

2014 Annual Reports

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President's Report

- Hockey throughout our six southern states had a great year thanks to the significant volunteer support in local programs.
- The Knoxville Jr Ice Bear 18 & Under team won the Tier II 1A National Championship.
- The Atlanta Fire and the Atlanta Phoenix represented the affiliate at the SE District Tier II Pee Wee Tournament
- The Thunder 14 & Under, 16 & Under, and 18 & Under teams each won their respective District Championship at the SE District Tier I Tournament
- In a year that featured the return of a full NHL season and the fanfare of the Sochi Olympics we saw a slight increase of about 4% in overall registrations from the previous season. However this was not true across all age levels. We still have much work to do to regain the growth we experienced in previous years. I encourage every association to take full advantage of the membership growth programs available from USA Hockey.
- The adoption of cross-ice for our 8U players was very encouraging in 2013-2014 and will continue to be an important issue for all of us. We were able to help provide two sets of hard cross-ice dividers to associations and look to do another two sets in the coming year.
- The USA Hockey SafeSport program will be continue to be a priority for all of us. SafeSport training is now mandatory for all coaches, managers, and association officials. As of the end of the 2013-2014 season, only 350 individuals in the affiliate had completed the training (a third of that number was in Tennessee). Our challenge for 2014-2015 is to reach full compliance with this requirement.
- The USA Hockey Annual Congress was held from June 4-7, 2013 in Colorado Springs. SAHA was represented at the Annual Congress by Edward Ragland, Chris Powers, Richard Bennett and me.
- The mandatory USA Hockey concussion management program was approved at Annual Congress in June. Each association is required to comply with the more stringent of the USA Hockey requirement or their applicable state law.
- Mandatory league sanctioning was also approved at Annual Congress. We will provide additional information about league sanctioning within SAHA in September.
- A new two sheet ice facility is readying to open in Nashville. We look forward to seeing the Ford Ice Center come online.
- Two new teams in our affiliate from the NA3HL Tier Junior league will have their inaugural season in 2014-2015.
- Most importantly, I am appreciative for the opportunity to be a part of this Affiliate. Thank you for your time and many contributions to this sport.

John Cox
President
Southern Amateur Hockey Association



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Registrar's Report

Registrars - we have new software!

We have introduced a new cloud based program that you can access from anywhere, at any time, on any device! All you need is an internet connection and your web browser. To get started, just open your web browser, click on the link below and log in. You will be ready to begin claiming your participants and making rosters.

****Please read the Technical Bulletin and the Important Information Document that was emailed with your software passwords****

NEW THIS YEAR: You will submit your Rosters through your Registry (online) to your USA Hockey Registrar and you will receive pending and approved Rosters back in your Registry. You will also receive a link to the Official Certified Roster that you can distribute as necessary. This link will remain the same all season – even if changes are made to the roster. You are still able to print Rosters if you want (but why?) – If you do print a Roster, be sure to print from the link. This is the Official Roster but with limited player information.

Note: All Coaches are required to have completed their SafeSport Training prior to being placed on a Roster.

IMPORTANT: SafeSport Program Information

Commencing with the 2014-15 playing season, all coaches are required to complete the SafeSport Training Program every two years. All Coaches are required to have completed the SafeSport Training PRIOR to being placed on a Roster. Coaches that completed the training during the 2013-14 season are not required to take the training in 2014-15, but shall complete a refresher training the following year. The link to the SafeSport website is on the home page of your USAH Registry.

New this year: The words "SafeSport Training" will appear on the Personnel screen for any member in your program who has completed the SafeSport online training. That information will also be reflected in the Staff area of the Official Roster and the Credentials Verification form.

Updating Information -- Each time that you sign into your Registry you will receive the most current data for your members – completed coach clinics, coach modules, SafeSport video training, date of birth verification, non-US citizen transfer information, etc. – anything that has been updated since you last viewed your membership data will be there for you.

You must transmit ALL of your Coaches through your USAH Registry – Any adult who is on the ice or bench with youth players must be registered through your Program as a Coach – member type C (or CP if he is also a Player in your program).

Qualifying games for National Bound Teams: The earliest date for games to count for National Tournament-bound teams toward the 20/10 or 14/10 game requirement is **August 15.**

Non-US Citizen Information

New this year, there is a fee for transferring women's players 18 years of age or older on national championship bound teams along with male players 18 years of age or older.



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Document Security

Be sure to shred any documents containing personal information prior to discarding. Please do NOT post the USA Hockey Waiver Form, Participant Accident Claim Form or the IMR (Individual Membership Registration form) on any website.

Number of Players allowed on a Team

A limit of twenty (20) players at any one time may be registered per team except for high school, girls' high school, college and women's college who may roster 30 players and may dress 20 players and, adult and women's teams who may roster 25 players and may dress 20 players. Affiliates may allow their Post season (Spring/Summer) teams formed to play between the end of the last USA Hockey National Youth/Girls Championship and August 31 to have a limit of twenty five (25) players on a roster and may dress twenty (20) players per game. A player may be registered in only one (1) national ice hockey federation

2014 USA Hockey Registrars Report from Annual Congress

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER REGISTRATION

For the 2013-14 season the USAH fee for players over the age of six was \$40. The fee for age 6 and younger was waived. The fee for coaches for the 2013-14 season was \$40. The coach registration fee was waived for those coaches who were also USA Hockey registered players. We are pleased to report that player registration for the 2013-14 season reached an all-time high of 519,417 – an increase of over 9,000 players. That total combined with just over 79,000 coaches and officials along with 476,634 non-participant members (team managers, volunteers, parents of youth players) brings our total membership to a record-breaking 1,075,474!

VOLUNTEER/TEAM MANAGER REGISTRATION

Volunteers and Team Managers online registration continues to be very successful with over 17,000 registered this season. There is no charge for this registration which creates a unique confirmation number that allows local programs to easily transmit their Volunteers and Team Managers through their registration software. The online confirmation number for Volunteers/Team Managers is required to access the SafeSport Video Training program which is available for all members at no charge.

REGISTRATION SEASON DATE

Registration for the 2014-15 season opened on Tuesday, April 1. Any new member who registers on or after April 1 is eligible for participation from the date of their registration through August 31, 2015. The playing season remains September 1 through August 31.

REGISTRATION SOFTWARE FOR PROGRAMS & REGISTRARS

The 2013-14 season marks the seventeenth year of USA Hockey/Cyber Sport software which is provided to every member program at no cost. Annually, we review all suggestions for changes to the software which provides local programs with a valuable tool to help manage their membership. All USA Hockey Registrars and Associate Registrars receive a customized software application that allows them to download their data from the USA Hockey database on demand. This program allows them to easily monitor registrations in their respective areas. This will be the last year for both of these programs in their current format as desk top applications. Both programs have been redesigned to be web-based applications. This is a huge step forward



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which also allows us to introduce an online Roster Management program. All of these exciting changes will be available for the 2014-15 season.

COACHING EDUCATION PROGRAM

All Coach Clinic attendance is processed into the USA Hockey database as each clinic is closed by the course instructor. Data files of this information are provided as requested throughout the season. A file showing the name, CEP card number, current level and expiration date along with completed Age Specific Modules for every certified coach is uploaded nightly from the USA Hockey database to the USA Hockey website. Information on completed Age-Specific Coaching Modules is also transmitted to all member programs' Cyber Sport Software and the Registrar's Admin Tool. The Official Roster form, the Credential Verification Sheet and the Coaching program report all provide Coach Clinic and completed Module information for all coaches.

Kelly Hurt
SE District Associate Registrar
Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia,
Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee



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USA Hockey Registration Summary

2013-2014

Affiliate	Assoc		Players & Unclaimed			Coaches			P + Uncl + C Total	Youth P/C	PPR	CPR	ERP	Other
	Unclaimed		Paid	6&U	Total	Paid	Unpd	Total						
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**	0	0	0	311
ALABAMA	8	333	1226	123	1349	74	1	75	1424	9	276	29	5	27
ARKANSAS	7	98	355	28	383	18	1	19	402	8	17	0	4	0
GEORGIA	13	561	1927	123	2050	194	2	196	2246	6	216	17	10	39
LOUISIANA	5	253	468	35	503	15	1	16	519	11	19	0	2	8
MISSISSIPPI	6	41	417	21	438	40	1	41	479	5	16	0	3	5
TENNESSEE	10	784	2472	202	2674	207	1	208	2882	7	237	18	7	87
USA HOCKEY NATIONAL	1	0	75	0	75	3	0	3	78	9	0	0	0	0
Totals	51	2070	6940	532	7472	551	7	558	8030	7	781	64	31	477

2012-2013

Affiliate	Assoc		Players & Unclaimed			Coaches			P + Uncl + C Total	Youth P/C	PPR	CPR	ERP	Other
	Unclaimed		Paid	6&U	Total	Paid	Unpd	Total						
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**	0	0	0	249
ALABAMA	9	155	1360	112	1472	91	1	92	1564	10	199	19	6	24
ARKANSAS	5	49	277	30	307	27	1	28	335	6	13	0	2	8
GEORGIA	13	417	2110	137	2247	241	2	243	2490	6	170	16	10	35
LOUISIANA	6	80	372	26	398	24	1	25	423	4	4	1	3	4
MISSISSIPPI	6	43	469	42	511	36	0	36	547	7	13	0	3	1
TENNESSEE	9	725	2594	196	2790	232	1	233	3023	7	97	15	6	39
USA HOCKEY NATIONAL	1	0	73	0	73	2	0	2	75	11	0	0	0	0
Totals	50	1469	7255	543	7798	653	6	659	8457	7	496	51	30	360



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2014 Players by Division		Combined States	Total	Paid	PrevReg	Free	Unclaim
8&UNDGIRL	01/01/2005 - 12/31/2012		87	20	2	29	36
10&UNDGIRL	01/01/2003 - 12/31/2004		53	35	4	0	14
12&UNDGIRL	01/01/2001 - 12/31/2002		54	38	4	0	12
14&UNDGIRL	01/01/1999 - 12/31/2000		38	26	8	0	4
16&UNDGIRL	01/01/1997 - 12/31/1998		37	19	16	0	2
19&UNDGIRL	01/01/1994 - 12/31/1996		17	12	1	0	4
WOMEN	01/01/1925 - 12/31/1993		193	91	6	0	96
			479	241	41	29	168
MITE	01/01/2005 - 12/31/2012		1086	434	39	275	338
SQUIRT	01/01/2003 - 12/31/2004		840	608	94	0	138
PEEWEE	01/01/2001 - 12/31/2002		869	695	83	0	91
BANTAM	01/01/1999 - 12/31/2000		888	697	126	0	65
MIDGET/16&UND	01/01/1997 - 12/31/1998		957	646	275	0	36
MIDGET/18&UND	01/01/1995 - 12/31/1996		605	467	100	0	38
ADULT	01/01/1925 - 12/31/1994		2574	1309	23	0	1242
			7819	4856	740	275	1948

Coaches: Combined States	Total	Paid	PrevReg	Free
COACHES	622	551	64	7

2013 Players by Division		Combined States	Total	Paid	PrevReg	Free	Unclaim
8&UNDGIRL	01/01/2004 - 12/31/2011		72	32	0	17	23
10&UNDGIRL	01/01/2002 - 12/31/2003		45	32	3	0	10
12&UNDGIRL	01/01/2000 - 12/31/2001		63	43	9	0	11
14&UNDGIRL	01/01/1998 - 12/31/1999		56	32	16	0	8
16&UNDGIRL	01/01/1996 - 12/31/1997		27	19	5	0	3
19&UNDGIRL	01/01/1993 - 12/31/1995		19	17	1	0	1
WOMEN	01/01/1924 - 12/31/1992		190	112	15	0	63
			472	287	49	17	119
MITE	01/01/2004 - 12/31/2011		1183	509	62	351	261
SQUIRT	01/01/2002 - 12/31/2003		861	637	137	0	87
PEEWEE	01/01/2000 - 12/31/2001		945	726	132	0	87
BANTAM	01/01/1998 - 12/31/1999		934	668	182	0	84
MIDGET/16&UND	01/01/1996 - 12/31/1997		844	646	151	0	47
MIDGET/18&UND	01/01/1994 - 12/31/1995		589	488	59	0	42
ADULT	01/01/1924 - 12/31/1993		2339	1394	48	0	897
			7695	5068	771	351	1505



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ADM Committee Report

The SAHA ADM Committee continues the effort to extend and adopt the recommendations, ideals and mandates of USA Hockey's ADM program into our affiliate. The Committee is cognizant of the nuances of implementing the program across our affiliate given the diverse range of programs we are trying to nurture and grow. In discussions with ADM representatives from USA Hockey's national office as well as with our District representative we have been given support, understanding and leeway in implementing the program as suits the needs and specific circumstances of our member associations.

In the past year we have been fortunate to have had a couple of visits from Scott Paluch, our District ADM Representative, who has helped conduct two Level 3 CEP clinics with Ty Newberry and also provided the SAHA Board with an update on the ADM program from the National and Regional perspective. The 8U portion of the ADM program continues to be a focal point and area of challenge both nationally and locally, but we are also seeing an increasing focus and the ADP as it applies to 10U and now 12U hockey. Last year the USA Hockey Board of Directors made it mandatory this year that all USA Hockey Affiliates implement ADM in all 8U programs. The greatest challenge to the implementation in our affiliate as well as others around the country was and continues to be a resistance to 8U players exclusively playing cross-ice or half-ice games with no full ice games. In accord with a national policy, SAHA permitted associations to apply for an exception to the exclusive cross-ice 8U games and some were granted permission to play up to twelve full ice games after January 1, 2014. For the upcoming season SAHA has adopted a policy of permitting no exceptions to the cross-ice rule.

While SAHA adheres to this policy for 8U games it does permit application for waivers to permit individual players to play at a 10U level under certain circumstances. One such circumstance could be when there are not enough players in a program to field a full 8U team or where 8U players may be needed to help fill out a 10 program.

SAHA and the ADM Committee will continue to stay in tune with the evolving implementation policy of USA Hockey as well as to the particular needs of our affiliate. USA Hockey as requested that every affiliate appoint an ADM coordinator for the affiliate and it is anticipated that there will be a stronger point of communication through this person. The Committee also recognizes the continued support and understanding from USA Hockey's National ADM team and particularly from Scott Paluch, our District ADM administrator. It is the Committee's hope that the Board will continue to support the ADM and particularly the 6U and 8U elements of



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that program and continue to consider contributing to the purchase of cross ice board systems and managing and helping fund 8U half-ice jamboree's.

Chris Powers
Chairmen, SAHA ADM Committee

SAHA 8U Policy

Approved by the SAHA Board of Directors 3/3/13

All USA Hockey participants are governed by USA Hockey's Rules and Regulations, which can be found in the Annual Guide. SAHA and all member Associations are subject to these Rules and Regulations as well. Effective with the 2013-14 playing season, as set forth in the Rules and Regulations, all games and scrimmages at the 8U age level shall be played either cross-ice or half-ice. Non-compliance with this USA Hockey Rule is subject to review by the SAHA Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Committee. Failure to comply could result in a fine of up to \$5,000.00, suspension of the program from USA Hockey sanctioned activities, and or removal of the Associations status as a certified and member in good standing with USA Hockey.

SAHA Policy for Permitting Play up Exceptions

Approved by the SAHA Board of Directors 3/3/13

SAHA fully supports the policy of USA Hockey that all players should play at their age appropriate level. USA Hockey and SAHA also recognize that from time to time there are situations or circumstance under which it may be appropriate to permit a player to play at a level above that which he or she is age qualified for. Exceptions of this nature should be handled on a case by case basis by the Member Association and should be reported to the SAHA Board.

Play up exceptions granted as a means of avoiding or circumventing the USA Hockey 8U Cross Ice Mandate or any other dictate of ADM or USA Hockey shall be subject to the disciplinary review of SAHA. Such disciplinary review could result in a fine of up to \$5,000.00, suspension of the Member Association from USA Hockey sanctioned activities, and or removal of the Member Association's status as a certified member in good standing with USA Hockey. For example, icing a team predominately made up of 8U players on a 10U roster for the purpose of playing in a full ice league or a full ice tournament is viewed as avoiding or circumventing the USA Hockey 8U Cross Ice Mandate and is subject to disciplinary review and penalty.

In granting exceptions the Association should at a minimum consider the physical, emotional and social maturity of the player relative to those he or she would be playing with; the skill level of the player; the number of years the player has been playing; the benefit to the player of playing at his age appropriate level; the need of the player to play with older children in order to fill a reasonable roster.



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SAHA Adult Hockey Report 2013-2014

During the past year, adult hockey participation in SAHA jumped from 2,334 participants to 2,487 – an increase of 153. These numbers only represent the adults participating in the leagues registered with USA Hockey (see below the spreadsheet from Kelly Hurt).

Of the 6 states in our region, there are still leagues operating without the benefit of USA Hockey. The playing levels range from D to A, or as one hockey director put it: “former pros to really bad.”

Among the six states, there are still thousands of adult hockey players playing in leagues. In Atlanta and Nashville especially, there are long-standing adult hockey leagues that are independent of USA Hockey. It appears they are well-established, and, at this time, they don’t show any real interest in joining USAH.

If we are seriously interested in growing our numbers, perhaps we could make a serious effort towards speaking with hockey directors, holding learn-to-play clinics in each area, as well as making sure literature is available at all the rinks.

2013 - 2014 Adults

Affiliate	Divgroup	Totalcnt	Paid	Free	Unclaimed	Prevreg
AL	ADULT	430	295	0	135	0
AR	ADULT	210	131	0	70	9
GA	ADULT	448	261	0	184	3
LA	ADULT	245	80	0	165	0
MS	ADULT	214	193	0	19	2
TN	ADULT	940	303	0	628	9

2012 - 2013 Adults

Affiliate	Divgroup	Totalcnt	Paid	Free	Unclaimed	Prevreg
AL	ADULT	420	324	0	93	3
AR	ADULT	125	87	0	36	2
GA	ADULT	433	274	0	126	33
LA	ADULT	220	183	0	37	0
MS	ADULT	210	178	0	30	2
TN	ADULT	926	369	0	547	10

Year/year change

AL	10
AR	85
GA	15
LA	25
MS	4
TN	14



Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee reviewed the status of all items covered in the recommendations received in the 2012 Field Review performed by Bob Weldon of the USA Hockey Central Staff. Items reviewed in 2014 included GoldStar implementation, periodic reviews of the financial records, monitoring of electronic deposits of Affiliate Fees, and reconciliation of an administrative error in tax payer ID in tax report filed with the IRS. The Audit Committee also participated in the preparation of the 2014-2015 Plan and Budget for board review and approval.

John Cox, Chair
Audit Committee



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College Hockey Committee Report

As you all know last year at the SEC tournament in Pelham, we had Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Ole Miss, South Carolina, and Vanderbilt. This turned out to be a fantastic SEC tournament for all those that helped and participated.

As all the board members remember, SAHA provided a grant to cover the ice fees for a midget showcase event with teams playing exhibition games during the weekend. All the players, coaches and parents from these teams were very grateful and excited to attend. The SEC coaches and officials were happy to visit with and watch these future players.

We look forward to the 2015 SEC tournament to accomplish this and much more.

Thank you for your continued support in this endeavor.

Thanks again,
Paul Petrarca, Chair
College Hockey Committee



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Disabled Hockey Committee Report

Disabled Section Report

Southeast District

August 15, 2014

This fall there will be 2 events in our District in the PVAHA Affiliate. The first is a sled workshop that will attract established programs from the eastern half of the country as well as prospective programs. This will take place October 3rd to 5th in Arlington Virginia and the National Sled Hockey Team will be in attendance working out and will play an exhibition game with the USA Warriors program. The other event will be the NHL Sled Classic hosted by the Washington Capitals. This event will take place in Arlington VA the weekend of November 21st.

Another action item that is currently in the works is the formation of a sled hockey league comprised of teams in North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida. These are infant programs and from the looks will operate similar to the mite festivals that occur in this district. We had a conference call in April, facilitated by Norm Page to see what the interest levels are and are moving forward with the planning stages.

Since January I have been in contact with the directors of the disabled programs in our district and will continue down that path until all have been reached. There is also plans for a monthly newsletter so these programs can see what each program is doing and can also use as a platform for exchanging ideas. Other items that are under construction is the Disabled Tournament hosted in our District as well as the development of a sled lending program, and equipment donation program.

Edward Ragland, Chair,
SAHA Disabled Hockey Committee
SE District Disabled Section Representative



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Discipline & Dispute Resolution Committee Report

For the 2013-14 USA Hockey season the Southern Amateur Hockey Association Discipline & Disputes Resolution Committee had a number of Variance requests as required by SAHA Bylaws the hearing committee held meetings to discuss the reasoning of the variance request as well as the benefits to both the player as well as the programs involved. As well the SAHA DDR was faced with 3 separate 601F Match Penalties as reported by the game officials. As required the SAHA DDR Committee members held hearings with the offender as well as pertinent witnesses to the events that had transpired. Finally the SAHA DDR Chairman received a report of behavior unbecoming of a USA Hockey registered program or administrator, this report was in reference to a Tier III junior program in the Atlanta area. This report was found not reside under the bylaws of SAHA and was referred to the league officials for investigation and adjudication.

Variance Requests:

Braden Pichell **approved** – moved from Huntsville (did not form a U18 program) to Knoxville
Mitchell Kestner **approved** – moved from Huntsville (did not form a U18 team) to Knoxville
Jeremy Brown , Ben Wilson, Nick Acevedo & Tyler Covington did not have local programs in MS or LA and were permitted to play in Pelham with requiring a formal hearing.

Committee members that served:

Richard Bennett – Chair

John Cox

Bill Medbery

Chris Powers

Don Stone

Rich Bennett, Chair

Discipline & Dispute Resolution Committee



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Girl's/Women's Committee Report

(2013-2014 Season)

SAHA Girls / Women's Report

- 2 Women's National Bound Teams in 2013/14 season – B & C divisions - based out of Huntsville.
- For a second year in a row they attended Nationals
- For 2014 – 2015 we will again have a B & C division National Bound team
- Youth and Women's District Tournament will be hosted by SAHA this year – Details to follow
- Still looking for Girls/Women's advocates in each state to help organize all girls teams / clinics
- Atlanta hosted a girls / women's clinic combined with the Adult tryouts this summer

USAH Girls / Women's Annual Congress Report

An Olympic year is always exciting especially for our USA Hockey teams in Sochi. The Women's Olympic team did an outstanding job of showing the world how talented, competitive, and committed they were while participating in the Winter Games. The number of people who watched the Gold Medal game reinforces the women's game can and should become a mainstay in world sports. **“4.9 Million viewers (TV) Most watched hockey game in the US (excluding Stanley Cup finals) since the Men's Gold Game in 2010. NBC Sports Digital record (at that time) -1.2 million unique views streaming live.”** All the female players across the United States, Canada, and around the world who some day dream of wearing their country's jersey on the ice to showcase their hockey talent realize it can become an attainable goal. Our female Olympians represented the USA with the highest level of skill, determination, and tenacity. Even in defeat where they showed the raw emotion that comes along with sports, the character of the entire team and staff made everyone back home so proud! As USA Hockey looks to the future to grow the women's game our focus remains on targeting 8 & Under players to increase awareness and participation, and retain those who come try hockey so we can develop them as athletes who learn to love the game. We remain committed to the USA Hockey initiatives the Membership Department, ADM, High School, Adult, and Disabled sections are putting forth to bring more females under the USA Hockey banner.

GIRL'S/WOMEN'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Tier I National Championships were hosted by the East Coast Wizards and were held in Marlborough, MA. Our Tier I Nationals remain the premier showcase for players who want to be seen by college coaches. We have gone to a sixteen-team format at Tier I at the 19U and 16U levels and plan to go to the same at 14U in the future. The Tier II Nationals were held in Amherst, NY using a twelve-team format at all three levels. We are discussing going to a sixteen-team format in the future when each District has enough Tier II competitive teams to support the expansion. Both National Championship staffs and all their volunteers were excellent and we continue to put on the best National Championships in Youth Sports. Thanks to Matt



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Leaf for his support on the officiating side and to Norm Spiegel and Jodie Penn for all their hard work.

GIRLS'/WOMEN'S SECTION LIAISONS

We have liaisons to the Adult Council, High School Section, Coaching Section, and Disabled Section who participate and report on the overlapping initiatives and communicate where we can coordinate exposure for our female membership. Shawna Davidson, USA Hockey's Disabled Women's Head Coach has done an outstanding job with the team especially through exhibition games around the country. Many times we have girls teams in the building to meet the team and watch them play. For many it is the first time they have seen sled hockey. Our adult women are in good hands with Mary Ann Robinson and Katie Holmgren. We continue to discuss the best scenarios for our Senior Women's teams and try to meet the needs of the first-time adult hockey player to those who have joined a senior women's team after playing competitive hockey all through college. Our High School liaison works with the High School Showcase and the plan is to eventually have a Girls Division in the High School Nationals if we can grow the number of teams who participate. The timing of these events overlaps with other sports so we are hoping to find a better weekend where players can participate. Our Coaching Liaison, Joe Eppolito represents the needs of our coaches and works with the Coaching Section to be sure any female specific points are considered when updating CEP materials. Our Frozen Four Women's Coaching event continues to be a huge success with over 90 attendees this season at Quinnipiac. The response from the coaches who attend is overwhelmingly positive. We incorporate a THFF for girls run by Shannon Webster as well as an Adult Try Hockey for Free put on by Katie Holmgren.

NATIONAL PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CAMPS

The Girls Player Development Camps will be in St. Cloud, Minnesota again this year in July. After the spring tryouts in each District the National Office staff quickly puts together all the working parts of the PDC. The U18 Camp provides Reagan and the U18 staff the opportunity to evaluate the best players in the country and choose many who will go on to become our future Olympians. Each year the camp improves from the year before and the feedback given by coaches, staff, players, and evaluators provides USA Hockey with information to continue becoming better. The off-ice testing, strength & conditioning, nutrition lectures, our Mentor Coach -Digit Murphy and our Olympians who come to speak to the players at the camps (as well as coach) all provide an excellent opportunity for the players who attend. The ADM staff members who are on-site are a valuable asset and at the end of the 14/15 camp the cross-ice tournament is a great way to wrap up the camp experience.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM UPDATE

Reagan Carey and Marissa Halligan continue to advance the Women's National Team Program. The 2014 U18 Women's World Championship took place in Budapest, Hungary in March. The team was led by returning Head Coach Jeff Kampersal. The team advanced to the gold medal game but lost to Canada for silver. The 2015 U18 Worlds will be hosted in the US. The upcoming U18 tryout/evaluation will take place at the U 18 Player Development Camp. The top 30 players will attend the U18 August Festival. The National Team Player Pool will be updated



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in June and approximately 50 players will be invited to the 2014 August Festival (which takes place in Lake Placid, NY). There will be updates on the Strelow Camp and the upcoming 2015 Women's World Championships at Annual Congress. We congratulate Hilary Witt on her UNH Head Coaching position and thank her for her service both as the National Team Scout /Player Development Coordinator and Assistant Coach on the Women's Olympic Team.

GIRLS'/WOMEN'S SECTION COMMITTEES

The Girls'/Women's Section continues our three committees: Female Player Development, Communication & Leadership, and Post-Olympic Growth & Retention. Our Female Player Development Committee will have an ongoing discussion with the members of the "Junior Women's" hockey committee to address how the inaugural season is unfolding. This committee will also address the age classification discussion and how we can better develop skilled players through the important 14-19-age range. Bringing some of the ADM Model Club coaches into our discussions will help determine better ways to track skill development. The Communication & Leadership committee will continue to work closely with SafeSport. We are going to try and begin to add roundtable discussions with Leaders in Women's Sports to this committee to solicit feedback from outside the hockey community and continue our earlier goal of creating Best Practices. The Post-Olympic Growth & Retention Committee goals will become one of our priorities as we roll out the 2014-2015 season. Capitalizing on the Olympic buzz and excitement to advance women's hockey we will work with the Membership Department to help grow the game.

SUMMARY

We are looking forward to some new and exciting advances for girls/women over the next few years. We will have the opportunity to impact the landscape of Women's Hockey in a positive way. Discussions with the Canadian Women's Hockey League are taking place and there is hope there will be more US teams playing at a professional level. The continued expertise of the National Office staff and support from our volunteers in the field will help maintain and secure the success of our future goals. We thank all of our USA Hockey partners for their support.

Kelly Hurt, Chair
SAHA Girl's/Women's Committee



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High School Committee Report

In 2013/2014 SAHA contained five High School Hockey Leagues in the cities of Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, Huntsville and Atlanta. This is the same number of leagues in operation for the 2013/2014 season.

League Champions were as follows:

- Huntsville: Huntsville High School
- Atlanta: Peachtree Ridge (AA) and Mill Creek (A)
- Nashville: Centennial (Predators Cup), Brentwood (GNASH Cup), Mt. Juliet – Wilson Central (Henry Hine Cup)
- Memphis – Germantown
- Knoxville – Knights

USA Hockey offered two tournaments for High School aged players; High School Nationals in Omaha, NE and the Showcase in Pittsburgh. Brentwood High School was the only SAHA team to attend High School Nationals representing the state of Tennessee. Brentwood went 0-3 losing to Waterloo, IA, Omaha, NE and Brophy, AZ. SAHA did not field a team for the Showcase.

Jack Flynn, Chair
High School Committee



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Junior Hockey Committee Report

During the 2013-2014 season, we had one organization, Atlanta Jr. Knights, with two junior teams. They competed in the United States Premier Hockey League (USPHL).

We worked with the NA3HL in their expansion into our affiliate. This upcoming season two new teams will compete in this league. The Point Mallard Ducks in Decatur, AL and the Nashville Jr. Predators in Nashville, TN. Good luck to both these new clubs.

The committee meet on several occasions. One of the primary focuses of the committee at this time is the implementation of the recent approval language in Section 7 of the SAHA Operating Rules, Policies and Procedures. These new rules require that this committee submit to the SAHA Board of Directors a statement of objectives for the upcoming year along with the programs that will be put in place to achieve those objectives. Additionally, a proposed budget and fee structure is to be presented for approval.

The committee welcomes, and even promotes, the growth of our sport. We clearly support the growth of junior hockey within the affiliate. But, we are concerned with creating real overall growth, not simply growing junior hockey at the cost of youth hockey.

In order to begin to effect this intelligent growth, we have worked with the NA3HL to add two new junior teams to the affiliate. Both organization have agreed to fill their teams primarily with players that are not planning on playing within the youth levels this upcoming season.

Secondly, we request that the Board adopt a policy that limits the timing of try outs for junior teams. Specifically, we would request that no junior tryouts occur on the weekend of the affiliate's player development.

As for proposed fees for the upcoming season, we believe no additional fees need to be collected. Similarly, the committee does not see a need for an extensive budget. We would ask that a small budget be established in amount of \$1,000 for administrative and other nominal cost.

Donald D. Stone, II
Junior Committee Chair



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Membership Growth Committee Report

The SAHA Membership Growth Committee's main initiative was to continue a Hockey Development Grant Program that would help the associations within our affiliate to focus on the growth and retention of 4 – 8 year old players. This age group is crucial to the long term growth of hockey.

Total

The total number of children ages 8 & under registered in SAHA decreased by 58 (-4.5%) to 1,133. National number was +1.0%

Acquisition

New players increased by 58 (11.4%) to 568. First increase in three seasons. National number was +8.8%

Retention

Retained players decreased by 111 (-16.4%) to 565. First decrease in four seasons. National number was -4.2%

Membership Grants – Designed to promote growth

Grant recipients were asked to report their results to the SAHA Grant Committee so the effectiveness of each program could be tracked and the ideas that are successful could be shared with other organizations within the Affiliate. Grant recipients were required to submit a written report within 9 months of the grant award and agreed to register all participants in their program with USA Hockey. Each association was given 75% of the grant up front, and the balance was paid once the follow up details were received with receipts confirming how the grant money was spent.

This season we had 14 associations that applied and all were awarded grants.

Associations	Grants Awarded
1) Arkansas Hockey Association	\$2,500
2) Ark-La-Tex Amateur Hockey Association	\$2,500
3) Atlanta Spark Special Needs Hockey Assn.	\$1,500
4) Lady Thrashers (Atlanta Women's Hockey Assoc.)	\$1,460
5) Augusta Ice Hockey Association	\$2,500
6) Gulf Coast Youth Hockey Association	\$2,500
7) Knoxville Amateur Hockey Association	\$1,000
8) North Alabama Amateur Hockey Association	\$1,500
9) Mid-South Amateur Hockey Association	\$1,470
10) Southern Thunder Women's C Team	\$1,500
11) Nashville Youth Hockey League	\$1,500
12) Thunder AAA Hockey Club	\$1,500
13) Nashville Predators Amateur Hockey Association	\$1,500
14) North Alabama (Point Mallard)	\$2,000



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USA Hockey Programs to benefit our Members:

RBC Play Hockey Grant - RBC Play Hockey™ has partnered with USA Hockey to allocate \$500 thousand in funds for eligible grant applicants over the next year to shine the spotlight on the people and programs that help hockey happen in communities across North America. Twenty grants will be awarded in the amount of \$25,000 to community hockey organizations, sports associations and hockey-minded individuals with great ideas to grow the game and keep hockey vital.

Total Hockey – Learn to Play - USA Hockey and Total Hockey Equipment have joined forces to recognize what you are doing in your community to help grow the game. For associations who have the sincere desire to maintain growth and sustain for the long-term, Total Hockey can assist by providing equipment donations in partnership, or introduce specially-priced equipment programs, share recruitment and retention ideas to implement and administer in their home community, give families an opportunity to offset club fees through our Breakaway Rewards while also earning discounts on equipment, and deliver ongoing positive customer experiences in store and through our ecommerce site so families are knowledgeable and confident as they continue in hockey.

One Goal Equipment – Most of this equipment will be used for the 2 and 2 Challenge. There should be some equipment available for order in late October/November. Equipment sets come in two sizes, small (4-6 year olds) and large (6-8 year olds) and cost \$70 each plus shipping and handling. Minimum order is 20 sets of equipment and orders must be made in multiples of 4. Equipment is not for resale.

2 and 2 Challenge – The 2 and 2 Challenge is a comprehensive growth program for local associations. It is a blueprint that guides youth hockey leadership through national programs and tools to realize their growth goal of acquiring two additional players and retaining two more players than last season. To learn more and to accept the 2 and 2 Challenge, visit www.2and2challenge.com or call (719)538-1124.

SAHA Results for the 2012-2013 Challenge are as follows:

Name:	Association Name:	City:	State :	Level Achieved:	# of Reward Equip Sets:
Patrick Houlihan	Atlanta Iceforum	Duluth	GA	Gold	4
Bill Logan	Columbus Hockey Association	Columbus	GA	Silver	4
Timothy McGrath	Arkansas Ice Hockey Association	Little Rock	AR	Gold	4
Randy Murphy	Mid-South Ice House	Olive Branch	MS	Gold	4
KJ Voorhees	Knoxville Amateur Hockey	Knoxville	TN	Gold	4



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	Association (KAHA)				
Andrew Brandt	Atlanta Fire	Alpharetta	GA	Gold	4
Michael Guzzo	NAHA / North Alabama Hockey Assoc.	Huntsville	AL	Gold	4

Hockey Weekend Across America – Registration is still open to host a Try Hockey For Free event on November 8, 2014!

Kevin Cook, Chair

Membership Growth Committee



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SOUTHERN AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
SAHA Development Grants
2014 – 2015 Season



The purpose of the SAHA Hockey Development Grant Program is to assist the member associations within SAHA in retaining current members, increasing participation and promoting hockey development within Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. **Nonprofit 501(c)(3) member associations within SAHA are eligible to apply.**

The SAHA Grant Committee will review the grant requests and submit the final list to the Board of Directors for approval. Grants **(in the form of Cross Ice Dividers, OneGoal equipment, on or off-ice training equipment and in some cases monetary help for specific needs)** will be awarded to member associations that offer the best plan(s) for:

- Growth of participation for players ages 4 – 8 within the Affiliate
- Retention of players age 4-8 within the Affiliate
- Promotion of growth of Disabled Hockey or Girls/Women's hockey within the Affiliate
- Implementation of the ADM
- Promotion of Diversity in hockey within the Affiliate

We are looking for applicants to furnish the ideas, leadership and hard work to successfully retain and manage their program and to help grow the sport of hockey within our Affiliate. Examples of proposals/ideas that we would consider include **REQUESTS FOR cross ice dividers, OneGoal equipment, coaching education programs, goalie education/clinics for non goalies, equipment for on-ice and off-ice training materials.** This list is not exclusive. We are looking for the Associations to offer innovative ideas to bring more players into hockey.

Grant recipients will be asked to report their results to the SAHA Grant Committee so the effectiveness of each program can be tracked and the ideas that are successful can be shared with other organizations within the Affiliate. Grant recipients will be required to submit a written report within 9 months of the grant award and also agree to register all participants in their program with USA Hockey.



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TIMELINE FOR GRANT PROGRAM

Oct. 15, 2014 Grant Applications Due

Nov. 15, 2014 Grant Applications reviewed by Affiliate Grant Committee and recommendations submitted to Affiliate Board.

Dec. 1, 2014 Notification sent to successful applicants with details about equipment deliveries, etc. Unsuccessful applicants also notified. Grant awards will also be posted on the Affiliate Web page.

April 15, 2015 Final report along with any receipt and documentation due from grant recipients. Balance of Grant Award (25%) paid upon receipt of final report

Grant Applications can be submitted by email to:

Kevin Cook

kcook@ecs-net.com

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete the Grant Application Form
2. On a separate sheet/page provide an overview of your organization for the past 2 seasons – programs offered, ice facilities used, number of USA Hockey registered participants at the different USA Hockey age levels, and any additional information on the organization that would assist the Committee in evaluating your application..
3. Provide a description of the program covered by your Grant application including
 - Program Overview
 - Program Goals/Impact
 - Target Audience
 - Program Budget
 - Ice Rink Involvement
 - Any marketing/promotion plans
 - Program Implementation including Association members and coaches (including CEP level) responsible for the program and timeline for implementation of program.
 - Plans to continue growth and retention generated by the program

FINAL REPORT

Associations awarded the Grants will receive 75% of the Grant at the time awards are made. **No later than March 1st following award of the Grant**, the Association is required to submit a written report discussing how the grant award was spent and providing receipts/bills to document the use of the grant award. The final report should cover the success and limitations of the program and discuss how the Association plans to use accomplishments of the program to continue the growth and retention of hockey within their Association. Upon receipt of the final report from the Association, the 25% balance of the Grant Award will be paid to the Association



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Player Development Committee Report

SAHA Player Development took place April 11th and 12th at the Wilcoxon Municipal Ice Arena in Huntsville, AL. It was the most well attended Player Development Camp since the U13 group was eliminated in 2012. As reflected in the metrics below, 2014 saw a 53% increase in players over the average of the previous three years.

2014 Final

Registration

Huntsville

Position	U17	U16	U15	U14	
Skater	26	32	58	56	172
Goalie	6	13	10	8	37

209

2013 Final

Registration

Atlanta

Position	U17	U16	U15	U14	
Skater	12	24	42	38	116
Goalie	5	6	8	6	18

134

2012 Final

Registration

Nashville

Position	U17	U16	U15	U14	
Skater	10	29	33	31	103
Goalie	1	3	9	5	18

121

2011 Final

Registration

Huntsville

Position	U17	U16	U15	U14	
Skater	16	19	42	36	113
Goalie	3	2	5	5	15

128

Evaluators:

- 00' – Scott Halpenny – Head Scout Erie Otters (OHL)
- 99' – Rocco Romanella – Assistant Coach New Jersey Titans (EHL)
- 99' - Anthony Palumbo – Scout Topeka Road Runners (NAHL)
- 98' - Mike Corbin – Head Coach University of Alabama Huntsville (WCHA)
- 97' – Matt Thomas – Assistant Coach University of Alabama Huntsville (WCHA)



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Player Advancement by Program:

All	Registered	Advanced	%
Thunder	38	25	66%
NJP	61	17	28%
Atlanta Phoenix	17	4	24%
34 programs	64	8	13%
Huntsville Chargers	16	2	13%
Fire	22	2	9%

U14 Selections attended camp at Kent State the week of July 28th. U15-U17 Selections attended the SE District Camp at the Extreme Ice Center in Indian Trail, NC May 9 – 11. At District Camp, players competed with selections from SAHOF, PVAHA and CAHA for an opportunity to attend the National Festival Camps which took place in June and July.

SAHA players competed well at the SE District Camp with 26 of 39 players selected for the Blue/Gray Game (this is the first cut) and 10 players selected for the National Festival. No other affiliate had a higher percentage of players selected for either honor.

2014 SE District Results					
	Players	Blue/Gray		Selected	
PVAHA	80	29	36%	8	10%
CAHA	39	23	59%	5	13%
SAHA	39	26	67%	10	26%
SAHOF	63	42	67%	12	19%

provided by SE Director M. Mulhall

2015 SAHA Player Development will take place at the A-Game Sportsplex in Franklin, TN the weekend of April 11th and 12th.

Jack Flynn, Chair
Player Development Committee



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SafeSport Committee Report

SAFESPORT ANNUAL REPORT

2013—2014

- SAHA implemented the USA Hockey SafeSport initiative at a voluntary level for the 2013-14 season.
- SAHA created a easy to use template for programs that would allow for documentation and implementation of the recommended program parameters.
- To date 11 local programs have completed the initial phase of SafeSport implementation.
- There are 11 local SafeSport program managers, each of these also serves as the screening officer for the local programs.
- We were able to have 236 Coaches / Volunteers & Officials complete the SafeSport training program.
- For the 2013 season SAHA did not have any reported incidents of a SafeSport violation.

Planning for the 2014-15 season

- As mandated by USA Hockey for the 2014-15 season all coaches must complete the background screening , SafeSport training module as well as Concussion Management (at a minimum as described by their state laws or at USA Hockey minimum requirements)
- SAHA has initiated a group training project to include the major markets within the affiliate. These will allow more of our coaches, officials and volunteers have access to training.
- SAHA has also required that ALL Coaches complete the SafeSport training PRIOR to a USA Hockey roster being signed by the affiliate registrar.
- SAHA has set up a new email address for reporting violations with in the affiliate.



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Tier I Committee Report

Three programs in 2013-14 hockey season were approved as Tier I teams and associations throughout SAHA. At the National Tournament three Thunder AAA teams (Bantam, Midget U16 and Midget U18) were representatives from SAHA. All three teams respectfully represented our affiliate and advanced as far as quarter finals.

For 2014-15 hockey season same three programs (Thunder AAA, Fire and NJP) applied for Tier I status. The NJP withdrew their application at the end of process and this leaves two approved programs for 2014-15 hockey season. The Thunder AAA and Atlanta Fire will represent SAHA at the Tier I level for this season.

Yan Kaminsky, Chair
Tier I Committee



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