

INTRODUCTION

GIRLS

Minnesota Player Identification Opportunities Expanded

There are many talented hockey players in Minnesota. Minnesota Hockey (MH), in an effort to meet the needs of these players offers its USA Hockey (USAH) Advanced 15, 16, and 17 programs which includes more player participation and opportunities.

In Minnesota Only: these "Select" programs have been renamed "Advanced National" 15, 16, 17. In all the other areas of the USA, including USA Hockey, the "Select" name is retained for USAH National Festivals.

The MH/USA Hockey Advanced (Select) 15, 16, and 17 programs are designed to find the best players in each age group in Minnesota. The goal of each class is to represent Minnesota Hockey at a national festival/camp sponsored by USA Hockey involving the best players from each of the USAH districts. The festival/camp is used by USAH to identify the top performers in each age group for possible opportunities to represent the U.S.A. at advanced levels of national and international hockey competition.

A Word about Fees

The Advanced 15, 16, and 17 programs cost a considerable amount of money to operate. That money comes from Minnesota Hockey. We are a non-profit organization that depends on a \$71 registration fee from its membership to cover most expenses. Obviously, we would enjoy paying for all of the expense involved for our Advanced (Select) programs and are working on developing a marketing plan that will supplement our income sources. Until that plan starts to create additional revenue, a charge needs to be assessed to the Advanced Program participants. The fees for participation have been set on a cost basis with the total cost being divided by the total number of participants. Unlike many similar programs in the private sector there is no profit margin built into the fees. Hopefully in future years we will be able to reduce participant fees or eliminate them.

Participation Fees

District/Section tryouts (Trials) Adv. 15	\$ 70 per player
Section tryouts (Trials) Adv. 16 & 17	\$ 70 per candidate
District/Section Festival team members: 16 & 17	\$ 125 per player
"Final 51" Evaluations-Adv. 16 & 17	\$ 125 per player

Expansion of Player Opportunities

The mission of the Minnesota Hockey Player Development Program is to provide opportunities to all players based on their particular level of skill and desire. From grass root's house league programs to the old timers' leagues we have an obligation to our members to provide them with enjoyable, rewarding, and challenging experiences in hockey. We continually search for ways to achieve our mission.

The expanded Advanced Program is essentially for the better players in their age category. One might argue that we are spending too much time and money on the select few at the expense of the majority. That may be true, but it is also true that the better players were once a part of the majority too. Hockey is a competitive sport and those that do become better are products of hard work, dedication, and commitment to being the best that they can be. Can we in good conscience ignore their achievements and disregard their needs? That is not how our society operates. Achievement is rewarded and admired in our culture.

The better player's needs are more sophisticated than the majority and consequently usually cost more to satisfy. In Minnesota, we are blessed with many good players at all levels. In an effort to provide more of these players with an opportunity to excel, we have expanded programs. The Advanced 15 program will have a minimum of 40 candidates trying out for one of 12 District teams

providing 480 opportunities. The Advanced 16 program provides player opportunities for 320 candidates (40 candidates in 8 Sections). The Advanced 17 program will do the same as the Advanced 16's (40 candidates in each of the 8 Sections). The total player opportunity for all three select programs totals 1,120 candidates. How can anyone argue with that?

We encourage your comments and ideas. Our only purpose is to do what is in the best interests of the participants. Our goal is to provide more opportunities for more players. To that end, we are committed and totally dedicated.

Barry Ford, V. P. Hockey Operations, Minnesota Hockey

2008 Minnesota Advanced Programs

Minnesota Advanced 15 (born in 1993)

Phase 1 March 17 – March 31, 2008 District Trials/Team Selection (Cost \$70 per candidate)

Each MH District (12) will invite a minimum of 40 candidates to participate in the trials to determine the 20 players to be selected to represent each district at the Advanced 15 Spring Festival. Each candidate will receive 4 hours of ice time and a participant jersey. Total number of players invited 480.

Players unregistered with MH/USA Hockey will be required to pay an additional one time \$40 registration fee and complete the [USA Hockey On-line](#) form for insurance purposes.

Phase 2 (March 17 – March 31, 2008) District Team Selection/Preparation

20 players selected from trials to district team

Each team is allowed two hours of ice time for pre- event practice/preparation.

Phase 3 (completed by April 4, 2008) Seeding Round

Four divisions of three teams each play a round robin preliminary two game schedule. The top two finishers in each division are seeded into an eight-team event with each team playing three games.

The third place finishers are placed in a four- team round robin event also playing three games each.

Phase 4 (April 12-13, 2008) Minnesota Hockey Spring Festival: SchwanSuper Rink (Cost per player \$125, includes Phases 2, 3, & 4)

One 8 -team event (1st & 2nd from each preliminary division). Each team plays three games.
One 4- team event (3rd place team from each preliminary division). Each team plays three games.

Player Evaluation: A team of knowledgeable coaches and scouts will evaluate all participants, consult with team coaches and select the top 102 players for participation in the Minnesota Hockey Summer Advanced 15 Festival. Alternates will also be chosen and placed if there are participant turndowns.

Phase 5 (June 14-19, 2008) Minnesota Hockey Summer Festival, Mankato (Cost per player \$525)

Expense of this festival is shared equally by the participants and is based on actual cost less grants received from Minnesota Hockey (MH) and USA Hockey.

102 selected players participate in a weeklong training camp at Minnesota State University Mankato and All Seasons Arena. Housing and meals are provided. Six teams play a round robin schedule of games, attend dry land training sessions, and classroom sessions daily. The staff at the Summer Festival will be headed by Jeff Vizenor, Head Coach of the Minnesota State University Mankato

Girls Hockey and will include prominent college and high school coaches teamed with current and former college hockey players to serve as coaches, role models, and counselors for each team.

Player Evaluation: All staff members evaluate each player and develop a watch list on the second day of the festival. Players are continually evaluated and added to the watch list. Nightly meetings are held to discuss player performances. Each team staff plus the Festival coaching staff then ranks their top 20 players. Numerical values are attached to each rank position. Final player rankings are then calculated according to their total numerical values from all evaluators. The twenty players with the highest numbers for each position are selected to represent Minnesota Hockey at the USA Hockey National Select 15 Development Camp.

**Phase 6 (July 26 – August 1, 2008)
USA Hockey National Girls Select (Advanced) 15 Development Camp,
ESL Sports Centre – Rochester, New York
USA Hockey administrative fee \$95 Players are responsible for their own travel expenses.**

USA Hockey and MN Hockey pay some of the Minnesota player expense. The best players in the United States from all USA Hockey Districts team up with the best coaches in the USA to participate in a player development camp. All players are evaluated for possible future participation in National USA Hockey programs.

MN Advanced 15 Personnel (Contact for more information)

Minnesota Hockey Advanced 15 Festival Staff

Adv. 15 Director, Kevin Dickie – (507) 835-4151 Home / (507) 838-6305 Cell

Or Asst. Director, Tim Timm

Coaches: Paul Ostoff – Jeff Vizenor - Others TBA

Contact District Advanced 15 General Managers

District TC	Andrea Backes	(651) 690-1043
District 2	Mike Mata	(651) 983-8027
District 3	Kathy Fallen	(763) 551-1895
District 4	Ruthann Kragh	(507) 304-1093
District 5	Doug Foster	(763) 497-8071
District 6	Kyle Crowe	(952) 942-7990
District 8	Tito Elumba	(651) 336-8910
District 10	Roger Sundeen	(763) 427-2021
District 11	Pete Hill	(218) 879-1496
Dist 12 IR	Jerry Havel	(218)327-3274
District 15	Dave Stigen	(218) 739-9524
District 16	Mark Elliott	(218) 759-2229

All candidates in all age classes are required to complete a USAH registration form (if not previously registered for the current season) and pay all appropriate fees to the team manager prior to any on-ice participation!

MN Advanced 16 (born in 1992) and MN Advanced 17 (born in 1991). Separate events for each age class

Phase 1 (March 17-April 02, 2008)

Section Trials (Cost \$65 per candidate includes USAH registration)

Section teams each age bracket:

Sections 1A, 1AA	Sections 5A, 5AA
Sections 2A, 3AA	Sections 6A, 6AA
Sections 3A, 2AA	Sections 7A, 7AA
Sections 4A, 4AA	Sections 8A, 8AA

State divided into eight high school sections and a minimum of 40 candidates from each section are invited to participate in the trials to determine the 20 players to represent the section at the Advanced 16 and Advanced 17 Spring Festivals. Each candidate will receive 4.5 hours of ice time and a participant jersey. Total of 320+ candidates in each age category

All candidates in these age classes are required to complete a USAH registration form and pay all appropriate fees to the team manager prior to any on-ice participation.

Phase 2 (April 11-13, 2008)

Spring Festival: Plymouth, MN

(Cost per player \$100)

Location Advanced (Select) 16 Festival: Plymouth, MN Arena

Location Advanced (Select 17) Festival: Plymouth, MN Arena

4.5 hours of pre-festival team practice in local section.

Each team plays three games in the Festival.

Player Evaluation: A team of knowledgeable coaches and scouts will evaluate all participants, consult with team coaches and select the top 51 (or more) players from both the Advanced 16's and the Advanced 17's to advance to the "Final" evaluation trials in each age class.

Phase 3 (April 18-20, 2008)

"Final 51" Evaluation, Plymouth, MN

(Cost per player \$100)

"Final 51" candidates in each age class will participate in further evaluations.

Player Evaluation: A team of knowledgeable coaches and scouts will evaluate all participants, consult with team coaches and select the top players from both the Advanced 16's and the Advanced 17's. Selected players will represent Minnesota Hockey at the USA Hockey National Advanced (Select) 16 and Advanced (Select) 17 Festivals in Rochester, NY and St. Cloud, MN. -----

Phase 4

USA Hockey Select 16 (Advanced) and Select 17 (Advanced) National Festivals.

Select 16's (Advanced) at Rochester, NY, **July 26-August 1: Each player is charged the USA Hockey room & board fee \$95 and are also responsible for own travel expenses to include air fare.**

Select 17's (Advanced) at Lake Placid, NY, **June 25-July 1: Each player is charged the USA Hockey room & board fee \$95 and are responsible for own travel expenses to include airfare.**

.The best players in the United States from all USA Hockey Districts participate in a two-division round robin schedule with playoffs on the final day. All players are evaluated for possible future participation in other National USA Hockey programs.

MN Advanced 16 Personnel (Contact for more information)

Director	Tom Peart	763-442-6465
Age-Level Director	Shawna Davidson	218-310-2131
Coaches	USA Hockey will select coaches for National team	

Contact MN Advanced 16 Section Gen. Mgrs.

Sections 1A, 1AA	Jeremy Gunderson	507-633-2643
Sections 2A, 2AA	Dereck Grosskurth	952-403-9692
Sections 3A, 3AA	Maureen Hardwick	651-491-2907
Sections 4A, 4AA	Jon Anderson	651-245-5252
Sections 5A, 5AA	Tom Maeckelbergh	763-213-1037
Sections 6A, 6AA	Chris Peterson	612-385-7061
Sections 7A, 7AA	Duane Northagen	218-263-4368
Sections 8A, 8AA	Stephanie Sustercich	218-828-4764

MN Advanced 17 Personnel (contact for more information)

Director	Tom Peart	763-442-6465
Age-Level Director	Joni Bonnell	612-718-9793
Coaches	USA Hockey will select coaches for National team	

Contact MN Advanced 17 Section Gen. Mgrs.

Sections 1A, 1AA	Jeremy Gunderson	507-633-2643
Sections 2A, 2AA	Dereck Grosskurth	952-403-9692
Sections 3A, 3AA	Maureen Hardwick	651-491-2907
Sections 4A, 4AA	Jon Anderson	651-245-5252
Sections 5A, 5AA	Tom Maeckelbergh	763-213-1037
Sections 6A, 6AA	Chris Peterson	612-385-7061
Sections 7A, 7AA	Glen Gildermann	218-624-4017
Sections 8A, 8AA	Stephanie Sustercich	218-828-4764

A word about selecting players.....

The toughest assignment we face is the player evaluation process. As you know "beauty is in the eyes of the beholder" and that could result in a staff of eight evaluators coming up with eight different opinions about the same player. Selecting players is not a perfect science (unfortunately). There just isn't a perfect method that assures that we will always select the best players.

We recognize that and understand the disappointment of being passed over for another player. It is a traumatic experience not only for the player and his family, but also the coach and the evaluation group. None of us gets a kick out of disappointing kids! The best we can hope for is to give the selection process our fullest attention.

We also understand that four hours of ice time is not sufficient to make an informed decision, but it is all that we have to work with. Yes we will take into consideration the players' performance during the regular season; however the player's performance at the trials will weigh heavily on our final decisions. I might add that "politics" does not play any part in the decision making process.

If you advance to the next phase of the program congratulations! If you don't then we hope you will do what all good athletes do, prepare, do all that you can, and be ready the next time opportunity knocks!

Minnesota Hockey/USA Hockey



Minnesota Girls High School Hockey Coaches Association

USA Hockey Select 15, 16, 17

**"MINNESOTA ADVANCED"
NATIONAL
PROGRESSION HOCKEY**

**MN GIRLS ADVANCED 15 HOCKEY
(Born in 1993)**

**MN GIRLS ADVANCED 16 HOCKEY
(Born in 1992)**

**MN GIRLS ADVANCED 17 HOCKEY
(Born in 1991)**

Opportunities for Minnesota's finest hockey players to progress to a national event and showcase their talent and skills!

Participation by Invitation...Details inside. .