



FAQ's

Frequently Asked Questions about the Mission and the HPHL

Since the Mission's move to the High Performance Hockey League, a substantial amount of misinformation and rumors have been circulated. Below are some of the more frequent questions asked and our answers to those questions:

Why was the HPHL formed?

The HPHL was formed for three primary reasons. First and foremost is to address the excessive amount of travel, and the high costs associated with that travel. This was especially troubling for our midget team families. The second reason is to address the fact of uneven competition and eliminate lop-sided games to the degree possible. All the HPHL member organizations are strong top to bottom. The third reason goes straight to a philosophical difference of how best to operate a youth hockey league for elite AAA players. HPHL members share the same vision in this respect, with an eye toward maximizing the overall development of our players consistent with USA Hockey's principles and ADM model.

Why did the Mission choose to join the HPHL?

From its inception in 2001, the Chicago Mission has been committed to providing the very best developmental environment for its players and teams. And as virtually all of our participating players and families over the years can attest, we have never wavered from this commitment. There were of course growing pains and plenty of lessons learned along the way, but we can look back now and say with a great deal of pride that no youth hockey organization in the country has done it better or more consistently over the years than we have.

One of the main reasons for this legacy of success has been our organization's consistent willingness to take intelligent risks. In other words, we have always been willing to go against the conventional "wisdom" when in our estimation the long-term rewards of doing so would benefit our players and teams. In just ten years this philosophy has served us well indeed. And in our view, joining the HPHL represents another such opportunity. The mission and goals of the HPHL are completely in-sync with our own commitment to excellence. The other organizations in the league bring the same commitment to player development, and share similar legacies of success, as the Mission. And so the answer is: we joined the HPHL because we believe it provides us with the best opportunity to serve the best interests of our players and their families, consistent with our long-term goals and mission.

Did USA Hockey create the High Performance Hockey League?

No. But the principles put forth by USA Hockey for LTAD/HPC are the foundation of the High Performance Hockey League.

Will HPHL Midget Teams be playing teams outside the league?

Absolutely yes. The original six HPHL organizations have intended all along to partner with other competitive teams in the scheduling process. The key of course is scheduling in a manner that is consistent with the HPHL's mission and goals. This means keeping travel and expenses at a reasonable level, ensuring the highest level of competition in all games, and furthering the maximum development of all our players. And obviously for midget players it also means promoting our players by ensuring they are "seen" by the junior and college coaches/recruiters.

Will HPHL Midget Teams be limited to only 25-30 games?

Absolutely not. The HPHL member organizations are governed by the rules and policies of our USA Hockey local affiliates, the same as all other youth teams. USAH's current Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) guidelines recommend 85 practices and 50 games per season for midgets. We believe we will be in the ball park of those numbers. A slightly lesser game count than in the past few years could be possible, but if so, it will be the result of a far more practical and sensible scheduling format. The old model of playing 4 games in 36 hours makes it impossible for players to play in peak physical condition, risks a higher incidence of injuries, and defeats our purpose of maximizing player development through competition.

What about Girls Hockey?

The HPHL is operating with a clean slate. And HPHL Girls Hockey will be run with the same level of purpose and integrity as HPHL Boys Hockey. Key people from the HPHL organizations' existing Girls programs who understand its unique issues are bringing their expertise and experience to write the future of Girls Hockey on that clean slate.

Will our teams still be able to play in Canada?

Absolutely yes. All HPHL teams are free to play against Canadian teams and to play in Canadian tournaments.

Will our Pee wee Major teams still be able to go to Quebec?

Absolutely yes. The HPHL organizations have a proud history of success in the Quebec International Pee wee Tournament, and we fully expect future HPHL teams to continue to build on that proud history.

Will teams still be able to play in States and Nationals?

Absolutely yes. The HPHL organizations have an unmatched record of success in USA Hockey-sanctioned state, regional and national tournaments. And now that as a league we have refocused our priorities on maximizing our players' and teams' development, we expect to continue the same level of success.

Why all the rumors?

There is a two-pronged answer to this troubling question. On the one hand, this is youth hockey and so there's a certain amount of politics involved -- as has been famously said, "Youth hockey, definitely no place for children." On the other hand, the act of withdrawing from one league and establishing another was guaranteed to ruffle some feathers. Organizations not invited to join the HPHL undoubtedly feel threatened by it.

The rumor that the TOEHL was threatening legal action appears to be true. What is the HPHL's position on that?

It does appear based on a press release posted on the TOEHL's website that they have indeed filed a lawsuit. No members of the HPHL, however, have been served with legal process yet, so the precise nature of the suit, or even where it was filed, are not known. The consensus among the HPHL member organizations is that such a lawsuit is not only ill-advised but also detrimental to the best interests of youth hockey generally, and AAA hockey specifically. The TOEHL itself has not been damaged; it continues its operations unabated. That league and all its members are free to pursue their objectives without interference from the HPHL or its members. And so the HPHL will of course forge ahead with all its plans, keeping the best interests of all its youth hockey teams and players at the forefront, and working diligently to advance its stated goals and mission.

Hopefully some misconceptions have been cleared up. If there are further questions or you are unsure of something you were told but don't know who to ask, do not hesitate to contact us by emailing us at: Admin@hphl.us. We look forward to hearing from you.