



Dear Mr. Tearse:

Thanks for your interest. Ice Hockey in Argentina is a rare sport.

Here in Ushuaia, we practice on ice during winter, on a frozen pond located into the city. Before and after winter, inline hockey comes in handy, as a replacement. Since year 2003, we are trying to develop this wonderful sport. You can watch some pictures at <http://groups.msn.com/IceHockeyUshuaia/shoebox.msnw>

Some info and videos from past years are available at <http://ushuaia-ice-hockey.blogspot.com/>

Our growth is slower than desired. We only are two adults promoting, organizing and teaching the game. Currently, there are 30 kids 6 to 16 y.o. and a few adults that play the game. I'm the oldest one with 52. I started to play when I was 15, in a small rink located in downtown Buenos Aires.

In year 1979, came to Ushuaia because of an invitation to participate in the opening of an outdoor rink, with olympic dimensions. It was a concrete slab with boards and natural ice. Unfortunately, weather wasn't cold enough to make ice for a reasonable long period. Only 3 weeks, was the best mark. Anyway, I settle down here, got married and had two daughters. There are a couple of rinks in Buenos Aires city (the capital of Argentina). They are small, only 30 meter by 14 meter, approx. Hockey is played 3 on 3 and there are some teams that participate in tournaments. You can watch more info at <http://www.theiceplanet.com.ar/>

Inline Hockey has a wider base with teams in some regions. They even went to some IIHF World Cups.

Our main hurdle is to get an artificial ice rink. Although my city is pretty cold in winter, the quantity of skaters is not very high.

I make part of Club Andino Ushuaia (www.clubandinoushuaia.com.ar) and we are working since year 2000 trying to develop ice skating. Actually, the main goal was to give back Ushuaia its common practice of ice skating. Old people use to say that, in past decades, children skated along the streets during winter time. Explosive urban growth and migrating men and women from different regions of the country, make it fade down.

Thanks to Minnesota Hockey and other sources, it is possible to gather valuable information on coaching and other aspects of the game, so we can teach basic skills.

Internet is a irreplaceable tool for getting videos, pictures and text information.

It would be nice to keep in touch just in case we can exchange experience.

Thanks again.

Yours,

Jose Luis Tibaudin