



January 28, 2012

To: Texas/Oklahoma Associations, Texas Amateur Hockey Association (TAHA)
From: Ted Skinner, TAHA President
Re: **2012 Boys Texas Affiliate Camp (TAC)**

I am pleased to announce that the Boys Texas Affiliate Camp (TAC) will again be hosted this year by TAHA and will be held at the Valley Ranch Dr. Pepper/Stars Center in Irving, Texas, on March 16 -18, 2012. This letter contains information pertinent to the Camp and should be distributed to all coaches within your respective associations who will be nominating players.

Any questions pertaining to the goals and objectives (e.g. nominations, evaluations, etc.) of TAC should be sent to Ted Skinner at teskinner4@gmail.com. Questions regarding TAC logistics/planning (e.g. registration, schedule, etc.) should be sent to Camp Director Mark Servaes at mark.servaes@us.nestle.com.

TAC Objectives

The objective of TAC is to evaluate those players who, in the judgment of their coaches, are the best players at their respective position and age group (Boys: 1995, 1996, 1997, & 1998). Based upon each player's performance in a series of structured scrimmages, TAC evaluators will select a limited number of players at each age group and position to represent TAHA at the Rocky Mountain District (RMD) Player Development Camp, which is scheduled for May 2-6 at the Olympic Oval in Salt Lake City, Utah, for the 1995-1997 age groups and in June 26-July 1 in Colorado Springs for the 1998 age group. Players selected from the 1995-1996-1997 age groups to advance to Salt Lake City will be eligible for the National Select Festivals in the summer, but no National Select Festival will be held this year for the 1998 age group, thus the Camp in Col. Sprgs. in late June.

Similar to last year, this year's TAC evaluators will be experienced hockey coaches from outside the state of Texas and Oklahoma. Our goal is to improve the integrity and consistency of the player evaluation process by eliminating the natural biases that can occur when coaches are evaluating groups of players that include those from their own team and/or association. The high number of Texas and Oklahoma players who were selected for the Festival teams and camps last year validated our approach of using out-of-state evaluators.

Player Nominations

Similar to prior camps, any player may be cut as early as 15 minutes into evaluations. Each nominating coach and association should set expectations with their players of the extremely competitive nature of TAC. The best players from Texas and Oklahoma will compete for relatively few spots at the RMD camp. In addition, because of the number of overall participants at the RMD Camp in Salt Lake City and Colorado Springs this year, players selected at TAC to move on to the RMD Camp will be very limited. Therefore, each respective association is requested to make **absolutely certain** each nominated player belongs at TAC and is committed and available to participate, both at TAC and the RMD Camp in SLC on May 2-6 and Colorado Springs June 26-July 1.

Since the competition is always extremely intense, each coach must adhere to the following ground rules when considering which of their players to nominate for TAC:

- TAHA wants to send "*the best of the best*" to the RMD Camps. Thus, coaches should nominate the most highly skilled players at each position (i.e. **first-line** forwards, defensemen, and **starting** goaltender), and should take time to set each nominated player's expectations of the extremely competitive nature of TAC.
- Players nominated to attend TAC must be members in good financial standing of their respective association and with USA Hockey.
- Players must be citizens of the United States. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Nominations can only come from a player's coach, association officer, or coaching director— not from parents.
- Coaches must communicate with nominated players to confirm their availability and commitment to participate at TAC. Please confirm with each player that they will accept the nomination before any names are submitted.
- Evaluators will be given the discretion to make "cuts" as early as 15 minutes into the first session. Coaches are therefore asked to keep this in mind prior to nominating a player for TAC, so as to prevent the inevitable disappointment and embarrassment a player experiences when asked to make an early exit from any tryout or evaluation of this type.

Registration Process

All associations must follow the registration process that is outlined in the steps below. **NO INDIVIDUAL NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

- Coaches should nominate qualified players on their respective teams and submit a list of players to their association president or coaching director.
- The association president or coaching director should review their entire list of nominated players, and then **rank order by birth year and position.**
- Once acceptable, the association president or coaching director shall submit the list in the attached Excel file to mark.servaes@us.nestle.com no later than **Fri Feb. 24th**. Coaches should confirm availability of all nominated players to attend TAC given potential schedule conflicts with spring break, league playoffs, etc.
- By **Mon Feb. 27th**, the association president or coaching director shall receive an email stating that the list of nominated players is either approved or approved with exceptions for certain players not accepted.
- The list of approved players by association will then be submitted to a third party service (e.g. Rocky Mountain Register or RMR) that has been contracted by TAHA to administer the electronic player registration process. TAHA will submit the list of approved players to RMR in the same format received (e.g. name, DOB, position, association, team, & email address), so all data submitted must be accurate, **especially the email address, which is the ONLY means to get registered for TAC.**
- RMR will send an email to each approved individual player with instructions on how to electronically register for TAC, in addition to remitting payment electronically. This year's camp fee is **\$125 per player** to be collected by RMR via credit or debit card only (Visa or MC only). Personal checks will **NOT** be accepted.
- Each approved player must register with RMR by **Fri Mar. 2nd** to participate in TAC (**NO EXCEPTIONS**).
- **TAHA reserves the right to limit the size of the camp to 300 players with association player rankings as a screening tool. All coaches and associations are requested to be candid and objective in their assessments. If an entire team is nominated, the entire team will be rejected.**
- **NOMINATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE FEBRUARY 24TH DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Schedule

A detailed schedule is provided below, but schedule modifications may be necessary, which if needed, will be published by March 13th. Each association should communicate any schedule changes to all nominated players.

Evaluations of all players will start on Friday, March 16th with session(s) devoted by birth year. Upon arriving at the DPSC Valley Ranch in Irving, Texas (see map on pg 3), players are to check in at the TAC registration desk. **All players must provide definitive proof of U.S. citizenship (passport or birth certificate) at this time.** Pre-numbered jerseys will be issued to each player, and locker room assignments will be posted.

Goalie-only session(s) will be held after the 2nd session for each age group (late Fri for 98/97, mid-Sat for 96/95) to enhance the evaluation process. When each 2nd session is concluded, a list will be posted of players who are invited back to attend the final two sessions. Final cuts for each age group will be made after Sunday's sessions.

2012 Boys Schedule

Rink/sheet	Date	Day	Start	End	Home	Away
VR1 Green	16-Mar	Friday	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	98-1	98-2
VR2 Hitchcock	16-Mar	Friday	8:30 AM	9:30 AM	98-3	98-4
VR1 Green	16-Mar	Friday	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	97-1	97-2
VR2 Hitchcock	16-Mar	Friday	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	97-3	97-4
VR1 Green	16-Mar	Friday	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	96-1	96-2
VR2 Hitchcock	16-Mar	Friday	11:30 AM	12:30 PM	96-3	96-4
VR1 Green	16-Mar	Friday	12:30 PM	1:30 PM	95-1	95-2
VR2 Hitchcock	16-Mar	Friday	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	95-3	95-4
VR1 Green	16-Mar	Friday	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	98-2	98-3
VR2 Hitchcock	16-Mar	Friday	2:30 PM	3:30 PM	98-4	98-1
VR1 Green	16-Mar	Friday	3:30 PM	4:30 PM	97-2	97-3
VR2 Hitchcock	16-Mar	Friday	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	97-4	97-1
VR1 Green	16-Mar	Friday	5:15 PM	6:15 PM	98G	97G

VR1 Green	17-Mar	Saturday	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	96-2	96-3
VR2 Hitchcock	17-Mar	Saturday	8:30 AM	9:30 AM	96-4	96-1
VR1 Green	17-Mar	Saturday	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	95-2	95-3
VR2 Hitchcock	17-Mar	Saturday	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	95-4	95-1
VR1 Green	17-Mar	Saturday	11:45 AM	12:45 PM	96G	95G
VR1 Green	17-Mar	Saturday	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	98 Gold	98 Blue
VR1 Green	17-Mar	Saturday	3:30 PM	4:45 PM	97 Gold	97 Blue
VR1 Green	17-Mar	Saturday	5:00 PM	6:15 PM	96 Gold	96 Blue
VR1 Green	17-Mar	Saturday	6:30 PM	7:45 PM	95 Gold	95 Blue
VR1 Green	18-Mar	Sunday	7:00 AM	8:15 AM	98 Blue	98 Gold
VR1 Green	18-Mar	Sunday	8:45 AM	10:00 AM	97 Blue	97 Gold
VR1 Green	18-Mar	Sunday	10:30 AM	11:45 AM	96 Blue	96 Gold
VR1 Green	18-Mar	Sunday	12:15 PM	1:30 PM	95 Blue	95 Gold

1. Cuts will be made after each age group completes its 2nd ice session.
2. Selections to RMD will be posted on the TAHA website Sun.

Rocky Mountain District Camp

At the conclusion of each age group session on Sunday, a list of those players who have been selected to advance to the Rocky Mountain District Camp will be posted on the TAHA website. **Each player selected to advance to the RMD Camp will be contacted via email to register and pay the \$275.00 RMD Camp fee** The Rocky Mountain District Camp will be held May 2-6 at the Olympic Oval in Salt Lake City, Utah.

TAC Waivers to Rocky Mountain District Camp

In order to ensure a fair evaluation, we fully expect everyone to attend the Texas Affiliate Camp. Accordingly, no waivers will be granted by TAHA to attend the RMD Camp.

Accommodations

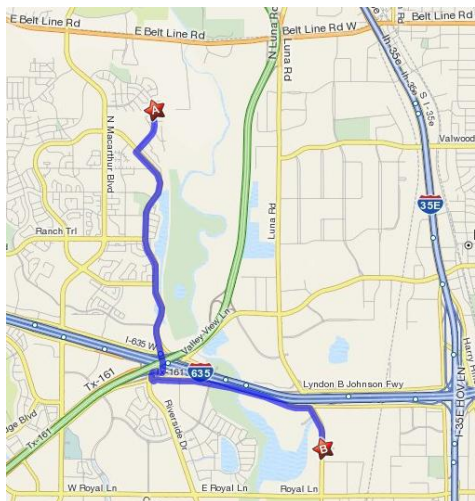
Special TAC accommodations have been made at the **DoubleTree Club Hotel** about 10mins from the rink. The block of rooms will be held until **Friday March 2**, so just ask for the **TAH** code (\$79/night incl. breakfast for 2).

Dr Pepper StarCenter – Valley Ranch (see A)

211 Cowboys Pkwy
Irving, TX 75063
Phone: (972) 831-2453
Fax: (972) 831-2406

DoubleTree Club Hotel Dallas (see B)

11611 Luna Road
Dallas, TX 75234
Phone: (800) 222-8733 or (972) 506-0055
www.Doubletree Club Hotel Dallas



Thank you for getting this information to your coaches, and your commitment to meet the **February 24th** deadline.