



## 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 9 years) that can bring an Illinois team to the **actual** Brick Tournament in Edmonton, Alberta. The Brick is offered for the **2009** age group in the summer of 2019. 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 nine 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 1-7, 2019. 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 "2009 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 includes Illinois, Wisconsin, and Missouri. We are permitted to take three (3) import players from outside of the protected area. All players must be born in 2009.

## **When are the Evaluation Tryout Dates for the Chicago Blackhawks 2008 Brick team?**

**Step 1:** In preparation for the tournament that is still months away, we have set a 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 **November 12, 2018 (Veterans Day)** at the brand new **Chicago Blackhawks Community Ice Arena**. This evaluation camp will allow the coaching staff to gather some early insight on the players available in our state. The cost to attend this tryout will be \$99 per player.

**Step 2:** Following the November 12<sup>th</sup> Evaluation/ID Camp we will begin to narrow down the group. 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 are unable to attend the November 12<sup>th</sup> 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 November camp, and we want to

review all of them—including yours—carefully. So please bear with us. You can expect to hear something back by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 after all of our staff has had more time to review the 2009 player pool.

**Step 3:** The final Evaluation Tryout will take place again at the ***Chicago Blackhawks Community Ice Arena on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019.*** Again, players will be notified by the Chicago Blackhawks by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 if they have advanced to this final evaluation tryout date.

**Step 4:** Following the Final Evaluation Tryout on March 16<sup>th</sup> we will select the 17 players (9 forwards, 6 defensemen and 2 goalies) who will represent the Chicago Blackhawks at the Brick Invitational.

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

A complete schedule of training and competition weekends decided by the Chicago Blackhawks and 200x85 (April thru June) will be provided once the final team is determined. 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 Chicago 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 are the evaluators and selection committee for the Chicago Brick Team?**

The Chicago Blackhawks Manager of Fan Development Spencer Montgomery, Senior Director of Fan Development Annie Camins and 200 x 85 LLC's Kevin Mann 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 final 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 2009 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 (2010) get noticed for future selection to the actual Chicago Jr Blackhawks Brick team?**



The **2010 Brick Futures** is specifically designed to highlight the hockey abilities and talents of today's rising Illinois players and tomorrow's Chicago Jr Blackhawks Brick stars. The Brick Futures will also have a regional scouting network and Staff to watch and evaluate not only current Brick year (09's) but the **Future 10's**. Every 2010 age player is eligible for selection. Further information will be provided in early 2019. The Brick Futures are incredibly important part of our program to see who the top players are to eventually represent our state in Edmonton for the actual Brick Tournament.

**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 9 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 29 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 2009).

**Blackhawk Involvement**

For the past nine (9) 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". Spencer Montgomery (Manager of Fan Development) serves as the Brick/Blackhawks Liaison and works closely with Annie Camins (Senior Director of Fan Development) on each and every aspect of the entire Brick process. 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. **NO PLAYER will be turned away due to financial hardships and we will**

**assist any family in need.** 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.

## **Costs**

Because of the Blackhawks involvement along with team and individual fundraising, we are able to offer this program in the \$4200 budget range per player. This includes the additional Chicago Showcase cost (\$600) that will immediately save families almost \$1,500, as it replaces the expensive NAHC travel tournament to Winnipeg, Manitoba. Final player fees and budget will be presented to all families after team selection. Again, no player will be turned away due to financial hardships and we will assist any family in need.

This includes:

- Team practices right up until departure at the Chicago Blackhawks Community Ice Arena.
- Raffle tickets and Prizing for all Fundraising – Players keep 100% of proceeds.
- 1 hotel room for 8 nights at the Fantasyland Hotel in the West Edmonton Mall (this alone is close to \$2000 per player).
- Team Jerseys, Socks and Pant Shell
- Team Outfitting (Backpacks, Tee, Shorts, Hoody, Warm Ups)
- Trading Pins - Helmet Decals
- Team Tournament Entry Fee and DVD
- Water Park Passes for Team Beach Party
- Insurance Coverage
- Coaches Expenses (travel, hotel and per diem)
- Pre Tournament Ice including Training Weekends and 3 Tournament Entry Fees.

Costs do not include:

- Airfare
- Transportation to and from hotel (all games played at the West Edmonton Mall)
- Additional hotel rooms if needed
- Meals
- Black Helmet

## **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>

