

Wisconsin Fire Hockey Club:

## **Credentials as Top Elite International High Performance Hockey Club**

### Introduction and Philosophy

The Wisconsin Fire Hockey Club has been in existence for the past ten years. It was organized as a high performance hockey club with the purpose of training youth hockey players to compete at Tier I and Elite levels, and it has experienced success in this area due to a training philosophy that focuses on developing the skills of the individual player. USA Hockey's American Development Model (ADM) and Long Term Athlete Development are consistent with the foundational philosophy the Fire Hockey Club has been built on.

Passionate athletes and their families have chosen the Fire Hockey Club as an alternative to Tier 2 community-based hockey programs because of the increased concentration on skill development and the pursuit of a higher level of competition for the athlete with the desire to reach elite levels. While community-based hockey programs are advantageous for many hockey players desiring to play recreationally with classmates and friends in an atmosphere focusing more on fun, the Fire Hockey Club strives to create a *high performance hockey club* that focuses on high end competition and a heightened level of skill development. The desire by the athletes of the Fire Hockey Club to achieve elite performance is a commendable goal and should be supported and encouraged.

### Proven Success

The Fire Hockey Club has become recognized as a high performance hockey club at the elite level. The Fire joins other top teams like Little Caesars, Chicago Mission, and Belle Tire in the top 10 rankings of Tier I hockey teams across the United States at each level ([myhockeyrankings.com](http://myhockeyrankings.com)). With season records of 39-3-1 (99s) and 20-7-4 (00s) and 31-13-4 (97s) while playing in national and international tournaments, the Fire Hockey Club proves its ability to play with, compete against, and win in high level competition.

The 99 Wisconsin Fire won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the prestigious International Silver Stick Tournament at the AAA PeeWee Finals in the 2010-2011 season. The Silver Stick Tournament has grown from a four team tournament when it was started in 1958 into the largest hockey tournament in North America hosting over 65,000 players and coaches every year. While the original Silver Stick philosophy was to instill "Citizenship and International Goodwill" it has become recognized as much more and hosts annually the top elite teams in the U.S. and Canada. The accomplishment of winning the International Silver Stick Tournament is a demonstration of the Fire Hockey Club's *success at the top international elite level*.

The 97 Wisconsin Fire team also had a very good showing at the Quebec PeeWee World Championships during the 2009-10 season. There were 120 teams from 16 countries in attendance. The 97 Fire team made it through to the final 6 teams losing in a one goal game scored in the final minute of competition.

The organizing committees for both the International Silver Stick (top elite) Tournament and the Quebec PeeWee (top elite) World Championships have invited the Fire Hockey Club teams for next year's competitions. The Fire Hockey Club teams are also invited annually to attend other Tier I hockey tournaments like the Bauer International Invite Tournament. **The fact that Fire Hockey Club teams have an annual open invitation to these top elite tournaments is testament the Fire's proven long term success at developing players into world-class hockey players.**

## High Performance Hockey League

The High Performance Hockey League is a new league forming with plans to begin in the 2011-2012 season. Formed by six high-profile AAA hockey organizations from Detroit and Chicago, the goal of the league is to "bring together organizations of like mindedness, notably a philosophical commitment to USA Hockey's American Development Model and its Long Term Athlete Development recommendations . . . the aim is to foster the highest levels of sportsmanship and competition while serving the best interests of all the athletes."

The organizations that are forming the HPHL are Chicago's Mission, Team Illinois, and Young Americas and Detroit's Compuware, Honey Baked and Little Caesars. The Fire Hockey Club has been extended an invitation to join the High Performance Hockey League along with St Louis at the Squirt, PeeWee and Bantam Minor levels. The NTDP and Shattuck St Mary's teams have been invited to join at the Bantam Major level.

To be included in this elite group of top teams in the United States is an honor. **An invitation to join the High Performance Hockey League shows the reputation that the Fire Hockey Club has gained through its proven success in elite competition and its commitment to the development of its athletes.**

## Conclusion

The Fire Hockey Club has (through exhaustive dedication to its athlete's skill development and a proven record of success at the National and International Elite hockey levels) become a true *high performance hockey club*. The Fire Hockey Club has earned the reputation and its credentials from other elite hockey organizations and highly respected and competitive international tournaments as a top elite hockey club. In spite of continued efforts to undermine its existence, the Fire Hockey Club continues to train and compete and succeed at the top levels of youth hockey across North America. Sharing a common philosophy with USA Hockey and the USOC - with the common goal of elevating hockey in the United States, the Wisconsin Fire Hockey Club looks forward to continuing and expanding the success of its players.