



## Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Chicago Jr Blackhawks Brick team

### What is the Brick tournament?

For those not familiar with the Brick tournament, it is one of the most prestigious hockey events available for players at the 10 & Under age level. The Chicago Jr Blackhawks Brick team is the **only sanctioned program** (for the past 7 years) that can bring an Illinois team to the **actual** Brick Tournament in Edmonton, Alberta. The Brick is offered for the **2007** age group in the summer of 2017. Select teams from all over the North American continent attend this renowned summer tournament which offers many young promising hockey players and their parents a first opportunity to compete in a very elite international environment. Not only does the tournament provide great hockey, but also a number of off-ice activities including the famous Brick Tournament Beach Party at the Water Park and skills competition which makes the tournament a special fun-filled hockey experience for the entire family.

We have sent a Chicago Jr. Blackhawks team for the past seven years and it is easy to see why the Brick is so highly regarded. There is no stone left unturned by the tournament staff and the production of games is at an NHL level. From the introduction of the teams to warm up music to the playing of the anthems to the post game drinks and food in the locker rooms to the media credentialing to the play by play call of every game to the team photographers to the gift bag that each player receives.

### When does the Brick tournament take place and how long is it?

The dates typically run the first week of July. This year's exact dates are July 3-9, 2017. This is not your typical spring/summer tournament as the Brick is a week-long event (seven day) tournament. Round robin play starts on Monday and players/families would need to arrive typically one day before the opening round game. We typically set up a practice the day before the tournament starts in the West Edmonton Mall. The championship game takes place Sunday at 12:30pm and is followed by the closing ceremonies. All players/teams are required to participate in the closing ceremonies and on ice jersey swap. Flights departing Edmonton should not be booked prior to 6:00pm on the final day.

### Where does the Brick tournament take place?

The tournament will once again be played in its entirety under the dome at the West Edmonton Mall Ice Palace in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

## **How many games do you play at the Brick?**

There are six round robin games played and then a semi final and championship game. There are two divisions of 7 teams and you play the six other teams in your division. The top two teams advance to the semi finals. Teams will play one game per day (except for one day that you play twice) during the round robin portion of the tournament. Last year over two hundred young players gained terrific experience and friendships when they participated in this Tournament and this year we plan to make it an equally memorable one.

## **What teams go to the Brick?**

While some other tournaments call themselves invitational's, they do not compare to the selection process of the Brick. There are 14 Charters that are extended to the top programs in North America and only those can bring teams to the tournament each year. Outside of our Chicago Jr Blackhawks ...they are:

Boston Jr. Bruins, LA Jr. Kings, Team Alberta, Connecticut Yankees, Detroit Jr. Red Wings, Eastern Atlantic Canadian Selects, Minnesota Blades, Montreal Ice Storm, Saskatchewan Jr. Pats, Toronto Bulldogs, Toronto Pro Hockey Development, Vancouver Jr. Canucks and Winnipeg Jr. Jets.

## **Who is eligible to play on the Chicago Jr Blackhawks "2007 Brick" team?**

Each of the aforementioned teams who play at the Brick have a geographical protected area that they can select players from. In addition to that teams are allowed an "import". An "import" is any player who lives outside of the teams protected area. The Chicago Jr Blackhawks protected area is Illinois. We are also allowed to take three (3) import players from outside Illinois. All players must be born in 2007.

## **When are the Evaluation Tryout Dates for the Chicago Blackhawks 2007 Brick team?**

**Step 1:** In preparation for the tournament that is still months away, the coaching staff has set regional scouting network to watch and evaluate some local Tier 2 games (with your association team). The first formal Brick Evaluation/Identification Camp will take place on **December 27-29, 2017** at Seven Bridges Ice Arena. This evaluation camp will allow the coaching staff to gather some early insight on the players available in our state.

**Step 2:** Following the December 2007 Evaluation/ID Camp we will begin to narrow down the group to **68** total players (36 forwards, 24 defensemen and 8 goalies). This group will not only be chosen from the Eval/ID Camp but also from a committee of evaluators from the AAA/AA Squirt level who have these players all season long. If you were unable to attend the December Evaluation/ID Camp we will try and have our staff attend one of your upcoming games or speak to coaches who may be familiar with your child. The Brick team will have well over 100 applicants attend the December camp, and we want to review all of them—including yours—

carefully. So please bear with us. You can expect to hear something back in January of 2017 after all of our staff has had more time to review the 2007 player pool.

**Step 3:** The final Evaluation Tryout will take place at the United Center on **February 27, 2017**. The **68** players invited to attend will be placed on one of four teams who will each play two games on the Chicago Blackhawks home ice! The cost to attend this tryout will be \$65 per player. Again, players will be notified in January if they have advanced to this evaluation tryout date.

**Step 4:** Following the United Center Evaluation Tryout we will select the 17 players (9 forwards, 6 defensemen and 2 goalies) who will represent the Chicago Blackhawks at the Brick Invitational. Notices will be sent to all players two (2) weeks after the final evaluation at the United Center.

### **What is involved if selected to the final roster?**

The final team will come together and train/compete on select weekends and participate in two to three tournament events. Participation and attendance at all tournaments and practices (for those players selected) is mandatory for all players. The Brick is a big commitment and the Jr Blackhawks staff needs time to prepare and have these players ready to compete in Edmonton. We will also be setting up some team building programs as the players and families spend a lot of time together. Player costs, budget and schedules will be presented to all families after final selections are complete.

### **Who will be the Head Coach for the Chicago Jr Blackhawks Brick team?**

The 2007 Brick team will once again be coached by Ryan Taylor. Ryan is one of the most widely respected coaches in Illinois hockey. Ryan is currently a Hockey Director with the Falcons Association where he has annually placed his teams in the top 5 national rankings in the entire United States. Ryan is originally from Burlington, Ontario, Canada, where he grew up playing for the Burlington City Reps AAA Hockey Organization from Squirts to Bantam Major. He then made the jump into the OPJHL Jr. A hockey league, playing for the Burlington Cougars for two seasons. Ryan played his collegiate hockey for Coach Tony Fritz at Lake Forest College, where he was Captain for two years and a recipient of the Taylor Award for outstanding play and leadership.

### **Who are the evaluators and selection committee for the Chicago Brick Team?**

The Chicago Blackhawks Youth Hockey Director Annie Camins, 200 x 85 LLC's Kevin Mann and Ryan Taylor (Head Coach/Brick Director) have set up a group of evaluators to make final team selections. This team is not pre-selected before the actual evaluations and our program is absolutely not affiliated with any in season team, coach or club. Everyone is welcome to register for the evaluations and be part of this most memorable and exciting hockey

experience. We will take the players who have been pre-scouted, recommended from a group of Squirt Tier I and Tier II Coaches, players who show up for Evaluation/ID Camps and those who advance to our 68 player United Center tryout. It is our task is to form a panel without any agendas and find people who will have an unfiltered vision. The biggest thing is to make sure we have evaluators who know the Squirt 2007 level, first and foremost. Our evaluators are all committed to serving the best interest of the Chicago Blackhawks — not any individual interests or those of their team clubs/associations.

**How do younger players (2008 and 2009) get noticed for future selection to the actual Chicago Jr Blackhawks Brick team?**



The **Brick Futures** is specifically designed to highlight the hockey abilities and talents of today's rising Illinois's Squirt Minors and Mite age players and tomorrow's Chicago Jr Blackhawks Brick stars. The Brick Futures are also led by the Chicago Jr Blackhawks Brick Head Coach- Ryan Taylor. Ryan will have a regional scouting network and Staff to watch and evaluate not only current Brick year (07's) but the **Future 08's** and **09's**. Every Mite and Squirt age player is eligible for selection. The selection process kicks off with pre-scouted local Tier 2 games (with your association team), a December 27-29, 2017 evaluation at Seven Bridges Ice Arena and the 2008 Futures proceed to a final evaluation at the United Center February 27, 2017 with the 2007 Brick players. Both the 2008's and the 2009's will have a Top 40 Performers selection for eventual development camps and tournaments.

#### **Brick FUTURES Program Information**

**Who:** The Brick Futures is intended for the top level rising Mite Major (09) and Squirt Minor age levels (08). The Top Performers (40) will be selected for the Chicago Jr Blackhawks Future's Brick Development Program.

**What:** The Brick Futures will bring together top performers to receive advanced instruction in a highly competitive setting. The Future Brick will gather for 3 distinct Training Programs to include on-ice drills, competitive games, off-ice training/treadmill and classroom/video instruction. \*Within the Top 40 - certain players may be chosen to two (2) potential tournament events.

**Events:** Late December Evaluation for the Top 40 Performers, 2008 Futures Evaluation at the United Center on Feb 27, 2017, 2 Tournaments, May College Training Weekend at the University of Notre Dame, June Sport Testing / Skating Treadmill & Skill weekend, July Training Week.

The Brick Futures are an incredibly important part of our program to see who the top Mite and Squirt Minor players are to eventually represent our state in Edmonton for the actual Brick Tournament. This spring & summer, our Brick Futures program will offer a philosophical approach to how we develop and prepare our players. It's nonsensical to think we can develop highly skilled players for the actual Brick Tournament when, from the time they are 7-8 years old, they play in 6-8 spring/summer tournaments but only practice a few times. The goal of the Brick Futures is to still offer a couple of competitive tournaments (for elite players to come together from different teams) but supplement this with a better training-to-game ratio. Our forthcoming outline will emphasize training, testing and competition and make this a true development priority over long distance spring tournaments, more travel, and more spending.

### **Is the Chicago Jr Blackhawks BRICK team affiliated with the Brick Series Program being advertised?**

NO, the Chicago Jr Blackhawks Brick team is the only sanctioned program (for the past 7 years) that can bring an Illinois team to the **actual** Brick Tournament in Edmonton, Alberta. One of the incredibly special things about the Brick Invitational Hockey Tournament perhaps even more so than the Quebec Peewee or the CCM World Hockey Invite tournament is that they have managed to keep their tournament uniquely special for 27 years. Exclusive to the point that hockey people get excited about attending the tournament years in advance. These program names look confusingly similar but in reality, however, the Chicago Blackhawks have the only rights to the Brick Invitational Hockey Tournament held annually in Edmonton, Alberta for Squirt Minor age players (this year 2007).

### **Blackhawk Involvement**

For the past seven (7) years we have been extremely fortunate and proud to have the Chicago Blackhawks support an Illinois entry in the Brick Super Novice Invitational Hockey Tournament. Each one of our players can realize their lifelong dream of "wearing the Blackhawks Jersey". Every opportunity like this comes with a great expense attached to it and our main goal (along with the Chicago Blackhawks) is to keep costs down wherever possible. The Blackhawks have been very generous in supporting this program and we ask all players who do get selected to become involved in fundraising activities.

In addition, each Jr. Blackhawks player will be assigned a jersey number that matches a current Blackhawks player. Similar to a "pen pal", they will be responsible for writing 1-2 letters to the Blackhawks player telling them about their experience at the Brick tournament and how excited they are to be a part of the program.

## Costs

Because of the Blackhawks involvement along with team and individual fundraising, we are able to offer this program for approximately \$3300 per player. This includes:

- 1 hotel room for 8 nights at the Fantasyland Hotel in the West Edmonton Mall
- Team Jerseys, Socks and Pant Shell
- Team Outfitting (Backpacks, Tee, Shorts, Hoody, Warm Ups)
- Team Tournament Entry Fee and DVD
- Water Park Passes for Team Beach Party
- Insurance Coverage
- Coaches Expenses (travel, hotel and per diem)
- Pre Tournament Practice Ice and Pre Tournament Entry Fees

Costs do not include:

- Airfare
- Transportation to and from hotel
- Additional hotel rooms if needed
- Meals
- Black Helmet

Final player fees and budget will be presented to all families after team selection.

## Other Links on the Brick Invitational

The Brick Tournament has been a hockey institution in for over 26 years since the tournament began in 1990

<http://www.brickhockey.pointstreaksites.com/view/brickinvitational>

Also check out the Brick Hockey Highlights website which has highlight videos and interviews of many NHLers who played at the Brick tournament when they were ten years old.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/veservicesltd>

Here is a you tube video of a ten year old JONATHAN TOEWS

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0Or6zyaQK8>

