

Dear Skaters and Parents,

The Middlebury Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) is pleased to announce the creation of the Middlebury Hockey League (MHL) for the 2010-2011 Hockey Season. The MHL is consistent with the principles of the American Development Model (ADM), which is a nationwide model for successfully developing American hockey players, and is endorsed by USA Hockey (read more at www.admkids.com or www.usahockey.com). We are truly excited to be bringing hockey fun and excitement back to Middlebury.

The MHL, created by members John Thompson (MAHA Director of Coaching) and Derek Bartlett (MUHS Boys Coach), aims to:

- Create a hockey program that will appeal to a wider population
- Emphasize skill development
- Create an environment of excellence at all levels
- Minimize travel commitments and cost
- Make our program more community-based for skaters and parents
- Share a common passion for hockey at all levels
- Make hockey fresh and exciting for the entire community

MAHA is among the first hockey organizations in Vermont to create a format for player development along the lines of the ADM. At its core, we hope to bring the Middlebury hockey community together during MHL games to enjoy our skaters, the sport, and celebrate what Middlebury has to offer.

The MHL will include three hockey leagues: House League (for Mite-level skaters [age 8 and under]), Minor League (for Squirt [age 9 and 10] and Girls Under-12 skaters), and Major League (for Peewee [age 11 and 12], Bantam [age 13 and 14] and Girls Under-14 skaters). All players will be placed on a house league team, will receive a team jersey (teams to be sponsored by local companies/agencies), and will play one game per week against another MHL team. Minor and Major League games will be played full ice, while House League will play cross-ice games. A League Commissioner will be assigned to record scores, statistics and rankings, which will be posted at the rink – we encourage some healthy competition among the teams! There will also be playoff games and a championship at the end of the season. Aside from a weekly MHL game, Minor and Major league players will have 2-3 practices per week, one of which may be used for small area games (e.g., cross ice games). House league skaters will have 2 practices per week, in addition to their House League game.

There will be one travel team assigned for each level –Squirt A, Peewee A, Bantam A, Girls U12 and Girls U14. Skaters on these teams will play in the MHL, and will have additional game(s) on the weekends with their travel team. Each team will play a 20-25 game schedule throughout

the year, and will participate in the Vermont State Championships in February. A Jamboree Mite team will also be selected. Beginning in early December, the Jamboree Mite team will have one cross-ice game per week against another Vermont team (schedule dependent).

There will also be an opportunity for non-travel MHL skaters to play a limited number of B-level games beginning in mid-January. If MHL skaters would like to participate in playing B level games, they will be assigned to a team at the appropriate age level (numbers dependent).

At the end of the year, MAHA will host two big events:

1. MHL Playoffs and Championship – as mentioned previously
2. Skip Brush Tournament – A and B level teams at the Squirt level and above, and the Girls U12 and Girls U14 teams will also have the opportunity to play in our annual Skip Brush Tournament, which is typically held the first two weekends in March.

League rules and other detailed information will be posted on our website by early September. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the MHL, please contact John or Derek.

In closing, we encourage all members to pass the word along about the MHL to potential new skaters! Enjoy the summer months, and we'll see you in September for registration!

Sincerely,

MAHA Board of Directors