

2016-2017 Board Members

Officers

Pam Gibson President

John Cristiano Vice President

TBD Treasurer

Steve Armstrong
Secretary, Squirt House Coordinator

Directors

Jodi Clavier Girls Program Director

David Ford A.C.E. Coaching Director

Rhonda Ford Jersey Apparel Coordinator

Shawn Schaefer

Brian Gibson Ice Schedule Coordinator

TBD Instructional Program

Rich Tuzinsky
Travel Director (non-board position)

Executive Director

Peggy Costello

House Program Director, MAHA Representative (non-board position)

IP, House and Travel Paperwork/Team Manager Coordinator

2016-2017 Operating Plan

Divisions of Play

AAAHA's core season will run from 9/1/2016 through 3/31/2017. The association will offer teams and programs in the following areas:

• Girls: Includes 10U, 12U House teams and U10, U14, & U19 Travel teams to meet the unique developmental needs and preferences of girl's hockey. The primary emphasis is on development of skating skills, teamwork, and drills designed to develop stick handling, passing, and shooting fundamentals. As with all travel teams, travel teams are selected by the coaching staffs of each respective team, and serve the needs of players with more advanced skills. Placement on a travel team is selective and will be determined by open player tryouts scheduled between May 2016 and August 2016. Girls' teams will participate in the Little Caesar's Amateur Hockey League (LCAHL) league but will be governed by the MGHL board of Directors.

For 2016-2017, Jodi Clavier has been appointed to serve as AAAHA's Girls Director.

• House: Includes Mites, Squirts, Pee Wees, Bantams, and Midgets. Although primarily serving boys, these programs are Co-Ed. The primary emphasis is on age appropriate skill progression and recreational competition. At the Mite level, programs will be set-up according to principles set forth in USA Hockey's American Development Model (ADM) using skill stations and a cross-ice 3 on 3 format for small area play. In the older age divisions (Squirt-Midget) the emphasis on skill progression will continue, and teams will participate in LCAHL House level play. Team formation and placement is determined by individual player evaluations that rank players using a common scoring metric and a subsequent player draft to distribute skills as evenly as possible consistent with MAHA rules.

For 2016-2017, Peggy Costello will serve as AAAHA's House Director.

- Instructional: Includes Timbits, Mini-Mites and Learn to Play Hockey. <u>Timbits</u> is a 9-week program for 4-6 year old boys and girls who would like to "try hockey". A fall and winter session will be offered. Beginning skating skills and stick handling skills will be taught in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. The <u>Mini-Mite</u> program runs from October till mid March and provides an introduction to the game for players aged 4-8 years old. The program follows the principles set forth in USA Hockey's American Development Model (ADM) using skill stations and a cross-ice format for small area play. The primary emphasis is on skating skills and drills designed to develop stick handling, passing, shooting fundamentals and teamwork. The <u>Learn to Play</u> Hockey program is a 9-week program for players aged 9 13 years old that have little or no prior experience with organized hockey. The program emphasizes development of all skills required to play the game and seeks to prepare players for future team placement.
- Travel: Includes Squirts, Pee Wees, and Bantams. Travel teams are selected by the coaching staffs of each respective team, and serve the needs of players with more advanced skills. Placement on a travel team is selective and will be determined by open player tryouts scheduled between May 2016 and August 2016. The purpose of AAAHA's tryout process is to evaluate a player's skating ability, hockey skills, commitment to teamwork, and situational/decision making ability in order to place players on a team that provides the best environment for improving self-confidence and enjoyment of the sport of ice hockey. Because roster spots are limited, it is likely not all players that participate in tryouts will be offered positions. Players should also be aware that participation on a travel team requires a more significant time and financial commitment, and that league play, within LCAHL, will be available at progressively more competitive levels.

For 2016-2017, Rich Tuzinsky has been appointed to serve as AAAHA's Travel Director.

Online Registration

Online registration is required for all players, coaches, team managers and locker room monitors. Any applicable registration fee must be paid before becoming eligible to be rostered with an AAAHA team or officially cleared to play. Players with outstanding balance from a prior season will not be rostered or cleared to play until that balance has been paid in full.

Preferred Registration for the 2016-2017 season will begin July 4 and extend through July 31. On August 1, regular Registration will begin and extend through August 15. Registration submitted after August 15 will be considered late additions to the program, and enrollment is subject to availability after taking into account preferred and regular registrations. Once player enrollment for any given age division reaches its maximum number of participants, registrations will be closed and a waiting list established. In the event programs reach capacity prior to August 15, players will be prioritized based on the paid registration date and time with players having earlier registrations being placed first.

Registration fees for 2016-2017 are as follows:

- Coaches and Managers have no registration fee
- Timbits, Mini Mites and LTP programs have a \$100 registration fee
- The preferred registration fee (before Aug. 1) for all other programs is \$200
- The regular registration fee for all programs (except mini-mites) is \$250

Payment of registration fees will be made online using PayPal, Master Card, Discover, or Visa at the time of registration.

Registration fees are non-refundable unless AAAHA is unable to offer a player a spot on any team before December 31, 2016.

Program Fees

Program fees will be established and published at www.aaaha.org in late August. Player program fees will be set to recover all fixed and variable costs (including ice time + referee costs + jerseys & socks + administrative overhead – registration fee) based on the number of teams formed and the estimated number of players per team.

Because Travel teams frequently consume a greater volume of dedicated (unshared) ice sheets, program fees for travel teams may be higher than the House teams on a per player basis.

Additional Fees

The program fees published by AAAHA are intended to cover all mandatory charges for AAAHA programs throughout the 2016-2017 season other than travel teams where additional fees are built into the team's budget and a mandatory cost of participation. Typically, there will be a team meeting for players and parents at the start of the season where the Head Coach and Team Manager discuss voluntary add-ons including the purchase of additional ice time, scheduling extra games, participation in tournaments, and apparel or other gear. Participation in any of these extraordinary purchases is strictly voluntary and may be handled through an account established by your team, not by AAAHA. AAAHA (including officers and directors) provides no oversight or supervision to individual team accounts and does not guarantee funds collected will be used for their stated purpose.

Team Program Fees & Payment Plans

Team program fees, which are above and beyond the registration fee, are due either in full or via installments by September 15. Instructional program fee balances for the fall session are due October 15th, for the winter session January 15th.

The preferred method of payment is electronically via PayPal, Master Card, Discover, or Visa at the Payments tab at www.aaaha.org. Members wishing to pay program fees by check may do so but will pay a \$5 per check handling fee. AAAHA does not accept cash and cannot process credit/debit cards in the AAAHA office.

If the installment plan is selected, 6 equal payments will be made electronically from the credit card or PayPal account beginning the day the Payment plan is selected online, and then automatically on September 15, October 15, November 15, December 15, January 15 and February 15. Payments received after the 5th of the month will be considered late and a \$25 Late Payment Fee will be applied to member accounts.

Signing up for a payment plan constitutes a contractual obligation to make full and timely payment for an entire season. Insofar as AAAHA enters into memorandums of understanding with our ice vendors that obligate AAAHA to purchase, in advance, ice for an entire season, pricing policies are established to recover these fixed costs.

When paying using the installment plan, the following rules will apply:

- Payments must be paid by dates published. Five days after the published due date, players in arrears will be suspended from their teams for nonpayment. AAAHA's Executive Director will notify the Head Coach/Team Manager of any player not eligible to play or participate in any team function until payment is received <u>and</u> acknowledged by the AAAHA Treasurer. If there are exigent circumstances, it is the player's responsibility to contact AAAHA's Treasurer in advance of the due date to request arrangements for an alternative payment plan. AAAHA's Executive Committee, who has been authorized by the Board to exercise discretion in granting alternative payment plans, will address all special requests.
- Once a player has been suspended, they will be required to bring their accounts current including payment of the \$25 late fee. The AAAHA Treasurer will contact the Coach/Manager via e-mail to confirm payment. Until official notice has been issued by AAAHA, the player will not be allowed to participate in any practice/game/tournament or any other team function. Any game played by a team with a player who has been suspended may result in a forfeit by that team.
- Late payments will be processed on the next business day in which the payment is received. Once a suspension notice has been issued, the suspension is deemed in effect and no special arrangements will be made to have payments received after hours or on weekends to allow a player to participate immediately.
- After the payment is more than 14 days late, the player may be removed from the team and a player from the wait list given his/her place on the team.
- All past due program payments will be reviewed at the monthly AAAHA Board Meetings. Upon review and
 verification of amount owed, the AAAHA Board reserves the right to file in local District Court for a judgment of
 the amount owed against the player's parents or legal guardians for monies owed, plus any legal expense for filing
 the judgment.
- Any player with an outstanding balance will not be allowed to return to AAAHA or register for any subsequent seasons until all monies have been paid in full.

Returned Check Policy

As noted previously, the standard method of payment will be electronic. In the event a family chooses to pay by check including the additional handling fee, the following policy will be in effect: A returned check will result in a \$25 Returned Check Fee being added to the players account. This fee and the original program fee must be paid within 3 days to AAAHA or the player will be suspended. A second and subsequent returned check in the same season will result in the immediate suspension of the player from their team and will require the player bringing their account current and paying a \$25 Returned Check Fee for each returned check. If a player is paying these fees again by check, the player will not be cleared to return to their team until the new check has cleared the bank. AAAHA suggests paying with a certified check or money order in these situations.

Late Registration Policy & Pro-Rated Program Fee

Any Player registering after August 15, 2016 may be added to team rosters to the extent there is capacity. Travel coaches will have considerable discretion in determining whether or not late additions to a team roster will improve the competitiveness of any particular team or enhance the overall experience of players already rostered. Players registering for AAAHA House programs after August 15, 2016 but before Labor Day will be assigned to teams according to the player draft rules in effect for the season on the first business day following the Labor Day weekend. Players that register after Labor Day will be placed on the team next in rotation for the draft. Other than travel where pro-rated program fees are handled on a case by case basis by the Head Coach and AAAHA's Treasurer, the following late registration policy regarding pro-rated fees shall apply to all AAAHA programs:

Aug 16 – Sep 16: Registration fee + 100% of program fee

Sep 16 – Oct 16: Registration fee + 83.3% of program fee (5 of 6 installments)
 Oct 16 – Nov 16: Registration fee + 67.7% of program fee (4 of 6 installments)

After Nov 16: Registration fee + 50% of program fee

AAAHA does not allow temporary withdrawals (other than requests made pursuant to AAAHA's Withdraw Policy) for any reason.

Program Fee Withdraw Policy

The player's parent or legal guardian is responsible for the program fees based on the following schedule:

Before Sep. 16, 2016 Registration fee + \$10/Hr. of program skated
 On or After Sep. 1, 2016 25% of total yearly fee stated in player contract.
 On or After Nov. 1, 2016 50% of total yearly fee stated in player contract.
 On or After Dec. 1, 2016 100% of total yearly fee stated in player contract.

This policy applies in all cases where the player leaves the team/association (i.e. injury, school, moving, loss of interest, etc.). There are no refunds of registration fees.

To determine the drop date of a player, a written request must be presented to the AAAHA Executive Director for their signature and date. An e-mail to the AAAHA Executive Director is sufficient to establish a date and time of the request for release. In any event, either the signed & dated (or emailed) request for release to the AAAHA Executive Director, or the date of last participation in any team event, whichever is later, will be considered the date of the drop. A team event is defined as any game, practice, workout, or any other team gathering in which was on the team's schedule that the dropping player attended. Once the drop date is determined, an official MAHA Player Release form will need to be completed and signed by an executive officer of AAAHA's Board of directors. A copy of this form will be posted on the AAAHA website.

Any player with an outstanding balance will not be allowed to return to the AAAHA or register for any subsequent seasons until all monies have been paid in full.

Ice Schedules

While AAAHA's Board understands and appreciates that parents and players prefer to have regular set schedules established in advance for the entire season, the reality is that this is only possible if we are willing to significantly constrain the number of teams in order to achieve this objective. Moreover, we do not believe elevating a preference for fixed schedules above creation of participation opportunities reflects an optimal prioritization of objectives nor is it in the best interests of AAAHA and its members. Consequently, we will employ a three-prong strategy with respect to ice scheduling for the 2016-2017 season:

- Baseline team schedules will start with an ideal fixed model week (IFMW) that is unencumbered by priority claims
 from Ice Rink parameters, including High School game schedules, or holiday/school vacation schedules.
 Adjustments to individual team schedules will be made such that any single team or division does not
 disproportionately experience day/time changes due to ice reductions. While this may result in some month-tomonth variability in team schedules, AAAHA will seek to minimize disruptions and provide members with as much
 advance notice as practical.
- AAAHA will seek to identify additional ice resources and re-establish business relationships with alternative rink operators to accommodate our desire for greater stability in our skating times.
- AAAHA will seek greater efficiencies in utilization of shared ice opportunities in a manner consistent with adoption of the American Development Model (ADM) and to keep the cost of programs offered as affordable as possible.

Girls Program

Using player date of birth information from Fall/Winter 2015-2016 registrations and Spring 2016 registrations, AAAHA projects there will be sufficient demand to field 5 all-girl teams in 2016-2017 at the minimum roster size. To the extent there is excess demand; waiting lists will be formed based on the time stamped entries of paid on-line registrations. AAAHA reserves the right to reduce the number of teams in any Girls division for reasons of insufficient demand or because a team proves to be unviable.

Projected Girls Tean	n Formation
-----------------------------	-------------

	# Teams	Budgeted Players per Team	Max Capacity	
Girls U10 House	1	16	18	
Girls U12 House	1	14	18	
Girls U12 Travel	1	14	18	
Girls U14 Travel	1	16	18	
Girls U19 Travel	1	13	18	
Totals	5	85	90	

Girls U10, U12 and U14/U16 House

From September through mid-March the Girls House teams will be on the ice two-three times per week for 1 or 1½ hour skates (based on an IFMW). Some ice sessions could be shared with other Girls teams to keep costs in line with similar girls programs in the area. Additional sheets of shared or unshared ice may be scheduled by each respective team along with games and coordinated through AAAHA's Ice Scheduler.

Girls U12, U14 and U19 Travel

From August through mid-March Girls travel teams will be on the ice two-three times per week for 1 hour or 1 ½ hour skates (based on an IFMW). Some ice sessions could be shared with other Girls teams to keep costs in line with similar girls programs in the area. Additional sheets of shared or unshared ice may be scheduled by each respective team along with games and coordinated through AAAHA's Ice Scheduler.

House Program

After conducting an analysis of best practices prevalent among hockey associations throughout SE Michigan and thoughtful review of feedback from players, coaches, and parents, AAAHA will continue incremental changes to the House program designed to enhance skill development and improve the overall hockey experience for AAAHA members. To keep player fees affordable and maintain predictable scheduling to the greatest extent possible, AAAHA's House program will utilize shared ice for many practices and allocate any unshared ice times scheduled on weekends to accommodate games. All references to scheduling are subject to some degree of variability and are based on an ideal fixed model week (IFMW). Please reference the section on Ice Schedules for a more detailed explanation of AAAHA's planned approach to scheduling.

Using player date of birth information from Fall/Winter 2015-2016 registrations and Spring 2016 registrations, AAAHA projects there will be sufficient demand to field up to 13 teams in 2016-2017 at the minimum roster size. To the extent there is excess demand, lists will be formed based on the time stamped entries of paid on-line registrations. AAAHA reserves the right to reduce the number of teams in any House division for reasons of insufficient demand.

Projected House Team Formation

	# Team	Budgeted Players per Team	Max Capacity
Mites	5	15	80
Squirts	4	14	68
Pee Wees	2	18	40
Bantams	1	18	20
Midget	1	14	20
Totals	13	199	228

Mite teams will allow a minimum of 11 players per team while the minimum for all other House teams will be 14 (comprised of 13 skaters + 1 goalie). For Squirts, Pee Wees, and Bantam and Midget roster sizes will reach capacity of upto 20 players (per MAHA rules), with the target roster of 17 (comprised of 15 skaters + 2 goalies).

Evaluations for all eligible Squirt, Pee Wee, and Bantam and Midget skaters will take place in August. Teams will be drafted using 2014/15 AAAHA Draft Rules (Draft Rules) that will be developed in accordance with MAHA guidelines. These Draft Rules will also address the rostering of late registrants.

Move-up Requests

It is the default policy of AAAHA to place individual registrants on teams in the appropriate age division dictated by birth year. AAAHA will have all players participate in evaluations within their natural age group. The evaluation panel will be instructed to identify any players whose skill level is such that a play-up request, if previously tendered, would qualify for further evaluation. This list will then be paired against any written requests submitted for consideration. Such candidates will then be evaluated along with players in the older age division. If the player in question clearly evaluates in the upper 50% of the older age division and does not displace an otherwise age qualified player, move up requests may be approved after review by the House Director and ACE Director on a case by case basis. Decisions of the House Director/ACE Director are final and may not be appealed.

For the 2016-2017 season, move-up requests must be submitted no later than August 15, 2016. Availability of openings will be determined from the pool of paid registrants immediately following the player evaluations.

Mites (Birth Years 2008 and 2009)

The Mite season will begin in September and conclude in mid-March. Mites will be on the ice 2-3 days per week for 50 minutes per session.

AAAHA will remain in compliance with the MAHA District 6 ADM Rules. AAAHA will use a hybrid adaptation of the American Development model to schedule practices, clinics, and games. In phase I, players will be separated into four groups in order to allow coaches time to assess the skill levels of individual players. Mites will be on the ice two-three times per week for 1 hour skates (based on an IFMW). All ice time will be shared with another group of Mites, with one of the skates typically scheduled on a week night and remaining one-two skates on Saturday and/or Sunday.

Starting in October players will be separated into four equal ability groups by the coaches and players will continue with two-three 1 Hour skates per week on shared ice. Skating sessions will remain on a schedule of one week night and the remaining one-two on Saturday and Sunday. Team assignments will be communicated to parents via email. A typical week might include one-two skates as ADM style practices, utilizing skill stations and small area games. One weekend session could include 3X3 cross ice games or jamborees.

According to MAHA rules established teams will be allowed to play some 5X5 full ice games after January 1. All full ice games will be scheduled by the Mite Coordinator or by individual team managers and may include teams outside of the association. To keep the hockey experience of all Mite players substantially equivalent, no Mite team may participate in the maximum number of full ice games established by MAHA.

<u>Squirts (Birth Years 2006 & 2007), Pee Wees (Birth Years 2004 & 2005), and Bantams (Birth Years 2002 & 2003)</u>
Play will get underway beginning in August with player evaluations and the full season will conclude in mid-March.

From Labor Day week through mid-March, Squirts, Pee Wees, and Bantams will be on the ice two-three times per week for 50 or 80 minute skates (based on an IFMW). Some ice time will be shared while some sheets will be full ice sheets to allow for games. Typically one of the skates will be scheduled on a week night and one- two skates will be on Saturday and Sunday.

Generally starting in October through March teams will be on the ice three- four times a week to accommodate league games.

It may be necessary, for ice planning purposes, to slightly alter the plan so that one division skates twice on the weekend and once during the week while the other skates once on the weekend and twice during the week. Every effort will be made to come up with a consistent schedule.

Little Caesar's League Play and MAHA Districts

Following a successful 2015-2016 experience, all House Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam, and Midget teams will participate in Little Caesar's Amateur Hockey League play (LCAHL) and schedule games according to rules set forth by LCAHL officials. Head Coaches/Team Managers will be expected to attend a mandatory LCAHL organizational meeting that will be scheduled sometime in September.

The Program fee published by AAAHA will be sufficient to cover all costs through the LCAHL playoffs. Teams wishing to participate in MAHA District playoffs will incur charges that are not covered by the published Program fee and must manage these costs outside the direct supervision of AAAHA and its Board.

Instructional Program

For 2016-2017, AAAHA will offer three distinct programs for younger players and those new to organized hockey. These programs include: Timbits®, Learn to Play, and Mini Mites.

AAAHA reserves the right to cancel any program is where there is insufficient enrollment. A full refund will be provided in this instance.

Timbits®

This program is for the youngest players (ages 4-6) that want to get an early start in the game of hockey. Using rink dividers and miniature nets, the rink is scaled to meet the needs of the smaller player while teaching basic skating and hockey skills in a relaxed atmosphere. Required player equipment – helmet with face mask, mouth guard, neck guard, skates, gloves, cup or pelvic supporter and a hockey stick. Classes meet Saturday mornings for 1 hour and the program will be organized into two separate nine-week sessions.

- Fall sessions begin in October and end in December.
- Winter sessions begin in January and end in March

Timbits classes have 50 min. of dedicated ice. Players that wish to participate in both Timbits sessions will have the option to register for both sessions in advance (one registration fee) or separately (two registration fees).

Projected Instructional Program Formation

I	Budgeted Players per Team	Max Capacity	
Timbits®- Fall	22	40	
Timbits®- Winter	35	40	
Mini Mites	80	105	
Learn to Play – Fall	20	30	
Learn to Play – Wint	er 20	30	
Totals	177	245	

Mini Mites

This is an instructional program for players ages 4-8. Using rink dividers and miniature nets the rink is scaled to meet the needs of young players while teaching basic skating and hockey skills. Full equipment is required. AAAHA provides a jersey and socks. Participants will be divided into groups based on ability. Players whose skills progress significantly beyond their placement group will be moved to a more advanced group. The Mini-Mite program meets twice a week for 1 hour each on Saturday morning and Sunday morning beginning in October and ending in March.

Learn to Play

This program is for players 9-13 who have little or no prior experience playing organized hockey. The program emphasizes development of all skills required to play the game and seeks to prepare players for future team placement. Participants must have basic skating skills and full equipment is required. Classes meet Saturday mornings for 50 min. of dedicated ice. The program will be organized into two separate nine-week sessions.

- Fall sessions begin in October and end in December
- Winter sessions begin in January and end in March

Players that wish to participate in both sessions are required to register for both sessions separately.

Travel Program

AAAHA is projecting that demand for competitive travel team play will continue along the same lines as the 2016-2017 season. Despite a faltering economy, demand for travel play remains robust in SE Michigan, players in the Squirt – Bantam age divisions appropriately view progression through travel programs as the gateway to High School hockey and more advanced levels of play.

	# Teams	Budgeted Players per Team	Max Capacity
SQA 2007	1	15	20
SQAA 2006	1	17	20
PWA 2005	2	17, 17	40
PWAA 2004	1	17	20
BTA 2003	2	16, 16	40
BTAA 2002	1	16	20
Totals	8	131	200

Using player date of birth information from Fall/Winter 2015-2016 registrations and Spring 2016 registrations, AAAHA projects there will be sufficient demand to field 8 travel teams in 2016-17 at the minimum roster size. AAAHA reserves the right to reduce the number of teams in any Travel division for reasons of insufficient demand or because a team proves to be non-viable.

Squirt, Pee Wee, and Bantam travel hockey programs

From August through mid-March teams will be on the ice three times per week for 1 or 1 ½ hour skates (based on an IFMW). Typically two of the skates will be scheduled on a weeknight and one of the skates will be on the weekend. Additional sheets of shared or unshared ice may be scheduled by each respective team and coordinated through the Ice Scheduler. In addition teams will be scheduling their own home and away games which could bring the total skates per week to as many as 4-5 times in one week in some instances.

Travel Team Tryouts

All travel team tryouts will be scheduled and administered by the Head Coaches/Team Managers and coordinated through AAAHA's ice scheduler for posting and notification to association members. Players that have not been registered with AAAHA in the past will be required to furnish a waiver of liability signed by a parent or legal guardian in order to participate in tryouts.

Changes to Registration

Travel players need not register in advance of team tryouts in order to be offered a spot on an AAAHA travel team. However, after a player has accepted a position on a travel team, that player must register with AAAHA using the online registration tool in order to be rostered on an AAAHA travel team. There are no exceptions to this policy. Players that <u>do</u> elect to register in advance of tryouts and are not offered a travel team position will automatically secure their spot in line for House play. Please reference the Registration policies and procedure for more complete information.

Changes to Collection of Payments

In order to make improvements to AAAHA's internal financial controls, provide additional service to travel teams, and relieve team managers of the burden of player collections, program fees will be invoiced and collected directly from AAAHA to individual player accounts. This represents a change from previous seasons where program fees were invoiced from AAAHA to team accounts.

Little Caesar's League Play and MAHA Districts

Continuing a longstanding practice, all Squirt, Pee Wee, and Bantam travel teams will participate in Little Caesar's Amateur Hockey League play (LCAHL) and schedule games according to rules set forth by LCAHL officials. Head Coaches/Team Managers will be expected to attend a mandatory LCAHL organizational meeting that will be scheduled sometime in September.

The Program fee published by AAAHA will be sufficient to cover all costs through the LCAHL playoffs. Teams that participate in MAHA District playoffs will incur charges that are not covered by the published Program fee and must manage these costs outside the direct supervision of AAAHA and its Board.