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Here



Concerning our Hockey Michigan community operating within the Amateur Athletic Union

HOCKEY MICHIGAN

2011-2012

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**SPORTS FOR ALL,
FOREVER!**

January 1st 2012



OPENING DAY UP NORTH

On Sunday December 18th 2011, AAU Michigan's newest league celebrated their opening day. The **Full Ice Mite Hockey Club** league initially formed with 4 teams. However, on opening day they've discovered that they needed to form a 5th team (name TBD).

On hand to drop the puck for the league opening ceremony were Michigan Tech Huskies players Blake Hietala and Tanner Kero. The Houghton Marlies defeated the Hancock Huskies 10-8 in the opening game and the Calumet Spitfires defeated the Keweenaw K-Wings 7-1 in the second.



CHRISTMAS @ ST. CLAIR SHORES

Several local AAU teams converged upon St. Clair Shores, for the second major event of this inaugural AAU tournament season. Participating on December 27-29th were the following; Detroit Devils, Michigan Hornets, Taylor Wings and the Wyandotte Indians from the Hockey Michigan leagues as well as the non-league Bloomfield Blades and Oakland County Ice Ninjas.

The Michigan Hornets defeated the OC Ice Ninjas in the first Semi and the Bloomfield Blades defeated the Devils in the second Semi. This set up a rematch between the Hornets and Blades, who had tied 2-2 during round-robin play. In a hard-fought fast-paced Championship game the Hornets came out on top 7-0.



After the Championship game, nothing but smiles. Yep, even the referees (great officiating Pat & Trevor).



OC ICE NINJAS & BLOOMFIELD BLADES

As director of hockey for AAU Michigan, during the first few months of the season it has been my pleasure to see games for all of the AAU teams playing within our Hockey Michigan travel and house leagues as well as the teams from the Full Potential Hockey Academy league. I've even managed to catch several games of the independent Livingston County Flying Finns. However, Detroit Devils Christmas tournament at SCS was my first opportunity to see two of the final three non-league SE Michigan teams.

The Oakland County Ice Ninjas (pictured in white) opened the tournament playing against Detroit Devils. This game was about as even as you'll find at the Mite Minor level. Late in the third the Ninjas tied the game at 2 and it looked like things would probably end that way. Then with only 16 seconds left in the game, the Devils got the game winner.



The heartbreaker showed that the OC Ice Ninjas are clearly able to compete with Hockey Michigan travel teams, doing well enough in following games to advance into the semi-finals.

The Bloomfield Blades (pictured in blue) met the Taylor Wings during the third game of the tournament. This was another well matched game with the Blades grabbing a 2-0 victory. Like the Ninjas, the Blades matched up well with Hockey Michigan teams. Also advancing into the semi and then advancing to take runner-up of the tournament.

***PORT HURON CAPITOLS JOIN AAU***

Like the teams from the Upper Peninsula, the Port Huron Capitols have now joined AAU. Although the Capitols are not part of any formal league at the moment, they become the 33rd Mite team to join AAU Michigan (the 20th Mite B). The Capitols will compete within full-ice scrimmages and tournaments over the remainder of the 2011-2012 season. Welcome to the players, parents and coaches.

AAU CHAMPIONSHIP DATES ARE SET

Dates have now been set for AAU and Hockey Michigan playoffs. Hockey Michigan regular season travel division games will be finishing up in January. Mite B games will conclude in February. So it's time for plans to get moving for Playoffs.

Hockey Michigan - Travel League Playoffs

First up will be the Hockey Michigan - Mite Travel League playoffs. Clearly, only league teams within Hockey Michigan will be permitted to participate. Divisional alignments will be set as soon as possible and scheduling of the playoff games will begin soon after. The Datsyuk and Zetterberg division playoffs will be held between January 23rd and February 12th.

**AAU Michigan - Mite B State Playoffs**

Teams are being asked to submit applications for entrance into the AAU Michigan - Mite B State Playoffs. Applications for all AAU Michigan teams who have participated within any of the 3 AAU Michigan B leagues will be accepted into the State playoff (the leagues are Hockey Michigan, Full Potential Hockey Academy and/or Full Ice Mite Hockey Club).



Non-league Mite B teams from AAU Michigan may also apply, provided that they have participated within at least one AAU sanctioned event (tournament). Such teams may be accepted in order to balance out the number of teams within each division. Very much like the HM Travel league playoffs, teams will be aligned into 2 separate divisional playoffs.

Local teams will begin their preliminary seeding rounds during late February, following the end of their regular season league play, and then meet for the State Championship weekend on March 9-11, 2012 at the Arctic Edge in Canton, Michigan.

AAU Midwest - Mite Travel Regional Playoffs

AAU Mite Travel teams from throughout the Midwestern United States are currently applying for entrance into the AAU Midwest Regional Playoff. Applications from league teams will automatically be accepted. Non-league teams may apply, provided that they have participated within at least one AAU sanctioned event (tournament). Such teams may be accepted to balance out the number of teams within each division.

Teams will begin their preliminary rounds in late February, following the end of regular season league play, and then meet for the Midwest Championship weekend on March 9-11, 2012 at the Arctic Edge in Canton, Michigan. Non-Michigan teams will play all of their games during the Championship weekend.



AAU - HOCKEY MICHIGAN SPRING & FALL 2012

It's still a bit early. However, Hockey Michigan has already been getting a lot of calls and emails concerning next Spring and Fall. We've begun a database of contact information for coaches and interested teams. Most initial inquiries have concerned the Mite Minor (2005), Mite Major (2004) classifications and the Mite B (2004-2005s).

However, there has also been quite a bit of interest concerning Squirts. Keep in mind that our current Mite B teams have a great many players born during 2003 who are interested in remaining with AAU and Hockey Michigan. In addition, 2011-2012 is the final season of Squirt AAA within MAHA and Squirt Minor is being eliminated by Illinois (obviously with Squirt Major on the block next). Therefore, AAU will begin offering a Squirt AAA replacement program.

Our AAU Midwest conference has already resolved that our states will target Mites though PeeWees for 2012-2013 and older classifications as soon as enough interest exists (maybe 2012-2013 as well). We already have some Squirt teams in St. Louis. Eventually AAU will host Mites through Midgets from B through AAA, along with hosting; State, Regional & National Playoffs. There are ongoing discussions within AAU about creating a Midwest elite league.

In January Hockey Michigan will hold several meetings throughout SE Michigan, in order to offer local associations the opportunity to move into AAU in mass. Bringing with them all of their age classifications.

Spring of 2012

This spring we will certainly be creating Mite B leagues throughout the greater Detroit area. We already have an agreement Downriver for at least 1 AAU division. We will be talking to facilities in other areas throughout SE Michigan.

At the Travel level Hockey Michigan will form Spring Leagues if needed. However, during recent decades Travel teams haven't generally bothered with Spring Leagues. Instead many join tournaments and then fill in their schedules with scrimmages. If Travel teams want to have a Spring League then Hockey Michigan will gladly host one. Otherwise, Hockey Michigan will merely act as a clearing house for contact information to facilitate scrimmages.

Fall of 2012-2013

There will certainly be AAU Mite Minor (2005), Mite Major (2004) Travel classifications and Mite B (2004-2005s) as well. The plan is to host North and South Travel divisions with 2 or more subdivisions within each, allowing a variety of competition levels. Expect to participate within a ceding tournament to set divisions. We will likely find 12-16 Mite Minor (2005) and 20-30 Mite Major (2004) Travel teams within SE Michigan alone. Triple this season's numbers.

At the Mite B (2004-2005s) level we plan to host a minimum of 4 localized SE Michigan divisions (Downriver, Livonia's Full Potential, NW Suburbs and another on the Eastside). If other nearby teams are interested from MAHA D5 and D6 then divisions may be created to serve those areas as well. Of course, we hope that the current Upper Peninsula league will continue to grow. We should expect 24-36 Mite B teams within SE Michigan alone.

AAU MITE STANDINGS**Hockey Michigan - Mite Minor Travel (rev. 12-30-11)**

Team	Win	Loss	Tie	Pts	GF	GA
Downriver Blades	15	2	1	31	107	38
Michigan Hornets	14	0	1	29	118	31
Brighton Rebels	10	2	4	24	84	34
Sylvania Wildcats	8	7	2	18	57	62
DSC Civil Warriors	9	8	0	18	68	64
DSC Revolution	8	8	1	17	56	59
Detroit Devils	5	10	2	12	46	88
Phantoms	5	13	0	10	59	114
Taylor Wings	4	10	0	8	35	68
Brighton Renegades	2	8	3	7	45	59
Motor City Hockey	2	14	0	4	32	90

Hockey Michigan - Mite B (rev. 12-31-11)

Team	Win	Loss	Tie	Pts	GF	GA
Trenton Spitfires	8	0	0	16	33	8
Wyandotte Indians	5	1	1	11	23	14
Trenton Blades	1	3	2	4	15	19
Wayne Warriors	1	5	2	4	12	27
Westland Storm	0	6	1	1	10	25

Full Potential Hockey Academy - Mite B (rev. 12-16-11)

Team	Win	Loss	Tie	Pts	GF	GA
Bulldogs	9	0	0	18	47	9
Wolverines	8	1	0	16	44	18
Falcons	6	3	0	12	36	24
Spartans	4	4	1	9	33	24
Wildcats	2	4	3	7	30	40
Red Hawks	2	6	1	5	22	32
Grizzlies	1	7	1	3	20	48
Broncos	1	8	0	2	19	56

Full Ice Mite Club - Mite B (rev. 12-21-11)

Team	Win	Loss	Tie	Pts	GF	GA
Calumet Spitfires	1	0	0	2	7	1
Houghton Marlies	1	0	0	2	10	8
Hancock Huskies	0	1	0	0	8	10
Keweenaw K-Wings	0	1	0	0	1	7
TBD	0	0	0	0	0	0