

Minnesota Disabled Hockey Report  
January 5, 2014

## **USA Disabled Hockey:**

### **Disabled Hockey Festival Announced**



USA Hockey and Massachusetts Hockey announces the 10th Annual USA Disabled Hockey Festival to be held April 11 - 13, 2014.

The Festival takes place in different parts of the country each year. In 2014 the Festival will be held at the New England Sports Center in Marlborough Massachusetts. The center contains 6 NHL size rinks, snack bar, skate shop, and plenty of lounging space. The mission of the Festival is to provide a fun and exciting weekend of hockey in a grand event as well as to promote and grow disabled hockey throughout the country.

The USA Disabled Hockey Festival is the largest disabled hockey event of its kind. It brings together all the disciplines, Special Hockey, Sled Hockey, Standing/Amputee, and Deaf/Hard of Hearing.

## **Minnesota Disabled Hockey:**

*Minnesota Warriors:*

### **October 2013**

The White and Green teams continued with weekly practices gearing up for future tournaments and league play. The Green team is participating in the Adult Hockey Association (AHA) league starting in November.

### **November 2013**

The green team played four games in the AHA. They are still adjusting to the new format of play and hoping for a win. They also had a successful event with the NHL

Alumni for Veterans Day. A split squad game was played at the Richfield Ice Arena followed up with a meet and greet at the Richfield Legion. A very good time was had by all. During the same weekend the White team went to Las Vegas for the Armed Services Hockey Classic tournament. They placed second in their division and plan on getting some hardware next year.

### **December 2013**

December found both teams resuming weekly practice and AHA games for the Green team. The Green team isn't finding the success they had hoped for in the AHA, however they are moving in the right direction as a team. The White team is involved in a tournament in Warroad MN the weekend of 12/28/13. There will be great hockey played, and a little ice fishing done on the side.

### **Future**

The teams continue scheduling ice times, games, and planning tournaments through the next quarter.

#### *Minnesota Sled Hockey:*

MN Junior Wild Sled team started season off in Madison with weekend play versus the Wisconsin youth team in October. Jr. Wild travelled to Winnipeg for another weekend of competition in November. Jr. Wild took two of three vs Winnipeg (Jr. Wild had a few Winnipeg players on team).

MN Wild Sled also competed in Winnipeg over the same November weekend.

Our third group, in-house or shinny, started practice in November.

MSHA is now offering first year membership free. USA Hockey membership is required.

We are partnered with MN Wild again to bring discounted tickets, with part of ticket price benefiting MSHA!

#### *Minnesota Special Hockey:*

Minnesota Special Hockey is off to a great season. We currently have 139 players registered and numerous coaches and volunteers. That number will continue to grow throughout the season.

We are getting ready for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual jamboree in Alexandria, MN. This is held the weekend between Christmas and New Year's. Games are played on both Saturday and Sunday giving families a chance to stay in a hotel and experience an away tournament. The camaraderie and fun in the hotel is just as important as the time spent on the ice.

We are continuing to plan the Hockey Day Minnesota event. We are planning on having a game at Roseville Oval as well as an opportunity to showcase our league in Elk River over the weekend.

In December, a one day disabled coaches clinic was held in Blaine. Many Special Hockey coaches were in attendance. We are also planning trips to the USA Hockey Festival in Massachusetts as well as a tournament in Detroit Michigan. We continue to look for ways to spread the word about Minnesota Special Hockey and grow our program.

*Minnesota Disabled Hockey Committee:*

**USA Disabled Hockey coaching clinic:**

USA hockey in coordination with Minnesota Hockey put on a one day disabled hockey coaches clinic. This was a pilot of the new clinic and will be offered again in September of 2014. All disabled hockey coaches will be required to attend the clinic at least once, along with completing the Safesport program and the online disabled hockey coaching modules prior to the start of the season next year.

**Hockey Day Minnesota:**

In cooperation with Elk River, the oval, and the Hendrickson Foundation, all three disciplines of disabled hockey will be showcased across the state. Warriors and Special Hockey will play in Elk River, Special will also play at the Oval and Sled (youth, adult and Moorhead) will play on Lake Nokomis. Fox Sports will highlight one of our Warriors players, Andy Qualy and we will also have same day coverage as well.

**Disabled Hockey Night with the WILD:**

During a September pre-season game the WILD again highlighted a night dedicated to disabled hockey. This was again a great event with all programs involved in some fashion: program sales, drop the puck, skate the flag and an active guardsman from the Warriors during the national anthem. Check presentations we made from Section 108. 3 weeks later Prairie Island again gave \$10,000 to disabled hockey.

**Minnesota Disabled Festival:**

Festival prep will begin again at the end of January. Dates to be determined.

**Hendrickson Foundation:**

Minnesota Disabled Hockey continues to greatly benefit from the generosity of the Hendrickson Foundation. They are our biggest sponsor and not only raise money for our programs but continue to promote us in order to grow across the state. Their relationship with the WILD has yielded their support of our sled team and we are blessed to have them as a partner.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonia Gillen  
USA Disabled Hockey Director  
Minnesota District