



## Overview & Benefits

### Selects Hockey Mission Statement:

*To provide top players with an opportunity to compete against, develop and play with the top teams and players in the world.*

### Vision Statement:

To offer an integrated Spring/Summer hockey **Player Development Program** for young athletes to prepare them for the highest level of competition available at the age of 17.

Goals of our Player Development Program are:

- offer top elite programs with knowledgeable and accomplished hockey instructors to help these young prospects become better all-around athletes, students and citizens
- make the spring/summer season "a fun hockey learning environment" for all who want to take advantage of its programs offerings
- help young hockey players reach their personal goals such as playing NCAA or Professional hockey
- enhance the hockey and mental skills of young hockey prospects to become a *top elite player*
- facilitate player exposure to NCAA, Major Junior and even Professional Hockey levels

Operational Means to reach these goals are:

- play in selective Spring/Summer tournaments where exposure to scouts is prominent
  - We take a pro-active approach to player exposure. The hockey world is small and we've established relationships with numerous universities and junior teams. Coaches and scouts are ALWAYS seeking feedback on players and we simply want to see our players get plenty of hockey opportunities to choose from.
- participate in our camps under the instruction of top-notch professional instructors
- develop mature, cultured hockey players through overseas competition and travel

### Player Exposure

The ultimate goal for our players is to advance to the next level. Our philosophy is "Pro-Opportunity" meaning the more opportunities the player has, the better. We strive to provide every opportunity there is so that the player can make the best-educated decision for his/her future.

As an example, we are not pro-NCAA or pro-Major Junior. In a perfect scenario, teams from both leagues would be attempting to recruit the player. We work with teams within leagues from various levels including Major Junior, NCAA, USA NTDP, USHL, Junior A, and US Prep Schools.

Our alumni achievements include 56 NHL Draft picks in 3 years (2007-2010), 61 CHL draft picks along with hundreds of players drafted into the CHL and over 74 players committed to NCAA hockey programs.

**Selects Hockey is recognized as a "one-stop-shop" for NHL, CHL and NCAA programs alike to find tomorrow's top talent.**

## **Player Selection**

Our Selects Hockey program is by invitation only. We do not hold tryouts for our teams (aside from our first year team – Pee wee Major age group). Rather, players are scouted in various winter & spring games/tournaments by our staff. Players also can be evaluated at our Elite Camp over the summer. Our Selects Hockey program has boys teams beginning with the Pee wee Minor age group up to the Bantam Major level and girls teams from U13 to U18.

## **Tryouts (Youngest age groups only)**

In 2011 we will hold a one-day tryout for the 98 & 99 boy's teams and the 98 women's teams to select a roster of 17 players (9 forwards, 6 defensemen, & 2 goaltenders) to participate in our overseas trip. Most players will also receive invites to our spring tournaments as well. Tryout participants are typically pre-scouted and invited to attend, however, we will review all online applications and accept/reject based on their playing credentials.

For 2011, we will have 7 Selects Hockey boys' teams and 2 women's teams for which we hold tryouts for:

### **Boys Tryouts**

[98 West Coast Selects](#) - Detroit, MI - Jan 1, 2011

[98 East Coast Selects-O](#) - Buffalo, NY - Jan 1, 2011

[98 East Coast Selects-O](#) - Burlington, VT - Jan 1, 2011

[99 Western Canada Selects](#) - Camrose, Alb - Jan 1, 2011

[99 West Coast Selects](#) - Detroit, MI - Jan 2, 2011

[99 East Coast Selects-O](#) - Buffalo, NY - Jan 2, 2011

[99 East Coast Selects-O](#) - Burlington, VT - Jan 2, 2011

### **Girls Tryouts**

[98 West Coast Selects](#) - Detroit, MI - Dec 31, 2010

[98 East Coast Selects](#) - Buffalo, NY - Jan 31, 2010

### **Player Benefits –**

1. Players experience a tryout where they are competing against top players from all over the map. It is an "eye opening" and positive learning experience for these players as they should expect tougher competition in future years.
2. Positions on our teams are earned and no player is guaranteed a spot based on prior stats or reputation. The evaluation staff are hockey professionals working older/higher levels and have no affiliation with pee wee aged players they are selecting. Our tryout format is both thorough and fair.
3. It is an opportunity for us (Selects Hockey) to evaluate these players competing at a high level against other strong AAA-caliber, AA for women's tryout, players all under the same roof. Many of our evaluators are seeing these players for the first time.
4. An opportunity for the player & family to better understand our program and see our operation first-hand.

## Overseas Trip (April)

Each Selects team participates in a 10-day overseas hockey tour. It is an amazing experience for players and family members with top international competition. This educational trip provides memories to last a lifetime. Players are permitted to travel alone on the trip, however most often family member(s) do join the player.

Our teams often compete in an elite-level tournament in Stockholm, Sweden. Groups will travel to at least one other country for a few exhibition matches and practices. Whenever possible, exhibition games will be followed by a joint dinner with the host team and their families. In addition to the hockey activities, teams tour the cities in which they are visiting as part of their cultural learning experience.

A sample tour (for our North American teams):

- Day 1 – travel day to St Petersburg, Russia
- Days 2-4 - exhibition matches against top Russian teams, city tours, bus to Helsinki, Finland (4 hour ride)
- Day 5 - overnight cruise from Helsinki to Stockholm, Sweden
- Day 6-9 – Elite tournament in Stockholm, city tours
- Day 10 – travel day back to North America

Player Benefits –

- **Compete on an “international stage” at a young age** – some of our Selects Hockey players will have the opportunity in the future to play in international events such as World Junior Championships
- **Cultural learning environment** – Players will practice, compete against, and participate in certain activities with players from many different countries. Players will also have many tours of the cities and major landmarks that exist.
- **Memories to last a lifetime** – Even after several years, we continually hear from players sharing stories from a past trip.

## Spring Tournaments (April, May, & June)

Each of our teams competes in 3-4 weekend tournaments each spring. We target events of the highest caliber where players receive the best competition and exposure available.

Player Benefits –

- **Compete with players who are also regarded as “elite” players** - This serves as a great “eye opener” to many that they have a lot of work ahead of them. They are no longer the “big fish in a little pond”.
- **Compete against other strong spring teams** – It is a much different level of competition for these players compared with their winter teams when playing against truly “select” teams. This benefit holds true even for players who are on top winter clubs.
- **Non-parent coaches who coach to win while providing a positive and fun learning environment run our teams.** We often get players who are the top player on their winter team and are never taught the tough hockey lessons it takes to get to the highest levels. They develop very poor habits and we will help break them of those habits as we are trying to develop a complete hockey player. Hard work, team play, 2-way effort, character, & determination are all integral parts to our program and what we look to achieve with our players.

## Selects Hockey Elite Camp (June or July)

We hold a 5-day overnight camp for each age group within Selects Hockey each year in the final week of June (after the NAPS Tournament). All of our players are invited to participate. In addition, we will review all online applications and accept/reject based on their playing credentials. Our camp focuses on the overall development of the player both mentally and physically, while maintaining a high intensity level. We believe that a lot can be accomplished in regards to the mental aspect of the game as it is a vital component to realizing one's potential.

#### Player Benefits –

- Players will learn from NHL, Major Junior, & NCAA level coaches for the entire week. We do not bring in “guest” coaches but rather TOP-level coaches who are working with these players all week. Some of our repeat coaches include: Mark Howe (current Director of Pro Scouting – Detroit Red Wings), Glen Merkosky (current Pro Scout – Detroit Red Wings), Alan Hepple (current Head Amateur scout – Colorado Avalanche) Jim Bedard (current Goalie Coach – Detroit Red Wings), Ted Donato (current Head Coach of Harvard University) along with many other Professional and Collegiate level instructors.
- Players will receive daily lectures, practices, video sessions, games and off-ice conditioning and skills sessions.
- At the end of the week, our coaches will also hold a one-on-one review with each player for their added benefit.
- Many of our counselors are Selects Hockey Alumni who are current NHL draft picks, Major Junior or NCAA players, etc. We put a great amount of stock into the counselors, their importance as a role model to these young players is paramount. They serve as a great example of what to expect at the older age levels in which kids can ask them questions at any time.

#### **Continued Communication (winter season)**

It is very important to us that our players know we are just a “phone call away” at any time. Our staff is always available to act as a sounding board when a parent or player has a question regarding hockey or else. We continue to scout our players and others throughout the winter months for the following year. Because of this, we are able to provide continued feedback regarding one's play in trying to help develop the player.

#### Player Benefits –

- We are accessible to our players (and their families) throughout the winter for any advice or help they may need
- Players can receive continued feedback of their play at times when we are able to see them play

#### **For more information, please visit our websites:**

- <http://www.selectshockey.com/>
- <http://www.napstournaments.com/>
- <http://www.selectsportstours.com/>
- <http://www.worldselectsinvite.com/>

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