several AAU Hockey Districts and Regions. These tournaments in order to provide pathways into the AAU Mite-Squirt National Championships

Teams will be selected through a number of pathways including Qualifier Tournaments and through participation within AAU sanctioned leagues. Other through Qualifier Tournaments will be added to this list and reprinted as they are approved.



For additional information

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<u>10th Annual Labor Day</u>	Aug. 31 - Sept. 2, 2013	Arizona
<u>Motown Showcase</u>	Nov. 9-11, 2013	Michigan
<u>15th Annual Coyotes Cup</u>	Dec. 27-30, 2013	Arizona
<u>Christmas</u>	Dec. 27-29, 2013	Minnesota

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

AAU Invitational Tournaments

This page will continue to be updated as additional Invitationals become available. Tournament operators should be aware that we hope to publish a large tournament list within our August edition. Please get details to the editor before July 15th. Please supply: Logo, Name, Dates, Location, Costs, Game minimum, Period length and age classifications (such as Mites or 2006-2005).

Stars & Stripes (AAA) 2005s through 1999s	Aug. 2-4, 2013 4-game minimum, 17-min periods	Edina, MN minnesotamadehockey.com
Rochester Invitational Mite (2006-2005)	Oct. 18-20, 2013 4-game minimum \$1050	Rochester, NY rochesterinvitational.com
Frozen Biscuit Mite (2006-2005)	Dec. 26-29, 2013 4-game minimum \$1200	Stamford, CT www.ctkingshockey.com



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AAU Ice Hockey Leagues & Websites

www.aauhockey.org

Scholastic

WNYHSCHL: www.eteamz.com/wnyhschl
Long Island, NY: www.longislandhshockey.net

Junior

MWJHL: www.mwjhl.pointstreaksites.com/view/mwjhl
NSHL: www.northernstateshockey.com
WSHL: www.wshl.org

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

