

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
JUNE 28, 2009

USA Hockey Annual Congress

I attended the Girls'/Women's Section meetings, Youth Council meeting, American Development Model Town Hall meeting, Affiliate President's meeting and the Grow the Game Workshop. I will report on the Girls'/Women's Section meetings. The USA Hockey Districts gave verbal reports of issues that were occurring in their District and those issues were discussed.

Michele Amidon gave an update on the Women's National Program and the success of the USA Women's Team repeating as Gold Medal winners in the IIHF Women's World Championship in Hameenlinna, Finland, and the U18 Women's Team also repeating as Gold Medal winners at the IIHF World Women's U18 Championship. An Olympic Tryout for 100 female players was held at Schwan Super Rink in Blaine, Minnesota on May 16 and 17, 2009. Mark Johnson and Michele were present to evaluate the players.

Four initiatives have been part of the focus for the Girls'/Women's Section this past year: Tier I and Tier II, Growth and Retention, High School Hockey and Women's Hockey.

- A Tier I/Tier II criteria paper for girls was provided to the Youth Council for endorsement and was approved. A copy is attached.
- Growth and Retention has been discussed with a priority set to highly promote both boys and girls hockey immediately following the Olympics, which in the past has successfully increased the numbers of participants. The **Play Like a Girl** newsletter sent to everyone registered with USA Hockey has had excellent reviews. The next deadline for articles is the 1st of September and each District Girls'/Women's Representative has been asked to receive those articles to pass on to USA Hockey. We would also like to promote tournaments for females. If you are hosting a tournament in 2009-2010, please let me know and I will get it in the newsletter and on the USA Hockey web site.
- Girls High School National Tournaments are scheduled for 2010 with two separate categories – High School for Varsity/Public schools and Scholastic for Private/Prep/Parochial schools.
- Women's Hockey – The G/W Section is working with the Adult Council to facility more tournaments. Women's teams are invited to participate in any of the Labatt Blue Adult Classics, information is on the USA Hockey web site. A 40 & Over Women's National Tournament is being added in 2010 if enough teams are interested and will be held with the 50 & Over Women's National Tournament in Ellenton, Florida, April 29 to May 2, 2010.

USA Hockey National Championships

Joe Eppolito gave a wrap up report on the 2009 Girls/Women's USA Hockey National Championships in Rochester, New York. Mary Ann Robinson discussed the 2010 Girls/Women's Tier I USA Hockey National Championships preparations for Green Bay, Wisconsin. Patty Madden discussed the inaugural 2010 Girls' Tier II USA Hockey National Championships in Lansing, Michigan.

The Senior Women's B team (Minnesota Blue J Hawks) that won the 2007 and 2009 National Championships will be required to move up to the A Division pursuant to the rule in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

On behalf of Minnesota Hockey, I presented a bid to host the event at Schwan Super Rink from April 5-10, 2011 for both the Girls and Women at the same time. USA Hockey will conduct site visits for all the National Championship Tournaments as recommended by the Girls'/Women's Section and Youth Council and will announce the sites awarded the tournaments in late September or early October.

With the addition of Tier II Girls' Hockey Championships in 2010, I was asked. "Will Minnesota participate in the Tier I and II tournaments at 12 & Under, 14 & Under, 16 & Under and 19 & Under?"

USA Hockey Girls'/Women's Player Development Camps

Thirty women (6 Minnesotans) took part in the third annual Women's National Performance Evaluation Camp at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado from June 8-13.

Dates for the Girls' 2009 Select Camps are:

Select 15 (1994) July 21-July 28 at ESL Sports Centre, Rochester, NY (102 players)

Select 16 (1993) June 25-July 2 at St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN (102 players)

Select 17 (1992) June 25-July 2 St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN (76 players)

USA Hockey Women's National Teams

U18 Select Team Training Camp August 17-21, 2009 at Schwan Super Rink, Blaine, MN (22 players)

U18 Select Team 3 game series vs Canada August 24, 25 and 27 - 7 p.m. at Calgary, Alberta (22 players)

U18 National Team Development Camp, November 15-20 (tentative) Schwan Super Rink, Blaine, MN

2010 Olympic Tryout August 18-24, 2009, Schwan Super Rink, Blaine, MN (40-42 players)

2010 Olympic Team announced August 24, 2009 (23 players)

Official 2010 Olympic Team Roster announced December 16, 2009 (21 players – 18 skaters, 3 goalies)

USA Hockey Qwest Olympic Tour

Carol Carlson and I will be working with USA Hockey to promote the USA Hockey Women's National team in their Olympic Tour. Please put these dates in any local association newsletters and on your web sites and help us promote and sell out the arenas for these games:

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

October 10 vs University of North Dakota, Warroad, Minnesota

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

USA Hockey President's Award Winners

Minnesotans receiving awards included: Lou Nanne received a Distinguished Achievement Award, Mike Lee from Roseau received the Dave Peterson Goaltender of the Year Award, Rodger Moy from Burnsville received the US Adult Ironman of the Year Award; and the 2009 U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team, the 2009 U.S. Women's Under-18 Team, the 2009 U.S. Women's National Team and the 2009 U.S. National Sled Hockey Team were all honored for winning Gold Medals this year.

Women's Tournament in Napa Valley, California

Pacific District Representative, Margo Dreyer, advised that they are hosting a Women's Tournament in August featuring Wine Tasting in Napa Valley. A flyer will be provided soon.

USA Hockey Level 4 Women's Coaching Symposium

The USA Hockey Level 4 Women's Coaching Symposium will be held at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota, August 21-23, 2009, in conjunction with the Olympic Team tryouts. There is no limit on the number of Level 3 coaches who may attend this Women's Coaching Symposium. Forms will be available on the USA Hockey web site or contact Mike MacMillan.

USA Hockey National Team Training Camp

Schwan Super Rink in Blaine will continue to be the home for the centralization program for the Women's National team as they prepare for the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia.

USA Hockey Girls'/Women's Fall Meeting – Chicago, Illinois

Fall meeting is scheduled for September 19-20, 2009, which is the same weekend as the Minnesota Hockey meeting. Anyone interested in the minutes from the Section can contact me and I will send them a copy.

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 must abide by the USA Hockey CEP criteria defined in the Annual Guide.
- D. Tier I teams can recruit players and have open tryouts. Each organization may field no more than one team at each level that can advance to a 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 will 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 teams register as Tier II. 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 coaches and assistants must abide by the USA Hockey CEP criteria defined in the Annual Guide.
- D. Tier II tryouts are open tryouts and any team can apply to a Tier II league provided they meet all Affiliate Association Girls' and USA Hockey registration rules.
- E. Rosters will 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.
- F. It is strongly suggested Tier II teams or clubs refrain from openly recruiting outside their defined boundaries or outside their member organizations.

Approved by USA Hockey Youth Council June 5, 2009