Florida Alliance

**2017‐2018**

Youth hockey in Florida is alive and well. There are around two dozen former Florida players currently on NCAA Division I teams, many more committed college players on the way, and even a few are active in the NHL. Statewide Amateur Hockey of Florida (SAHOF) remains focused on supporting play across all levels and is proud to share our vision as the Florida Alliance announces its plans for the 2017‐18 season.

# 2016‐17 RECAP

Let us begin by acknowledging the program’s success in the current year. Our teams continue to earn respect nationally boasting impressive records and high tournament finishes. For over a decade the rankings on www.MyHockeyRankings.com have served as the standard for comparing teams across North America. Here is where we stand in relation to other “AAA” teams in the U.S.:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Team** | **MyHockey Rank** | **Record** |
| 2003 | 27 | 14‐15‐1 |
| 2004 *full‐time* | 3 | 20‐4‐4 |
| 2004 *part‐time* | 41 | 9‐5‐1 |
| 2005 | 8 | 13‐6‐1 |
| 2006 | 16 | 8‐2‐1 |
| 2007 | 19 | 7‐4‐0 |

*As of January 18, 2017*

# PROGRAM FORMAT

Florida’s Tier II leagues have benefitted from our move four years ago to have Tier I teams play part‐time. Similarly, Florida Alliance teams have benefitted from the reduced cost structure by expanding interest as measured by tryout participation. A further enhancement for the upcoming season is in response to our members’ request for more Florida Alliance games and learning from what has been successful for other USA Hockey Affiliates.

For the 2017‐18 season, Florida Alliance teams will be able to enter the Statewide Florida Hockey League (SFHL) to compete against older “AA” teams. This will keep travel costs down by allowing Alliance teams to build their schedule with far fewer games out of state.

# RETURN TO NATIONALS

***As the state’s only sanctioned Tier I program***, Florida Alliance teams will compete against others in the Southeast District for a berth in the National Championships for 14U (Bantam), 16U, and USA Hockey’s newest division – 15U.

The other Tier I programs in the Southeast are the Washington Little Capitals, Team Maryland, TPH Thunder, Team Carolina, and the Carolina Jr. Hurricanes. Our teams have historically fared well at both the Southeast District Championships and USA Hockey Nationals. We expect that will continue and look forward to following our teams’ run deep into the postseason.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Level** | **Location** | **Host** |
| 14U (2003) | Charlotte, NC | Jr. Checkers |
| 15U (2002) | Plymouth, MI | USA Hockey |
| 16U (2001) | Philadelphia, PA | Junior Flyers |

**TRAINING PLAN & COACHING STAFF**

The Alliance will offer regional training on weeknights and will have team practices on select weekends to be held where the team has league games. The coaching staff and team assignments will be finalized in the coming months. Here is a partial list of those that will be involved.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ryan Brindley | Jim Brown | Chris Ferazzoli |
| Paul Healey | Brian Rafalski | Al Hargest |
| Nic Robillard | Travis Watkins | Wayne Whitmore |

*others to be named*

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

 $3,500 tuition includes: o 30+ game schedule

* League fee (~18 games)
* 3 out‐of‐state tournaments o 50 hours on ice
* 16 hours of team practice
* 34 hours additional training o Coaching costs
* Stipend
* Travel o Additional games, practices at team’s discretion

# TRYOUTS

Evaluations for the **2001, 2002 and 2003** **full season teams** will be conducted at this year’s USA Hockey Player Development Camp at RDV in Orlando from April 21st – April 23rd. Evaluations for the Florida Alliance Teams will be conducted by a separate group of evaluators and will have absolutely no bearing or influence on the evaluations being conducted by the USA Hockey Player Development staff. Registration is required, but there will be no cost for tryouts.

Evaluations for the **2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007** full season teams will be conducted at the Palm Beach Skate Zone in Lake Worth on April 29th and 30th. Registration is required and the cost will be $50. The schedule is as follows:

**2004’s**

April 29th

12:30pm – 1:30pm

1:40pm – 2:40pm

**2006’s**

April 29th

2:50pm – 3:50pm

4:00pm – 5:00pm

**2005’s**

April 29th

5:10pm – 6:10pm

6:20pm – 7:20pm

**2007’s**

April 30th

10:00am – 11:00am

11:10am – 12:10pm