

Minnesota Disabled Hockey Report  
Sept 16, 2020

**USA Disabled Hockey:**

Most 2020 events have been cancelled. Paralympic tryouts have been sent out by invitation only.

**Minnesota Disabled Hockey:**

*Minnesota Warriors:*

No report.

*Minnesota Sled Hockey:*

Our summer was highlighted with some new and creative solutions to the barriers caused by Covid19 pandemic. Unfortunately, we were forced to cancel our annual Boundary Waters Sled Combine in August, but we had Wednesday afternoons open sled hockey in July and August. Also, we started a new series called Sunday Sled Chats - again in July and August on Sunday evenings we hosted a Zoom chat for all our players and invited a guest speaker each week, national players like Chris Douglas and Josh Pauls, to share how their summer is going, specifically goals they have set and summer training techniques. These chats allowed our team to stay in touch and motivate each other to keep active and working hard towards their goals...even though we couldn't do much physically together as a team. These were huge successes each that I believe we will carry forward post pandemic. A big thanks to our hockey moms who came up with these creative solutions and initiated!

We will be starting our season October 11th at our home ice Coon Rapids Ice Center - following all required Covid-19 protocol. Competition against other teams will have to wait, really hoping this can resume early in 2021.

If you know of anyone in MN and the border towns that would like to try sled hockey, please direct them our way.

Rochester team update:

We have nothing to report this quarter. With many of our board employed by Mayo Clinic, working in our Mayo jobs and the COVID crisis did not allow for sled hockey action items. Our next board meeting is 9-17-2020 and our main objective will be discussing the 2020-2021 season.

*Minnesota Special Hockey:*

Minnesota Special Hockey registration is open! Our first day of practice is scheduled for Sunday November 1. MSH Policy and Preparedness Plan has been shared with our membership. We are currently planning our annual Alexandria Jamboree for January 2 and 3,2021. We are looking to continue to grow and look for new avenues for fundraising.

*Minnesota Blind Hockey*

August 13: MWBH hosted a stickhandling/shooting demo with vision simulators at the Hendrickson Foundation Golf Festival at Legends Golf Club in Prior Lake. We handed out our newly created brochures, networked and asked celebrities to sign two hockey sticks to be used for an upcoming auction. We had a combination of players, board members and coaches.

August 20: MWBH joined a Zoom meeting hosted by CKRI (Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute) Sports Rec program. The Zoom meeting included several CK families and individuals and other MN Hockey disciplines to introduce and discuss adaptive hockey opportunities in Minnesota.

September 10: MWBH launched a partnership with SotaStick. SotaStick created a t-shirt and sweatshirt integrating our logo using puff paint to provide a raised braille design. A portion of each sale benefits the Minnesota Wild Blind Hockey program. Buy yours at <https://sotastickco.com/collections/mn-wild-blind-hockey>

Our board continues to meet in anticipation of this coming season, hopeful to safely return to the ice through implementation of and adherence to Minnesota Hockey Return To Play Guidelines!

*Minnesota Disabled Hockey Committee:*

Coaching clinic: We are working on a virtual clinic to happen in the early fall. It will be a Zoom meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Antonia Gillen  
USA Disabled Hockey Director  
Minnesota District