



Minnesota Hockey Membership Development Report April 13, 2019



The Minnesota Hockey Membership Development Committee continues to make a significant and effective effort to increase the awareness of and participation in hockey through the utilization of available Minnesota Hockey and USA Hockey growth programs.

Early results indicate we will have a slight decline at the 8 & Under level. According to unofficial year end reports, we finished the 2018-19 season with **18,804 8U players**, which is **35 (-0.1%)** less than last year's final total. That number still represents the second highest number of 8U players in Minnesota Hockey history, but it is our first year with a decline since the 2012-13 season.

February 23 – Try Hockey For Free

On February 23rd, USA Hockey hosted the second Try Hockey For Free day of the 2018-19 season in conjunction with Hockey Weekend Across America. In Minnesota, we had 35 communities host 36 events and introduced nearly 700 new players to hockey. These numbers represented an increase in hosts sites and a significant increase in participants compared to last year's event.

Grant Update

Gear Up Minnesota! – Gear Up Minnesota applications have been announced and are now open. With the support of Dick's Sporting Goods we will be distributing gift cards to grant recipients instead of sets of equipment again. Applications will be accepted through June 15. Recipients will be announced in late June and distribution will occur in late August or early September.

Pass the Puck Grant – The Membership Development Committee has received 17 and reviewed 13 grant applications so far in the 2018-19 season. Nine associations have been approved for funds through our grant programs totaling \$9,750.