

AAU Ice Hockey

October 1, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 7

Herb Brooks XL Hockey League now sanctioned by AAU

New league offers a one-day-a-week hockey experience for busy players

Blaine, Minnesota (September 16, 2013) Registration is now open for a unique new hockey league based in the Twin Cities. The Herb Brooks XL Hockey League is designed to appeal to 13-18 year olds who have played hockey and still enjoy playing the game, but are busy with activities and school and just don't have time to commit to a full-time youth hockey schedule.



The league will offer an organized, fun, non-threatening, no-check hockey game once a week, to allow student athletes to continue playing hockey while also allowing them to focus on another sport, academics, or family activities.

The Herb Brooks Foundation is backing the league as part of their mission to increase opportunities in hockey, for players at all skill levels. "We recognize that kids have diverse interests, and there are many kids who still love hockey and are motivated to play who just can't commit to a full-time youth hockey schedule," said Herb Brooks Foundation Executive Director John McClellan. "This league is designed to meet the needs of kids who still want to play hockey, but only once a week."

The Herb Brooks XL League is aiming to field 16 teams this fall across the Twin Cities metro area. The teams will be open to all 13-18 year olds and is designed for former players that still love the game and would like to keep playing but not at the 4-5 times per week that many programs demand.

"There are lots of hockey players at different levels," said McClellan. "We felt there wasn't an existing program to meet the needs of these players. We're optimistic we'll get a great response."

The league will be a no-check league, offering 14 games and three pre-season practice sessions during a season that starts in late November and ends in March.

- continued on page 2 -

Sports for all, Forever



Editor

Keith Kloock
21220 Wellington
Woodhaven, MI 48183
(734) 692-5158

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

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

keith@hockey-michigan.org



Let's Play
HOCKEY
EXPO
RiverCentre • St. Paul, MN

AAU Ice Hockey

October 1, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 7

Page 2

The games will be played at Mariucci and Ridder Arenas on the University of Minnesota campus, with the end-of-the-season tournament to be played at the Schwan Super Rink on the National Sports Center campus in Blaine. The league is open to both boys and girls.

Certified officials will be employed at all games and team standings are kept. Players are encouraged to bring their friends and play on the same team. All games will be scheduled late Sunday afternoon or early evening.

The registration fee includes AAU membership, which includes insurance. There are no additional costs. Proper equipment is a requirement and the league will provide individual jerseys for the players to keep.

Full teams can register. But registration is also open to small groups, or individuals, and the league will place players on teams based on the area they are from.

To register for the Herb Brooks XL Hockey League visit the Programs section of the Herb Brooks Foundation website at: www.herbrooksfoundation.com.

For more information, contact Josh Leddy, League Director, at (763) 458-0568, josh@xlhockeyleague.com.



The Herb Brooks Foundation

The Herb Brooks Foundation (HBF) is located within the Schwan Super Rink facility in Blaine Minnesota on the National Sport Center campus. Along with the state-of-the-art 17,000 square foot Herb Brooks Training Center, the facility is the largest of its kind in the world, featuring 8 rinks (4 Olympic and 4 NHL sized).

The foundation also administers the Herb Brooks Rink Rat program, which provides hockey opportunities for over 200 greater Minneapolis children. And in cooperation with Schwan Super Rink, Morrie's Automotive Group and Minneapolis Police (PAL) program they conduct a free 8 hour spring hockey clinic (2 hours on each of 4 Sundays).



Minnesota Made Hockey Growing Across Metropolitan Area, Helped by Partnership with AAU

Another exciting winter season is about to begin with Minnesota Made Hockey and their Choice League. Starting this week, athletes from around the Metropolitan Minneapolis/St. Paul area will begin to start the high-end training that has become the envy of the youth hockey community nationwide. Now affiliated with the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), Minnesota Made has seen a great expansion of numbers within its winter Choice league throughout the years, but especially this year, helped by its exciting opportunities provided by the partnership.

Minnesota Made has had success due to its core program, which consists of age-appropriate skill development practice plans for each level of skaters. The coaches have fast-paced, efficient and highly detailed practice plans from week 1 to week 25 from Minnesota Made Hockey. With a great emphasis on quality repetition, efficient use of practice time and elite skating, stickhandling and passing drills, it has become a nationally renowned program for developing elite young hockey athletes.

The addition of AAU to the offerings at Minnesota Made has increased the excitement level, as the program has seen a lot more inquiries into its services. With the increased demand, Minnesota Made has added more teams at all levels. They have added a Northeast league, in addition to their main base of operations in the Southwest metro in Edina. This league will have 2-3 new teams at the different squirt and mite levels. The program as a whole will have 26 Mite teams, 14 Squirt teams and 5 PeeWee teams. They have gone from having six teams in the first season of Choice, to 34 last year to having 45 this year.



With the Inaugural AAU Championships for Mites and Squirts set for March 2014, the buzz and excitement around the metro area for these young athletes and their families is palpable. With a chance for out-of-state tournaments with some of the best young players in the country, there is a lot of opportunity for development and elite competition. The AAU and Minnesota Made partnership will become a very important part of the process for these young athletes from Minnesota Made to becoming an elite hockey player.

Hockey Michigan (AAU) - Volunteers Needed

Hockey Michigan (AAU) still needs volunteers to participate on our State Championship committee and in other capacities. We'll also need proposals for hosting our championship tournaments on the President's Day weekend (Feb. 14-17, 2014). Those individuals interested in helping out should contact Keith Kloock at: keith@hockey-michigan.org or call (734) 692-5158

AAU National Mite and Squirt Hockey Tournament Coming to Minnesota

The AAU will hold their inaugural Mite and Squirt National Ice Hockey Tournament in the Twin Cities March 6-9, 2014. These dates coincide with the Let's Play Hockey Expo, March 7-8, 2014 at the St. Paul RiverCentre.

Teams from coast to coast will be vying for the first-ever Mite and Squirt national championships at the Minnesota Made Ice Center in Edina, Minnesota. Seventy-two teams are expected in several different divisions.

"The AAU is proud to announce that we will be bringing the first Mite and Squirt National Ice Hockey Tournament to the State of Hockey," said Keith Noll, AAU National Ice Hockey Chairman. "Participant teams will come from California to New York. Nearly 1,000 players and 4,000 parents and family members will also be excited to attend the Let's Play Hockey Expo and high school hockey state tournament for a full week of hockey entertainment. Shuttle buses will be available to transport tournament participants to the Expo."

"We are pleased that AAU has chosen to hold their national tournament at the same time as the Expo and state high school hockey tournament," said Doug Johnson of Let's Play Hockey.

For additional Let's Play Hockey Expo information, go to www.letsplayhockey.com.



For additional information

Keith Noll

keithn@aausports.org

Bernie McBain

coachbernie@mnmadehockey.com

Keith Klock

keith@hockey-michigan.org



Reprinted by permission from: Chicago Area Youth Hockey Blog cayhockey.blogspot.com

Interview with AAU's Rick Hoskins (Hockey Illinois)

By CAYH Editor

In a **Chicago Area Youth Hockey Blog** exclusive, we bring you an interview with Rick Hoskins of AAU Hockey Illinois.

What is the impetus behind the inception of AAU Hockey Illinois?

Hockey Illinois was created to facilitate open communication among parents, coaches, players and rink owners who are interested in creating more full ice opportunities for Mite aged kids. We believe the parents and coaches that interact on a daily basis with these kids are best suited to make decisions on how their child will develop a love for the game while also developing his/her skill.

Why should a mite team play in AAU Hockey Illinois?

We all have our personal opinions on what is best for our kids, however, what is best for my son or daughter may not be best for yours. We are very careful to not "sell" anyone on why they should or shouldn't do something. The tag line for Hockey Illinois is "Your Game, Your Choice", we simply give parents, players, coaches and rink owners an opportunity to choose. Bottom line is if YOU want to play more full ice mite games, we have the venue for you to do it.

Is there a deadline to sign up?

We have far exceeded our goal of 12 teams and league scheduling has already started. However, we will find a way to help additional teams find games during the hockey season even though it may not be official league games. Teams can also form at any time and participate in tournaments nationwide. Because of the popularity of AAU Mite Hockey nationwide, we are contacted on a weekly basis from Michigan teams looking for showcase opportunities during the year. So visit the website www.aauhockeyillinois.org to learn how to sign up. For players looking for teams, visit the website and fill out the form so we can forward to a club near you.

Does Hockey Illinois offer something for teams with older (squirt+) players?

Hockey Illinois has been 100% focused on Mite aged players. However, there will be some squirt teams that evolve throughout the year in Illinois so they can compete for the Squirt National Championships in March (co-located with Mite Nationals and the Minnesota State High School Championship). The rest of the nation is way ahead of Illinois in creating AAU teams and clubs at the older levels. With Illinois, if the demand for it increases we would not hesitate to again create the forum for those interested at older levels.

What are some differences between AAU Hockey Illinois and USA Hockey?

While we have some governance nationally by AAU on playing rules, that is only to make the national qualifying tournaments an even playing field for national qualifying at the Mite and Squirt levels. Other than



that, states and leagues are given their own clean slate to develop rules that are location, ability and age appropriate. We are steadfast in our belief that the people to make the decisions about the game at Mite level are the coaches and parents of these kids. Another big difference is cost, while an AAU membership is more than half the cost of a USA Hockey membership, we are also very adamant about taking as much cost out of the game as possible. Like most other sports, we do this through the hard work of volunteers and relentless fundraising.

In what ways are the two organizations similar?

The only similarity is that we both give kids an opportunity to play the game.

Where does AAU stand nationally?

The rest of the country far exceeds where Illinois is in terms of AAU participation and how long AAU teams have been playing hockey. Michigan is predominantly AAU at the mite level and their state is pushing hard for AAU at the Squirt level. From coast to coast, AAU clubs and teams are forming on a daily basis to leverage the benefits of freedom of choice. While Illinois is only in its first year, we will be among the nations top in terms of AAU participation numbers.

Coming Event !

Columbus Day (National Qualifier)

October 11-13th, 2013 - Chicago, Illinois

Still room for 1 Mite 'A' level team, contact Rick at (847) 971-6880



Pekin Flyers

Pekin Flyers hockey team is an official AAU organization. It was one of the first teams in Central Illinois to switch to the AAU organization, giving our young players a chance to learn and grow as hockey players on full ice. This includes training, practices and games.

Our team consists mainly of '06-'07 year old Mites. We are a young team with lots of enthusiasm, drive, heart and most of all love for the game!

Pekin Flyers will be hosting their first ever tournament in their home town of Pekin, IL.

<http://www.nextgen-hockey.org/>



AAU Ice Hockey

October 1, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 7

Page 7

AAU Mite-Squirt Qualifier Tournaments

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

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

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



For additional information

Keith Noll

keithn@aausports.org

Bernie McBain

coachbernie@mnmadehockey.com

Keith Klock

keith@hockey-michigan.org

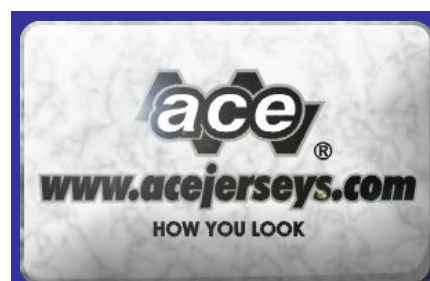
<u>Columbus Day Qualifier</u>	October 11-13, 2013	Chicago, IL
<u>Motown Showcase</u>	Nov. 9-11, 2013	Detroit, MI
<u>Empire Hockey League Thanksgiving Invite</u>	Nov. 28 - Dec. 1, 2013	California
<u>15th Annual Coyotes Cup</u>	Dec. 27-30, 2013	Phoenix, AZ
<u>Christmas</u>	Dec. 27-29, 2013	Minnesota
<u>President's Cup</u>	Feb. 14-16, 2014	Tulsa, OK
<u>AAU Pacific Regional</u>	Feb. 14-17, 2014	Riverside, CA

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 State Championships Tournaments

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

<i>AAU 2014 Michigan State Championships</i>	February 14-17, 2014
Mites & Squirts @ greater Detroit, MI rinks (exact location TBD)	
<i>AAU 2014 Illinois State Championships</i>	February 14-16, 2014
Mites & Squirts @ greater Chicago, Illinois (exact location TBD)	
<i>AAU 2014 Colorado State Championships</i>	February 21-23, 2014
Mites & Squirts @ Denver, Colorado	



www.acejerseys.com

(800) 830-0753 9-5 est

Proud national sponsor of
AAU Hockey

AAU Mite-Squirt Leagues

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

8U Prep League Massachusetts	www.nsyf.org	(8U)
American Revolution Showcase Series Louisiana, Oklahoma & Texas	www.americanrevolutionhockey.com	(8U-18U)
Choice League Minnesota	www.minnesotamadehockey.com	(6U-12U)
CIHF Ontario	www.cihfhockey.com	(6U-18U)
EAHA Connecticut	www.eahahockey.org	(6U-8U)
Empire Hockey League (EHL) California	www.empirehockeyleague.com	(6U-8U)
Tulsa Jr Oilers Oklahoma	www.tulsajroilers.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)
North East Hockey League Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont		(6U-18U)



AAU Ice Hockey

October 1, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 7

National Mite-Squirt Committee

AAU National Hockey Chairperson

Keith Noll
2409 Stout Rd., Suite #1
Menomonie, WI 54751
(715) 231-4000
slapshot@wwt.net

Committee Vice-Chair & Michigan

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

Committee Vice-Chair & Minnesota

Bernie McBain
7300 Bush Lake Rd.
Edina, MN 55439
(952) 746-9033
coachbernie@mnmadehockey.com

AAU Hockey - Pennsylvania

Charlie Sgrillo
nerchockey@yahoo.com

AAU Hockey – National Support Staff

Trevor Hartwig
(407) 934-7200
trevor@aausports.org

Crystal Mannino
(407) 828-2660
crystal@aausports.org

AAU Ice Hockey Leagues & Websites

www.aauhockey.org

Scholastic

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

Junior

MWJHL: www.mwjhl.com
NSHL: www.northernstateshockey.com
WSHL: www.wshl.org

Sports for all, Forever



Editor

Keith Kloock
21220 Wellington
Woodhaven, MI 48183
(734) 692-5158

AAU Leagues, Administrators, as well as Team Coaches and/or Managers are encouraged to submit articles and notices to:
keith@hockey-michigan.org

AAU Ice Hockey

Amateur Athletic Union
PO Box 22409
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830
(407) 934-7200
aausports.org

Keith Noll
National Hockey Chairperson
(715) 231-4000
aauhockey.org

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

Trevor Hartwig
Staff Member
(407) 934-7200
trevor@aausports.org

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

