

**2009 Advanced Committee
Hockey Operations Committee
Spring Meeting Report
April 25, 2009**

We have recently completed about half of our 2008-09 Advanced Programs for Minnesota Hockey players. We still have five big programs to finish up: Boys/Girls 15 Festival, Advance Dave Peterson Goaltender Camp, Boys Advanced 15 Camp and Girls Advanced 15 Camp.

Up to this point we have given about 2100 players from 16's through High School an opportunity through the following programs to compete, develop and be exposed – Boys/Girls 16/17's, Elite I Boys/Girls, Elite II Boys. So far in the process we have included about 350-400 coaches, evaluators and general managers. Our program directors made a point of incorporating: youth, college, high school and alumni coaches again in the processes.

We will still be serving in our other programs another roughly 1000 boys and girls in the 15's Boys and Girls programs.

This year was the second year for our expanded girls program. We again ran the Boys and Girls 16/17 Festivals and Final 54's together in Plymouth. It was exciting to watch 640 athletes compete at the same location. This year Ben Smith joined us for the final 54 in Plymouth and he really like the process and the increased level of play of the girls on the ice. He also thought it was pretty nice to see both the boys and girls together in the same building. One of Ben's quotes was, "it would sure be nice to see rest of country develop this many young female hockey players and watch the change from one year to next in talent not just having same girls each year." We will post the lists recommended to the USA National Summer Programs on Monday, April 27th.

I have asked each program to submit a report from each program with the plus's and minus's from each. The Advanced Committee will have a T-Con on April 29th at 7:00pm. If you have comments please direct to me or the following program directors who did a great, great job this year running their respective programs.

15 Girls – Kevin Dickie
15 Boys – John Perry
16/17 Girls – Tom Peart
16/17 Boys – Dave Bakke
Great 8 – Paul Moen
Chicago Showcase – Dave Stigen
Senior Classic – Tim Morris
Advanced Dave Peterson Goalie Camp – Steve Carroll

A special thanks to Carol Carlson who coordinates registration and Jim Bullard who processes all budget items. This year we fully utilized electronic registration which helped the process a lot. Jim and Carol also took time out of there schedules to meet with the respective GM's for all age groups.

All program information will be listed on the Minnesota Hockey website as well as both the boys and girls High School Coaches Association sites. We have secured dates for 2009 programs for the 16/17's boys and girls and working on dates for the 15 programs.

One project that Advanced Committee worked on and got kicked off was the development of a Fall Upper Midwest Elite I Girls League under the direction of Eric Johnson, to allow girls in the state the same opportunities as the boys for development and exposure without having to endure cost of a pre-post AAA program. This fall they will kick-off the first Girls Elite II league which will give more girls the same positive fall opportunity.

We also will be piloting a 15 advanced training program that hopefully will be taken regionally that incorporates USA Hockey, Division I and European National Coaches following the 15 Festival in June. As we plan for next year we will be looking at the HPC components and trying to upgrade and enhance all of our programs.

All of our programs gained Olympic Development status from USA Hockey and MSHSL so we have no eligibility problems with our players and coaches; a copy was submitted to President Dennis Green.

A complete report will follow at the summer meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike MacMillan – Advanced Chair