

PRESS RELEASE
INDIANAPOLIS TRAVEL MERGER INFORMATION
08/02/05

As communicated late last week, members of the various local travel hockey associations have officially announced that an agreement has been reached to merge all local travel hockey associations into a single, unified organization. The new, unified organization is being assembled with a focus on providing our local players the best possible opportunities to develop and grow as young athletes. The merger will also allow us as a community to field highly competitive teams. Players can now achieve that development competing with their peers rather than against.

This is truly about the players, and now is the time for the entire local hockey community to pull together, set the past aside, and help build for the future.

What will the new organization and teams be called?

*This is yet to be determined. For 2005-2006 all teams below the Central States (CSDHL) level will retain the team name and jersey of the association from which that coach originated. CSDHL teams will adopt the name and jersey of the new organization, **that name will be chosen by you – the local hockey community – more details to follow.** For the 2006-2007 season and beyond, all teams will play under the unified name chosen for the 2005 CSDHL teams.*

What is the board structure of the new organization, and who is on it?

The new travel board structure is currently designed to allow an appropriate level of input from the various constituencies involved; this includes representation from the Indianapolis Amateur Hockey Association (IAHA)/Checkers, The Arctic Blast Indianapolis Youth Hockey Association (IYHA)/Checkers, and Fishers Youth Hockey. The board will monitor the needs of the program and adjust as necessary. The start-up board members are as follows: Mike Aulby, Scott Law, Doug Ponsler, Tom Rogers, Keith Slifer and Mike Welsh. Representation from Fishers Youth Hockey will also be expected and encouraged.

What is the status of the tryout schedule?

We are pleased to announce that we have succeeded in minimizing the delay to the tryouts. Please see the attached coaching slate / table for tryout information, dates, times and locations.

What other tryout information is available?

The tryout fee has been standardized for all teams @ \$30. Absences require the approval of the coach and / or VP of Travel where appropriate. Play-up requests require approval of the new travel board, and should be submitted through the coach of the team for which the request is being submitted.

In what leagues will the teams compete?

There will be five (possibly six) birth-year targeted teams competing in the Central States Developmental Hockey League, with the remaining teams expected to compete in the Buckeye Travel Hockey League, with a few opting for independent status.

What happens to all the current teams and coaches?

The travel coaches currently slated by the old organizations will be retained – there will be minimal impact to the coaches or number of teams slated for this season. We have petitioned the

CSDHL to add a Midget Minor (U16) team and are awaiting approval. Should that approval be granted, Mark Dych will move into that open Head Coach position.

What impact will this merger have on the current house programs?

None, the house programs will continue to exist and operate as they have in the past.

While we realize there are many questions we have not answered, we can assure you that we are working together in the spirit of cooperation, and with a sense of urgency to address each and every issue responsibly. We ask for your patience and support as we work towards building a stronger more competitive youth hockey program in Indiana.

To view the latest version of the tryout schedule (which is changing regularly), please go to the “Travel” section of the website.