

# TEXAS GIRLS HOCKEY

Stronger Together

Dare to Dream, Make a Difference

PRESENTED BY: TAHA



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Over the past seven years, girl's hockey has grown exponentially in TAHA. Despite this growth and success, many Texas cities continue to operate autonomously.

The TAHA girls growth initiative is a projected growth plan to grow girls hockey in Texas through 2026. This plan encourages each TAHA community partner to begin developing a local girls hockey program at the grassroots level as well as outlines a clear, structured growth plan for each program - and each player - over time. The goal of this growth plan is not to create competition among community partners, but rather to create partnerships to systematically grow the local girls' communities while advancing girls to the next level of competition when appropriate, including collegiate hockey and beyond.

The projected growth path outlined by the TAHA girls growth initiative is essential for keeping girls hockey players in the TAHA community. Over time, the lack of communication of opportunities across the state has driven many girls to seek opportunities not just outside of their community, but outside of the state. With girls leaving the TAHA community in pursuit of other opportunities, many programs have been unable to grow. Not only does this transience affect each program, but can significantly impact the individual growth and development of individual players as well. While TAHA would like to provide every player with the opportunity to play at the highest level, the goal of TAHA is not just to push girls up the ranks of competitive play, but also to provide a sense of community and love for the game that will encourage girls to remain lifelong participants in USA hockey long after they have graduated.

Dallas has been a long-standing pioneer in establishing a successful growth path for girls hockey. For nearly a decade Dallas youth hockey has worked closely with the Dallas Stars Association to establish the successful programs you see today. Though there were many obstacles and challenges throughout the last several years, Dallas has continued to grow a successful program and can serve as a guide to other TAHA communities looking to grow girls hockey state-wide.

Ultimately, it is time for the TAHA community leaders to come together to build up the community of girls hockey in Texas. We are STRONGER TOGETHER. As a unified committee, TAHA has the opportunity to provide better developmental opportunities for girls and keep Texas talent in Texas. With each community partner helping to lay a foundation for player development, our girls will be better equipped to compete at the next level. The goal of the TAHA girls growth initiative is to encourage girls to dare to dream. As an organization, we are stronger together, and as one community we can make a difference.

**Mike Salekin**

*TAHA Women's Section President*

As the parent of a female hockey player, I have seen every aspect of the effects of this sport on my daughter. She's been told she can't play because she's a girl. She's worked harder to be the only female on the ice, but ultimately, she has gained a level of growth and connection from this sport that is unparalleled. Her experience can be attributed to her drive and determination, parent support and coaching. We have had successful experiences in three Texas cities because we were able to see past politics and egos to find the coaches that we respected and were willing to fight for her success.

Imagine if every female hockey player in the state of Texas could be confident that she had that same level of support as she progresses through her own path playing a sport that she loves. Instead of wondering what each next step will be, our girls should be able to map out a path to however they want their hockey career to progress with the support and encouragement of everyone in their home city and beyond.

Our encouragement and cheering needs to extend beyond the glass. Our daughter played co-ed through the 14u level and continues to play high school with the boys. But her transition to an all girls competitive team has opened up doors to the future of her hockey career, and more importantly, created friendships and bonds with girls that share something really special with her. There is a significant difference in the sport of hockey when it is dominated by women. The support between teams is next level. The team connection is immeasurable.

After a heartbreaking loss in Omaha, NE at the USA Hockey High School Nationals. The winning team walked into our locker room and congratulated our girls on a battle well fought. There were hugs and tears and most importantly support. Because playing a male dominated sport with aspirations that go farther than that tournament is what they all want for themselves and what they all want for each other. It's a special community.

As you look forward to the future of hockey for your daughter, I ask that you consider what is best for her and for every female player in the state of Texas. It's no longer about how you would do it better or what you need as a parent. It's about the path that your daughter is dreaming about. It's time we trust each other to ensure that each and every Texan female hockey player from house league to D1 college level has what they need to play the game.

With the implementation of the TAHA Dare to Dream Hockey Program, we give our girls the opportunity to develop in their home city, connect and play with girls from each city and progress through a path of success that fits each player. It's a way to connect, collaborate and be a part of something big.

## **Mother's Perspective**

*(of a current rural girl hockey player)*

# **STRONGER TOGETHER**

Working together to create a TAHA premium girls hockey community

## **PATH**

Created for every TAHA female youth hockey player

## **CELEBRATE & CULTIVATE**

The growth of the TAHA female hockey player

## **DEVELOP**

A system to facilitate growth of the TAHA female hockey player to her max potential

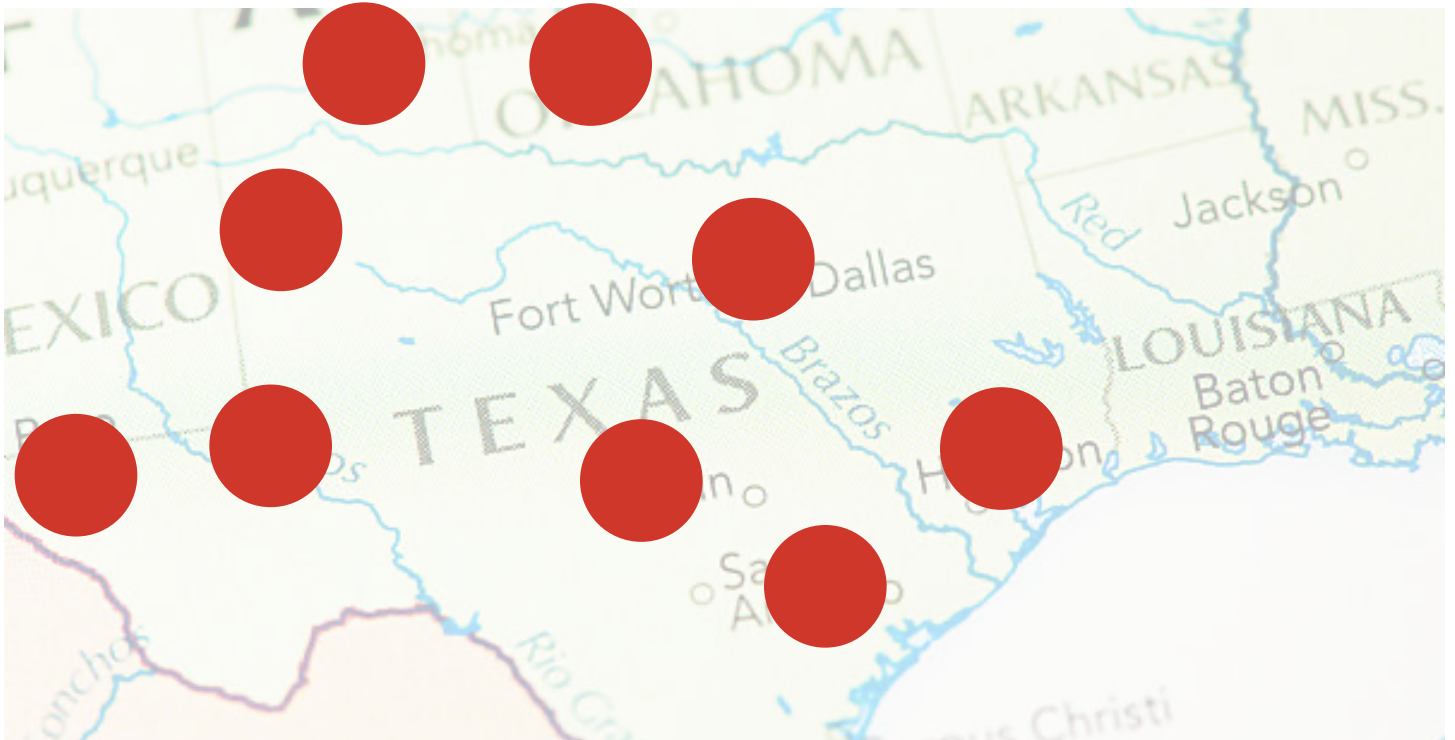
## **DREAM**

To give proper exposure to female hockey opportunities

## **FINANCIAL**

Model that works for both the athlete and members

# MEMBERS



# PARTNERS





# TAHA GIRLS GROWTH INITIATIVE

Tier 2/House players must get TAHA approval to play out-of-community



**AUSTIN**

**2021**

**2024**

**2026**

10/12U



14 Tier 2



16 Tier 2



High School



**HOUSTON**

**2021**

**2024**

**2026**

10/12U



14 Tier 2



16 Tier 2



High School





# TAHA GIRLS GROWTH INITIATIVE

Tier 2/House players must get TAHA approval to play out-of-community



**DFW**

**2021**

**2024**

**2026**

10/12U

14 Tier 2

14 Tier 1

16 Tier 2

16 Tier 1

19 Tier 2

19 Tier 1

High School

✓  
**ALL LEVELS**



**WEST TEXAS**

**2021**

**2024**

**2026**

10/12U



14 Tier 2



16 Tier 2

High School



# PATH TO COLLEGE

Stronger sustained participation by creating and communicating a decisive path for every female hockey player to **Dare 2 Dream!**

All TAHA members support the proven path to college through Tier 1 & U19 T2

## College



NCAA DI

NCAA DIII

19u

TIER 1

TIER 2



16u

TIER 1



14u

TIER 1

TIER 2

10u

12u

TIER 2

TIER 2

DEVELOPMENT

“GRASS ROOTS”





# TAHA COLLEGE COMMITMENTS

## CURRENT PLAYERS

Meg Hildner	RPI	NCAA DI	2003 / 2021
Kaylee Lewis	University of Vermont	NCAA DI	2004 / 2022
Brooke Dineen	Johnsnon and Wales University	NCAA DIII	2002 / 2021
Scarlet Ditoro	SUNY Canton	NCAA DIII	2002 / 2021
Kendall Parker	SUNY Canton	NCAA DIII	2002 / 2021
Ellie Warhoftig	Trine University	NCAA DIII	2002 / 2021
Victoria Petruska	Long Island University - Brooklyn	NCAA DI	2004 / 2021
Erika Shirer	Penn State	NCAA DI	2002 / 2021
Bronwyn Khangsar	RIT	NCAA DI	2003 / 2021
Lily Martinson	Providence	NCAA DI	2003 / 2021
Audrey Shirer	Penn State	NCAA DI	2002 / 2021
Avery Anderson	Northeastern	NCAA DI	2003 / 2021
Eleanor Winges	Harvard	NCAA DI	2003 / 2021
Mika Jahnke	RPI	NCAA DI	2003 / 2021
Makayla Young	SUNY Canton	NCAA DIII	2002 / 2020

## FORMER PLAYERS

Kimmy Hullum	Morrisville	NCAA DIII	Marlee Sprott	Grand Valley State	ACHA DI
Amelia Brown	Western New England	NCAA DIII	Kaitlin Finnegan	Lindenwood	NCAA DI
Callie Rowbottom	Mercyhurst	NCAA DI	Elizabeth Spoon	Wilkes University	NCAA DIII
Carlie Foxhoven	Liberty	ACHA DI	Sydney Rarick	Lindenwood	NCAA DI
Abby Shauer	Mercyhurst	NCAA DI	Madison Lawrence	UNH	NCAA DI
Alexa Sunddal	Concordia University	NCAA DIII	Jayne Smothers	McKendree	ACHA
Darla Knuth	Michigan State	ACHA DI	Akari Kubo	Wesleyan	NCAA DIII
Emma Brown	Ohio State	ACHA	Rachel Potoker	Bowdoin College	NCAA DIII
Hannah Schotten	Liberty University	ACHA DI	Brayden James	Manhattanville College	NCAA DIII
Johna Ezzard	SUNY Cortland	NCAA DIII	Amanda Curtin	Concordia University	NCAA DIII
Kateria Heithaus	Kings College	NCAA DIII	Carrie Atkinson	Lindenwood	NCAA DI
Kylah Krause	UW - Eau Claire	NCAA DIII	Colby Beigs	Utica College	ACHA DIII
Kylie Fahmer	Northland College	NCAA DIII	Courtney Walpole	Endicott College	NCAA DIII
Landry Phelps	Arizona State	ACHA	Jade Walsh	Adrian College	NCAA DIII
Madison Laue	Robert Morris	ACHA	Jessica Bowen	Bowdoin College	NCAA DIII
Madison Lawson	Morrisville State	NCAA DIII	Katie McGovern	Minnesota-Duluth	NCAA DI
Michelle Kaczmarek	Colorado State	ACHA	Kristen Perry	Colorado State	NCAA DII
Priyanya Rajagopal	Michigan State	ACHA	MacKenzie Meegan	New England College	NCAA DIII
Rachel Rice	Nazareth	NCAA DIII	Maddison Rigsby	Becker College	NCAA DIII
Riena Jahnke	RPI	NCAA DI	Melissa Linville	University of Minnesota	ACHA
Sydney Jones	Connecticut College	NCAA DIII	Miranda Bell	Bowdoin College	NCAA DIII
Teagan Ries	Colorado State	ACHA	Olivia Hawes	Hamilton College	NCAA DIII
Valeria Koenig	Wikes University	NCAA DIII	Rachel Pius	Plymouth State	NCAA DIII
Sierra Winter	Wisconsin-Stevens Point	NCAA DIII	Sara Huff	Plymouth State	NCAA DIII
			Stephanie Evans	Daniel Webster	NCAA DII

# CELEBRATE & CULTIVATE

## TEAM TEXAS SUMMER TEAMS

**Age Groups:** ALL  
**Programs:** 2 Practice Weekends  
2 Tournaments

**Operated by TAHA in coordination  
with DSE**

## BIG SISTER, LITTLE SISTER

Big Sisters act as a mentors and give support and advice to the Little Sisters. This can be in the form of in person meetings, social media, monthly zoom calls, etc.

## CELEBRATE GIRLS HOCKEY WEEKENDS

Partner with our members and host events open for all female hockey players within TAHA. All members are asked to participate and encourage player participation.

## TAHA GIRLS SOCIAL MEDIA

TAHA Girls website and social media used to publically announce girls hockey events and celebration throughout TAHA.

Bringing the TAHA Girl's Hockey Community Together to Celebrate & Cultivate.

**#StrongerTogether**

# CELEBRATE & CULTIVATE

## PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Committee member will submit an application for the "Player of the Month". The winner will be celebrated on social media and be rewarded with tickets to a Dallas Stars game where she will be showcased.

**Player of the Month**

**Favorite Dallas Stars Player**  
Miro Heiskanen

**Hometown**  
Arlington, TX

**Team**  
Dallas Stars Elite

**Position**  
Center

**#77**

**Presented By: Dallas Stars**

**Katelyn Armstrong**  
Team Texas Girls Hockey

SHOTS 32 Period 3 SHOTS 18  
13:29

3 3

# CELEBRATE & CULTIVATE

## PLAYER TRADING CARDS (8U-12U)

Trading Cards for ALL TAHA 12U, 10U and 8U Female Player

Create Girls Hockey Comradery, Passion, and Community Awareness



Trading cards will be a new tangible way to help girls connect! With these trading cards, the girls will be able to trade these cards with other girls on opposite teams! Through this the girls will be able to learn about each other and develop a comradery for these girls and hopefully develop lifelong friends. Hockey is a unique community that helps connect players all over the nation, with these playing cards, it will be a start to connecting girls to help each other and build a friendship which will cultivate a love for the game.



# CELEBRATE & CULTIVATE

## ARENA BANNERS

Banners will be hung up in rinks for girls that play college hockey (Ex: a girl from Houston plays D1 or D3 college hockey will have a banner hung in her home rink where she is from.)

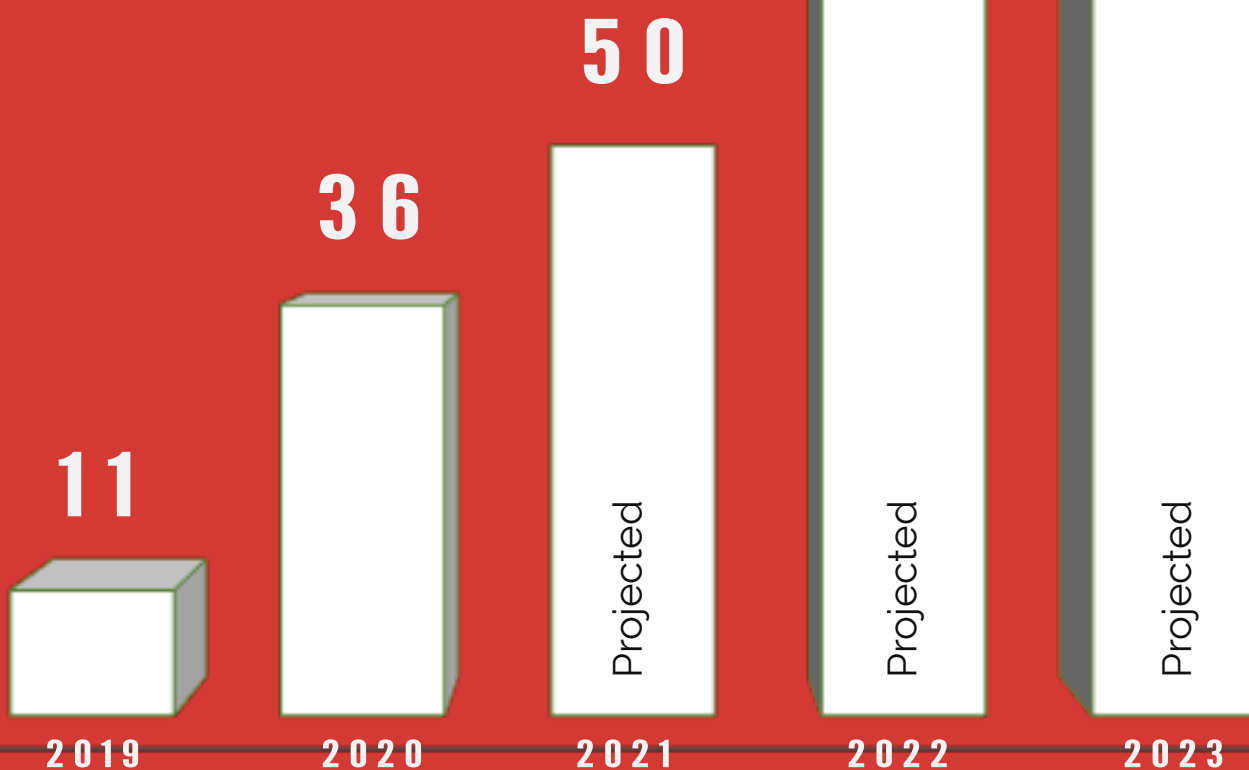
The banners will help give exposure and recognition of a female hockey player to help inspire future generations from all parts of Texas.

We believe showing success stories is the driving force growing the love of the game for the next generation female hockey player.



# “START SMALL & GROW” DSMHL GIRLS DEVELOPMENT

By the Numbers



# “START SMALL & GROW” DSMHL GIRLS DEVELOPMENT

By the Numbers

## Problem

- Girls pushed out of travel hockey with travel team consolidation
- Girls do not get the same opportunity to make a U10 Travel Team as a Boy
- Girls want to play on an all-girls team
- Girls falling behind in development from U10 to U14

## Solution

Utilize the experiences and resources of the Dallas Stars to create the Girls Development program

## 227% INCREASE





# GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



The popularity of high school hockey has and will continue to grow in Texas, and more and more girls are showing interest, eventually leading to more exposure to the growing the girls game. As a result, girls from all over the state of Texas will eventually have the opportunity to compete in a girls State High School Hockey Tournament where the winner will go on to represent TAHA at Nationals.

The goal would be to have a highly competitive High School State Championship for Girls by 2026 with all areas of TAHA represented.



# DARE TO DREAM MAKE IT HAPPEN

**IT STARTS WITH A DREAM** "Visualize your Dream and make a commitment. Having a Dream is what makes life exciting. Never underestimate the power of a Dream. It will change your life. A Dream gives you the ability to determine your future."

**THE GREATER THE STRUGGLE, THE GREATER THE VICTORY.** "Most people allow struggles and fear of failure to stop them. The key is to learn from your struggles and move on. Failures will make you stronger and give you the information you need to reach your Dream. Struggle will prepare you for success. Without struggle there is no success."

**EXCUSES WILL KILL YOUR DREAM.** "What we're really talking about here is commitment. Until you make a commitment to your Dream, it's not really a Dream ... it's just another fantasy full of excuses. Fantasies don't come true because they're not real, we're not committed to them. When we make commitments, we eliminate excuses and they become Dreams ... and Dreams are definitely real."

**PREPARE FOR YOUR DREAM.** "Preparation is what comes from struggle. Knowledge comes from preparation. These are the elements that pave the road to your Dream. If we do not prepare we will not succeed. Set your goals and pursue your Dreams with all your heart. If you miss a goal, don't quit, reset it! You just need to learn more ... step by step you will win!"

**FOCUS ON YOUR DREAM AND NEVER QUIT.** "It is always too soon to quit. If you quit, you can't succeed. By achieving your Dream you will be an inspiration to others. You will set the example and make an enormous impact on the World. Make it happen!"

**ALWAYS HAVE A DREAM.** "Dreams give us energy to go to new levels. Dreams change lives ... the power of life is in your Dreams!"

# DREAM | OPPORTUNITIES



**OLYMPIC & NATIONAL TEAM**



**U22 SELECT & U18 WNT**



**COLLEGIATE TEAMS**



**COACHING, BROADCASTING,  
VIDEO, MARKETING, ETC...**

# **CALL TO ACTION**

**1. FORM A COMMITTEE**

**2. LISTEN & REVISE OUR PLAN BASED  
ON COMMITTEE FEEDBACK**

**3. HOST A KICK-OFF EVENT**

**4. COMMUNICATE & CULTIVATE THE  
OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR GIRLS  
HOCKEY WITHIN TAHA**

**5. CELEBRATE & COMMUNICATE THE PATH**

# **TAHA, GROWING GIRLS HOCKEY TOGETHER**

- GIRLS TIER 2 TEXAS LEAGUE**
- GIRLS TIER 2 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**
- GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**
- GIRLS COMMUNITY JAMBOREE WEEKENDS**
- SUPPORTING DREAMS, MOVING PLAYERS  
ON, HOCKEY PLAYERS FOR LIFE**



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