

Disabled Hockey Section Report  
September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

### **USA Hockey Disabled Section:**

The 2011 USA Disabled Hockey Festival will be held in April in Dallas Texas.. This location is meant to grow the sport in the Texas area. The other location was Rochester New York and with the number of festivals held out east and the continuous growth in that area the section felt it was in our best interest to focus on those areas that could use more support.

Rule changes:. Several rule changes will be in place for disabled hockey, most specifically sled hockey, for the upcoming year.. The highlights are as follows:

1. The position of goalie in sled hockey will no longer be allowed to be an able bodied player.
2. Youth sled will be limited to youth that are age 17 and under by December 31<sup>st</sup> of that season.
3. Again, no able bodies will be allowed to play on the youth sled teams.
4. All coaches in all disciplines will be required to be a level one coach. They must verify their status prior to the season and place their numbers on all rosters and score sheets. Coaches must also sign all score sheets following USA Hockey sanctioned games.

Mike Hickey resigned his position as the Special Hockey rep to USA Hockey. Susie Miller from Minnesota has been names as his replacement and will represent Special Hockey to USA Hockey.

Minnesota received overwhelming praise for our management of the 2011 USA Disabled Hockey Festival. Much thanks to everyone for all their hard work and support to make this event not only possible but a memory making event for all those who attended.

USA Hockey is hosting a sled clinic in October of 2011 in Las Vegas, Nevada. This is the first clinic of many that are hoping to be established across the country to promote the sport in struggling or new areas.

### **Western Regional Sled Hockey Workshop**

**October 7-9, 2011  
Las Vegas, Nevada**

*Brought to you by*

**USA Disabled Sled Hockey**

Workshop will provide *take-home materials* and offer:

» Organization development:

- creating an organization,
- grant writing and fundraising,
- equipment and safety

» Coach and referee clinics on and off-ice

» Team USA demonstrations

» On-ice training including trying a sled

» Strength and conditioning presentation and demonstration

No fee for workshop, *courtesy of USA Hockey*  
Travel and lodging not included

Host hotel and great rate to be announced

### ***Minnesota Sled Hockey***

MN Sled had another successful year that culminated with two teams playing in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual USA Hockey Disabled Festival in April. Our numbers remain steady at about 50 skaters overall but due to different levels of commitment, we're beginning to investigate further categorizing our participants into competitive and non competitive (or participatory) teams/groups in order to allow those who are interested the opportunity to spend more time focusing on hockey techniques and strategy.

The adult team (The Minnesota Northern) competed in the Midwest Sled Hockey League for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive season competing against Chicago, St Louis and San Antonio in addition to the Phoenix and Colorado teams who joined the league on a 2 year temporary basis.

The 2011 - 2012 season is set to begin on Sunday, November 6, 2011! This season will continue to be played at the Richfield Ice Arena on Rink 2. Practice

times begin at 4:15 for the Ice Hawks and 5:30 for the Northern. For updated information visit their website at [www.mnsledhockey.org](http://www.mnsledhockey.org). Currently we are planning for 45-50 participants in our programs.

Over the summer we held a picnic for the association in Moose Lake, There was swimming, ladder ball, bocce ball and cornhole along with plenty of food and snacks for all. We had about 25-30 participants between players/coaches and their families and discussed. As far as on ice activities, the adult program organized and hosted ice time during the summer for anyone who wanted to come out and work on their skills and participate in friendly scrimmaging. Although participation fluctuated from week to week due to summer vacations, etc. most sessions were well attended and it was a great opportunity for some extra ice time. Administratively, the Board of Directors established a sub-committee to update their by-laws (as per MN Hockey's request), which will be presented to the entire membership for ratification during the month of September allowing for the establishment of an affiliate agreement with MN Hockey. The Board is also working on creating a new program for those who only want to skate once a week during the season and are not interested in nor able to participate (due to USA Hockey rules), in competition.

Currently we are working with the Henderickson Foundation to assist them in fundraising for MN Disabled Hockey. No other fundraising events/plans exist at this time. The largest concerns we have are funding the adult team participation in the MidWest Sled Hockey League in addition to providing funding for the youth and adult teams to help them in participating in the 2011 Disabled Festival in Dallas. The youth program is also investigating the possibility of playing in a home and home series with the Moorhead Sled Hockey program.

### ***Minnesota Warriors***

The Minnesota Warriors are now have 20 registered skaters. 2 goalies and one inactive player. We will lost 2 players to deployment the first week of May. Since January we have averaged a growth of 3.5 players a month. There is a centralized focus now on building our sled team.

MNWH had their first game April 1, 2011 at the Disabled Hockey Festival. The second game was played on home ice in Vadnais Heights. This game was the first ever face off between the two Warrior teams. There were approx 300 fans in the stands for this event.

MNWH is actively seeking grants, sponsorships and donations to pay for gear, sleds and ice time. The USOC grant will be finished on June 30, 2011. MNWH received a grant for \$5000 from RBC Hockey. This check will be disbursed before June 1, 2011.

The team plays and practices all year around. We have one game every other week and none have been disabled teams. The Warriors were part of the July 4th activities in Forest Lake. They were in the parade followed by a July 4th game. This will occur annually from here on out.

We do not have a kick off game but we will be having a Marquee game on November 11 in Chaska. We practice every Friday night at 10 pm in Vadnais Heights and Wednesdays we have some practices set but not weekly. We will have our schedule online by the 9th of Sept. We are working closely with Tee it up for the Troops, Hanger Prosthetics and Amputee Coalition of America. WE are in SERIOUS need for funding of ice and equipment as we are projecting a sled team by mid Oct. Our monthly meetings are the third Wed of each month in Vadnais Heights. Our annual meeting will be the third Wednesday of March, 2012.

### *Minnesota Special Hockey*

Minnesota Special Hockey was part of the Section 108 golf tournament in August. The Golf tournament is put on by a group of individuals who sit in Section 108 for the MN Wild Season. We spent the summer planning the addition of 2 new teams in Burnsville and Alexandria. This will bring the number of teams up to 7. We are exploring the option of adding a team in Moorehead. We have players interested and are pursuing this opportunity. We will have over 100 players participating in our program this year. We will be participating in the MN Disabled Hockey night at the MN Wild, selling programs and skating between periods.

Our season kick off will be an open skate, for old and new players, at Mariucci on October 16 from 2-4. Our annual meeting is also part of this from 2-2:30. The public is welcome to attend the meeting. Board meetings are held monthly and the minutes can be found on our website.

Our ice time schedules for practices and games can be found on our website [www.mnspecialhockey.org](http://www.mnspecialhockey.org). The season will be from November to March. With the addition of an out state team we hope to provide teams the opportunity to travel and play on another.

Our program was fortunate to receive the Eleven Who Care award for Susie Miller's work in founding the MN Special Hockey program. We will continue to work with Eagle Street Grill and Section 108 on the golf tournament as a major fundraiser. We have established a relationship with Wertz Bottling and look

forward to building a strong partnership with them. We have established relationships with many of the local hockey associations and arenas that have helped us to secure donated and/or discounted ice time for our teams. We continue to explore potential sponsors and donors to our program. Our goal this year is to raise funds to continue to grow our program and to be able to send teams to compete at the National Disabled Tournament in Dallas next spring.

Additional Special Hockey news and information can be found on our facebook page "Minnesota Special Hockey."

### *Minnesota Disabled Hockey*

1. Hendrickson Foundation

The Hendrickson Foundation was formed in July, 2011, to assist USA Hockey Minnesota with their disabled program.

The goal is to increase greater participation through awareness of their programs; and to work in providing financial assistance to families so their children can participate in the great game of hockey.

Recently they held a golf tournament sponsored by Fireside Pizza in Richfield. It was well attended. Larry Hendrickson was added to the HEP committee to assist with growing the program.

2. Disabled Hockey Coaches Clinic

We are tentatively planning a coaches clinic for the end of October. More information will be provided in the next month.

3. Minnesota Wild Disabled Hockey night

Once again this year the Minnesota Wild will be hosting Disabled Hockey Night during a Wild preseason game. This year's game is Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> vs. Edmonton. The Wild are donating a significant TBD # of tickets to Disabled Hockey players and families as well. Disabled Hockey will be featured and promoted throughout the game, including:

Disabled Hockey players will be selling game programs

A Disabled Hockey player will be the flag bearer

Disabled Hockey representatives will say "Let's Play Hockey!" before the game

A special hockey game will occur on the ice during the first intermission

A sled hockey game will occur on the ice during the second intermission

Disabled Hockey videos and announcements will run on the scoreboard throughout the game

We will be using this night to get further media coverage for Disabled Hockey on other media outlets

Stand up-amputee Hockey: No report from this program at this time.

Respectfully submitted;  
Antonia O'Brien  
USA Disabled Hockey Representative  
Minnesota District