



Minnesota Hockey Membership Development Report April 15, 2018



The Minnesota Hockey Membership Development Committee continues to make a significant and effective effort to increase the awareness of and participation in hockey through the utilization of available Minnesota Hockey and USA Hockey growth programs.

We are excited to report that we have achieved a fifth consecutive season of growth at the 8 & Under level. According to unofficial year end reports, we finished the 2017-18 season with **18,839 8U players**, which is **837 (4.7%)** more than last year's final total. That means we will set a new state record for total 8U players for the third consecutive season!

March 3rd – Try Hockey For Free

On March 3rd, USA Hockey hosted the second Try Hockey For Free day of the 2017-18 season in conjunction with Hockey Weekend Across America. In Minnesota, we had 31 communities host events and introduced 523 new players to hockey. These numbers represented an increase in hosts sites but a decline in overall participants compared to previous years.

Grant Update

Gear Up Minnesota! – The new-look Gear Up Minnesota program has been announced. With the support of Dick's Sporting Goods we will be distributing gift cards to grant recipients instead of sets of equipment. Applications will be accepted through June 15. Recipients will be announced in late June and distribution will occur in late August or early September.

Pass the Puck Grant – The Membership Development Committee has received 22 and reviewed 10 grant applications so far in the 2017-18 season. Nine associations have been approved for funds through our grant programs totaling \$11,000.