

Minnesota Disabled Hockey Report
January 21, 2013

USA Disabled Hockey:

The USA Disabled Hockey festival is scheduled to be held in West Chester PA the weekend of March 21-24, 2013. An early bird discount was implemented for teams to register early for \$350.00. To date 37 teams have registered for this year's festival.

Bids were heard at this years USA Hockey board meeting in January. The 2014 festival will be held in a suburb of Boston Massachusetts.

The 2013 USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Workshop will be held October 4-6 in Madison, Wi. This workshop is designed for new and established programs with sessions focusing on coaching, risk management, off ice drills, on ice drills, marketing, fundraising, etc.

The USA Disabled Hockey Section is very excited to announce a new GROW Grant that is for Special Hockey programs. The GROW Grant has two components. The first is for special hockey programs that are in their 1st or 2nd year. Those programs can apply for a \$2,000 grant which can be used for things like ice time, formation of non-profit status, marketing, equipment or whatever else the new program needs to get up and running.

The second part of the grant is open to any special hockey program and is for equipment. A program can apply for a \$2,000 grant that will be used toward the purchase of equipment from Total Hockey. Additionally, because of Total Hockey's partnership with USA Hockey, they have agreed to increase the grant to \$2,200 allowing an even greater amount of equipment for the recipients of this grant. Information and applications can be found on the USA Hockey website. Our own new programs for special and sled hockey were awarded both of these grants in 2012.

USA Sled Select camp will be held in Buffalo, NY the second week of July, 2013. Applications for this camp will be posted on the USA Hockey website by March 2013. Eligible players must be nominated by their team coach.

Minnesota Disabled Hockey:

Minnesota Warriors: The Minnesota Warriors continue to grow as a program for veterans with disabilities. Currently they have 32 registered players with their program.

- On October 13, the Minnesota Warriors participated in the Annual Veteran's Job Fair and Oktoberfest at VFW Post 6316.
- On October 14, Minnesota Warrior volunteers helped flip pancakes at the Shriners Pancake Breakfast, with proceeds benefiting the Minneapolis Children's Hospital.

- October 14 was the Minnesota Warriors season opener game vs. the Elk River Rink Rats.
- On October 17, the Minnesota Warriors attended the DAV re-branding event in Minneapolis to support the DAV and discuss how the Minnesota Warriors have made a difference in their lives.
- On October 27, some of the Minnesota Warriors attended a fundraiser for Marco Solt, a double amputee recently back from Afghanistan.
- On November 11, the Minnesota Warriors hosted their second annual NHL Alumni Game, including Hall of Honor inductee Chad Frokjer.
- On November 23, the Minnesota Warriors participated in the Edina High School girls hockey team's Cake Eater Tournament.
- On December 16, the Minnesota Warriors hosted their first annual family open skate at Richfield Ice Arena and family holiday party at Fireside Pizza in Richfield.
- On December 19, Minnesota Warrior players practiced with the Minnesota Wild coaching staff at the Excel Energy Center.

Ongoing, the Minnesota Warriors participate in weekly ADM practices for player skill development.

Minnesota Sled Hockey: Minnesota Sled hockey currently has 37 registered players.

September 2012:

- Coach's evaluations were sent out with positive feedback.
- Registrar, Lindy Peterson became Liaison to MN hockey in addition to her current role.
- Scrimmaged the UMD hockey team and promoted the Duluth sled hockey program

October 2012:

- Sunday eve practices started for registered players

November 2012:

- MSHA president and youth coach Randy McGlocklin resigned. Judd Yaeger elected as president.
- 81 donation request letters were sent out to major MN-based businesses

- Registered new players and Sunday evening practices began

Upcoming:

- January 13th: Lakeville Fundraiser—youth to scrimmage bandits
- January 19-20th: MSHA hosts a small tournament with Winnipeg
- January 29th: Rosemount Fundraiser—youth to scrimmage bandits
- January 31st-skate with the U of M Gophers men's team

Minnesota Special Hockey: Minnesota Special Hockey currently has 140 registered players.

Minnesota Special Hockey kicked off the season with an open skate at Mariucci. This is an event that is done every year and this year was our largest turnout ever. At this event we also held our Annual Meeting. Our season started on November 4th, with all of our teams holding a practice. At that time we had 102 registered players and 31 registered coaches/volunteers. We now have 136 registered players and 46 registered coaches/volunteers. This includes the new combined special/sled team in Duluth. Our team in Moorhead has 15 skaters this season, last year they had 6 players.

Special Hockey meets every Sunday for practices or games. There was a bad snow storm on December 9th, but most of our games remained scheduled and had a pretty good turnout. On December 29th and 30th almost 40 of our players met in Alexandria for a Jamboree. It was highly successful and a lot of fun. This is something we will plan every year. Maybe next year will be in Moorhead or Duluth.

We are starting to plan for the USA Hockey Disabled Festival. Last year we had 2 teams in Dallas, hopefully we have at least 2 again this year. We already have commitment from a number of players that said they are going to make the trip.

Fundraising has been slow since the summer. Our largest fundraising event is the Section 108 Golf Tournament (held in August). This event brought in over \$10,000 again this year. Hopefully the NHL lockout does not affect the success of this event next year, it could be an issue. Eagle Street Grille raises a lot of money for this event, they need and NHL season to be successful. One Sunday in November a bunch of Special Hockey families showed up for lunch at Eagle Street Grille to show our support.

Minnesota Special Hockey will be skating with the U of M Gopher's men's team on January 31st from 6p-8p at Mariucci Arena.

Minnesota Disabled Hockey Committee:

The Disabled Hockey committee continues to meet and is currently developing a board hand book description along with a committee manual to assist with the development and governance of all disabled hockey programs in Minnesota. In addition they have completed the application for the disabled hockey scholarship and will work on creating a process for board development and growth.

New business:

Minnesota Disabled Hockey is proud to welcome the Duluth Special and Sled Hockey programs to our associations. The Duluth program received both equipment and growth grants from USA Hockey and is currently increasing their numbers and is holding regular ice time sessions.

Minnesota Disabled Hockey will be looking for a new disabled coach in chief to assist our programs with the coaching side of Minnesota and USA Hockey.

A festival was scheduled but canceled due to inability to secure instructors and curriculum. The ice time that was booked was used by all the programs of disabled hockey as an open skate, games and practice for all of our members.

The Disabled Hockey scholarship grant has been completed and will be distributed to teams the last week of January, 2013. This grant will be awarded at the Minnesota Hockey Annual meeting in April, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonia Gillen
USA Disabled Hockey Director
Minnesota District