

LYNN OLSON
USA Hockey Girls'/Women's Rep.
5909 12TH Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55417
612/861-2671 Phone and Fax
lynnolson01@aol.com



MINNESOTA HOCKEY
Minnesota Amateur Hockey Association

USA HOCKEY GIRLS'/WOMEN'S SECTION REPORT
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USA Hockey Girls'/Women's Section Conference Calls

The Section has had several conference calls since January to work on descriptions for Tier I and Tier II hockey for girls, growth and retention information and adult women's hockey. Attached is the language the Section will submit for Tier I and Tier II Girls Hockey to the Youth Council.

Minnesota Hockey District 19 & Under Playoff

The playoff for the 19 & Under Girl's National Tournament bound teams was held February 27, 28 and March 1, 2009, at Schwan's Super Rink. Shattuck St. Mary's beat Minnesota Thoroughbreds 4-0 and 7-1 to advance to the USA Hockey Girls National Championships.

USA Hockey Girls/Women's National Championships

The National Tournament for Women's A, B, C and 30 & Over took place March 27-29, 2009, in Rochester, NY. Minnesota Blue J's won the A Division Women's National Championship, Maneraqs took third place in the A Division, and the Blue J Hawks won the B Division Women's National Championship. The Girl's National Championships were held the following weekend in Rochester, NY, April 1-5, 2009. Shattuck St. Mary's 19 & Under team won the Girls 19 & Under National Championship. Shattuck St. Mary's 16 & Under team advanced to the semi-finals and took third place. The 50 & Over Women's Tournament will take place April 24-26, 2009, in Ellenton, Florida, at the Ellenton Ice and Sports Complex. The Minnesota Ladyslippers have won the last two 50 & Over Tournaments. A 40 & Over Women's Tournament will be added in 2011.

I would like to recommend that Minnesota Hockey bid for the 2011 Girls and Women's National Championships and hold them at the Super Rink in Blaine, Minnesota. We have not hosted Nationals since 2002. With eight sheets of ice, they could accommodate both the Girls' and Women's divisions during the same week. The bidding will take place at the USA Hockey meeting in June, 2009.

USA Hockey Women's National Team

The USA Hockey Women's National Team won the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Women's World Championships in Hammelinna, Finland, in April, defeating Canada 4-1. Minnesotans on the team included Megan Van Beusekom, Natalie Darwitz, Gigi Marvin and Jenny Potter. The US won in 2005 and 2008, making this their third Gold Medal at the World Championships. The playoff and championship games were televised on Universal Sports and online.

USA Hockey Newsletter – Play Like a Girl

If you have any information or articles that you would like placed in the USA Hockey Newsletter, please send written stories by e-mail to me. Each District Representative for the Girls'/Women's Section has been asked to collect this information for the Section.

USA Hockey Girls'/Women's Section Minutes

Anyone interested in the minutes from the Section can contact me and I will send them a copy.

USA Hockey Girls' Player Development Camps

Dates for the Girls' Camps are:

Select 15 (1994) July 22-July 28 at ESL Sports Centre, Rochester, NY (102 players)

Select 16 (1993) June 26-July 2 at St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN (102 players)

Select 17 (1992) June 26-July 2 St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN (76 players)

USA Hockey Women's Olympic Tryouts

USA Hockey has announced the dates and sites for the U.S. Olympic Women's Team open tryouts. One tryout will take place on May 16-17, 2009, in Blaine, Minnesota, at the Schwan's Super Rink.

USA Women's Olympic Team and the Qwest Tour

Qwest Communications will serve as the title sponsor for the Qwest Tour, which will feature the 2009-10 U.S. Women's National Team playing 10 games throughout the United States. The Qwest Tour will stop in ten U.S. cities between September 2009 and February 2010, and will feature a trio of games against archrival Canada. Carol Carlson and I will be co-chairing the events in Minnesota for USA Hockey and will be looking for volunteers after our conference calls with the Marketing Department. Games in Minnesota are as follows:

September 25, 2009 vs. WCHA All-Stars at Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul, Minnesota

October 10, 2009 vs. University of North Dakota at Gardens Arena, Warroad, Minnesota

December 30, 2009 vs. Canada at Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul, Minnesota

January 12, 2010 vs. University of Minnesota at Ridder Arena, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Blaine Residency Program

Blaine, Minnesota, will continue to be the site for the USA Hockey Women's National Team and they will be training for the Olympics in February 2010. Mark Johnson was selected as the Coach for the 2010 Women's Olympic Team.

Warren Strelow Goalie Camp

Minnesota females invited to the Warren Strelow Goalie Camp May 28-31, 2009, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, are Alyssa Grogan and Megan Van Beusekom. There are a total of 11 female goalies included at the camp this year.

Respectfully submitted,

LYNN OLSON

Tier I Girls Hockey

The general intent of Tier I Girls Hockey is to provide an opportunity for the best female athletes to develop and compete at the highest level of hockey available in the United States, at 19 & Under, 16 & Under, 14 & Under, and 12 & Under, by and through USA Hockey and the Affiliate. Tier I hockey is for the best female athletes who wish to advance to the Tier I National Championships.

- A. Tier I organizations register Tier I teams and advertise them as such for tryouts, to recruit, entice, or in any way give the appearance of being a Tier I Program.
- B. Players must be properly registered with USA Hockey as per the USA Hockey Annual Guide.
- C. Tier I coaches and all Assistants should have their Level 4 USA Hockey coaching certificate.
- D. Tier I teams can recruit players, have open tryouts, and each organization may field a maximum of four (4) teams with no more than one team at each level: 19 & Under, 16 & Under, 14 & Under, and 12 & Under that can advance to the Tier I National Championship. No player shall be solicited nor shall the possibility of playing Tier I hockey be discussed with any player, prior to the conclusion of the USA Hockey National Tournaments except for an existing Tier I player for the particular Tier I Organization for which that player played during the existing season and then only by that Tier I Organization.
- E. Rosters at the 19 & Under and 16 & Under levels should not have out-of-district player restrictions. Rosters should be limited to a maximum of four (4) out-of-district players for levels 14 & Under, and 12 & Under. Residency is based on where the player's parent resides. An appeal can be made for a waiver if the number exceeds four. The District or Affiliate can impose stricter requirements if needed.
- F. Tier I teams have the intent to play at the highest competitive level possible.
- G. Tier I teams should include as a minimum or build their programs to include: strength & conditioning, on-ice skills, tactics & habits, hydration and recovery, mental preparation, training elite athletes, training and opportunity for upward mobility.

Tier II Girls Hockey

The general intent of Tier II Girls hockey is to provide an opportunity for intermediate female players to develop and compete in the United States at 19 & Under, 16 & Under, 14 & Under, and 12 & Under, by and through USA Hockey and the Affiliate. Tier II hockey is for intermediate level players who wish to advance to the Tier II National Championship.

- A. Tier II denotes an intermediate level of competition
- B. Tier II teams may participate in league play and players must be properly registered with USA Hockey as per the USA Hockey Annual Guide.
- C. Tier II tryouts are open tryouts and any team can apply to the Tier II league provided they meet all Affiliate Association Girls' and USA Hockey registration rules.
- D. It is strongly suggested Tier II teams or clubs refrain from openly recruiting outside their defined boundaries or outside their member organizations.
- E. Rosters should be limited to a maximum of four (4) out-of-district players for all levels: 19 & Under, 16 & Under, 14 & Under, and 12 & Under. Residency is based on where the player's parent resides. An appeal can be made for a waiver if the number exceeds four. The District or Affiliate can impose stricter requirements if needed.