

BIG BEAR TOURNAMENTS



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John Christie

2009-2010 Big Bear Events



Youth Hockey Tournaments

Detroit, MI - Cleveland, OH
Ann Arbor, MI - Indianapolis, IN
Grand Rapids, MI - Chicago, IL
Pittsburgh, PA - St. Louis, MO
Tampa, FL

New venues for 09 - 10

Nashville, TN - Kalamazoo, MI

This on-line brochure was created for your convenience while we update our website for the coming season. Please visit our website when completed for a comprehensive overview of our programs.

P.O. Box 1213 Union Lake, MI 48387-1213

HOCKEY HOTLINE: 248.399.1694

WWW.SHOOTOUTHOCKEY.COM

WHAT'S NEW THIS SEASON

For the **2009-2010 season** we are pleased to announce several new changes in our program. First and foremost Shoot Out Hockey and Big Bear Tournaments will continue to offer great competition at an affordable price.

On that note, we are pleased to announce that we have **reduced entry fees** in almost all venues, **extended our discounts, lowered hotel rates** and added 2 new venues.... **Nashville, TN.** and **Kalamazoo, MI.** There will also be an expanded schedule in **St Louis, Cleveland, and Tampa.**

At Big Bear we offer many different tournament opportunities, from small events with just a few divisions on a single surface as in our St. Louis events, to our **Double Helix** series offered twice each season in Ann Arbor / Detroit with many divisions in many arenas. In the Double Helix series, teams compete in their host city on the first and second day of the event and crossover on the 3rd day for a look at teams in the other venue. The Double Helix events will take place MLK weekend (January 16-18, 2010 and March 5-7, 2010 in our Ann Arbor Detroit venues). For clubs traveling with multiple teams, be sure to notify us early with regards to siblings on multiple teams so that we can schedule their games accordingly.

And of course we offer everything in between: from B / house recreation events to AAA tournaments.

For Clubs who wish to travel together, we can build an event around the teams you wish to enter. At Big Bear Hockey, we've got a tournament to suit your needs.

Look for **NHL game opportunities** on selected tournament weekends again this season.

TOURNAMENT FEATURES

at a glance

USA Hockey Sanctioned, **4 game** minimum, No curfews.

Reduced entry fees in most events, & lots of **discounts.**

Canadian teams at par for all events except 10/10 Detroit.

Tournament **memento** for each player.

Individual and team awards for 1st and 2nd place teams MVP award for both champion and finalist.

Accommodations and the **lowest rates** at 1st class hotels for out-of-town teams, including Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt, Embassy Suites, Sheraton, Doubletree, & many more.

GAME COUNT & ENTRY FEES

ALL TOURNAMENTS ARE A FOUR GAME MINIMUM WITH FIVE GAMES MAXIMUM.

Teams may register by completing the application form found on the last page of this brochure or on the tournament page for each event. The application can be mailed with the full entry fee or a \$200.00 non-refundable deposit. The balance of payment is due 45 days prior to each event. Within 30 days of the tournament start date the entire entry fee is non-refundable. Fees vary by event, with details available on each tournament page on our website.

Entry fees vary strictly on ice costs, and this years best values are in Grand Rapids, Detroit, and Kalamazoo.

START & FINISH TIMES

Tournaments beginning on a Friday and finishing on Sunday will begin at approximately 1:00 PM with finals completed by 6:00 PM on Sunday. Exceptions to these guidelines are Thanksgiving weekend events, when play will begin at approximately 7:00 AM on Friday. Local teams may play Wednesday or Thursday.

For tournaments beginning on Saturday and finishing on Monday, held over various holiday weekends, play will begin at approximately 7:00 AM on Saturday with finals completed by 6:00 PM on Monday. Local teams may play Friday to alleviate the schedule.

Generally younger aged teams will play earlier in the day. This may be affected by teams requesting an early start time to attend a local pro or college game in the area the weekend of the tournament.

PLACEMENT

AND USING THE TEAM EVALUATION FORM

It is our practice to place teams in divisions which provide the best competition for your team's skill level.

To that end, we implemented our **team evaluation form** last season. With the cooperation of each team, this form filled out accurately and honestly will enhance your experience, as the information contained in it along with your **game log** will allow our staff to place your team in the proper spot.

Over the years we have had many conversations with team staff as to what they would like to accomplish at our tournaments. Some want the toughest competition to prepare for another future event, while others are interested in getting away as a group to build chemistry and just have a fun weekend.

AGE GROUPS & DIVISIONS

AGE GROUPS

BY DIVISION AND BIRTH YEAR

USA Hockey age classifications will be used when applying tournament divisions. For the 2009-10 season they are:

Mite	2001 & younger	Squirt	2000 and 1999
Peewee	1998 & 1997	Bantam	1996 and 1995
Midget Minor	1994 & 1993	Midget Major	1992 and 1991

SKILL LEVELS

Big Bear tournaments generally list the following skill levels:

B - BB - A - AA & AAA

B (or House) - teams chosen through a draft with the goal of creating equal skill level among teams within a club.

BB (House) - is a designation used in Michigan at the Midget Major house level only

A (or B travel) - generally the 2nd travel team chosen within a club. These teams are generally made up of minor aged players. When an A1 or A2 is designated, this is a further delineation within an age group of the skill continuum.

AA - the 1st travel team chosen within a club. These teams are usually made up of major aged players.

AAA – These teams are single birth year (i.e. 97, 98, 96 etc.) and represent the highest skill level within their age group.

Note: Michigan A teams should be aware that non Michigan A teams may include 2nd year players. For a detailed description of how this procedure occurs, please visit our website.

ANN ARBOR, MI

Just 35 minutes west of Detroit, Ann Arbor tournaments feature teams from across the U.S. and Canada. As many of you have already found out, this is a great opportunity to take in a collegiate game and possibly skate a game at Yost Arena, home of the Wolverines.

Over the past several seasons many of our Ann Arbor events have expanded beyond the ice availability in the area and some divisions have been moved to the suburban Detroit area. This season, events offered in Ann Arbor and Detroit on the same dates will be part of our **Double Helix series** and will be combined into a single event and noted below in **blue**. See “**What’s new this Season**” on page 2 of this brochure for a detailed explanation of these events. All events will include Mite thru Midget/HS, B, BB, A, AA, & H.S.J.V. unless otherwise noted.

The FlatWater **October 2 - 4, 2009**

The Fall Colours **Oct. 30 – Nov. 1, 2009**

The FireBolt **December 4 - 6, 2009**

The FireBird **January 8 - 10, 2010**

Mite B, Mite A, Squirt B, Squirt A, Peewee B, Peewee A, Bantam A, Midget B – J.V., and Midget A & AA – H.S.

The Big Chill **January 16 - 18, 2010**
This event will run Saturday through Monday (MLK day)

The Bear Mite Festival **February 5 - 7, 2010**
plus Mini-Mite

The Ursa Minor **February 19 - 21, 2010**
plus Mini-Mite

The Big Thaw **March 5 - 7, 2010**

The Ring of Fire **April 16 - 18, 2010**

DETROIT, MI

Just 35 minutes east of Ann Arbor, our Detroit tournaments feature teams from across the U.S. and Canada. As many of you have already found out, this is a great opportunity to take in a Windsor Spitfire, Plymouth Whalers Jr A game or make the short jaunt to Ann Arbor for the Michigan Wolverines. Depending on the season, you may also want to catch a Red Wings, Tigers or Pistons game.

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The Rouge River Shootout **September 25 - 27, 2009**

Victory Honda Invitational **October 10 - 12, 2009**
Saturday through Monday (Columbus Day & Can. Thanksgiving)
Mite Major AAA 2001 Birth year

The Ursa Major **November 6 - 8, 2009**

The Wild Turkey **November 27 - 29, 2009**

The Urban Legends **December 4 - 6, 2009**

The Trenton Invitational **December 11 - 13, 2009**

The Big Chill **January 16 - 18, 2010**
This event will run Saturday through Monday (MLK day)

The W. J. C. Classic **February 13 - 15, 2010**
This event will run Saturday through Monday (Presidents day)

The Big Thaw **March 5 - 7, 2010**

The Thunderbird **April 23 - 25, 2010**

The Last Dance **May 14 - 16, 2010**
plus Girls U12 - U14 - U16 - U19

PITTSBURGH, PA

Pittsburgh has become one of our must do destinations. Whether you intend to add to your hockey experience with a trip to one of the Carnegie Museums, visit Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater house, schedule a day of white water rafting at Ohio pyle, visit the Duquesne Incline for some incredible scenery, or just stroll and shop along the 'Waterfront', you won't be disappointed to spend a weekend.

This season will feature the participation of the Little Caesars Club and their 2009 National Championship team.

The Silver Skates ***August 21 - 23, 2009***
Peewee, Bantam, Midget Minor & Midget Major AAA

ST. LOUIS, MO

These events will take place at the St. Louis Mills Ice Zone in Hazelwood, MO.

Pond Rockets ***October 10 - 12, 2009***
This event will run Saturday through Monday (Columbus day)
Mite B, Mite A & Bantam A only

Rolling Thunder ***January 16 - 18, 2010***
This event will run Saturday through Monday (MLK day)
Squirt A & Peewee A only

The Gateway ***February 13 - 15, 2010***
This event will run Saturday through Monday (Presidents day)
Peewee AA & Bantam AA – strong competition only

The Ol' Shalleighly ***March 19 - 21, 2010***
Mite thru Midget / H.S. & H.S.J.V. B, A, & AA

AAA EVENTS

Many of the tournaments listed below are managed by Big Bear for the organizations listed.

The Silver Skates - Pittsburgh ***August 21 - 23, 2009***
Peewee, Bantam, Midget Minor & Midget Major AAA

Victory Honda Inv. - Detroit ***October 10 - 12, 2009***
Saturday through Monday
(Columbus Day & Canadian Thanksgiving)
Mite Major AAA 2001 Birth year

The S2 Inv. - Kalamazoo ***November 27 - 29, 2009***
Bantam Minor and Bantam Major AAA

NASHVILLE, TN

The event will take place at the Centennial Ice Arena with accommodations within walking distance.

The Fall Prep Showcase ***October 10 - 12, 2009***
This event will run Saturday through Monday (Columbus day)
High School and J. V. only 2 skill pools

The Smokey Mt. Shootout ***January 16 - 18, 2010***
Mite thru Midget A & AA

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Our Indy tournament feature teams from across the U.S. and Canada playing in several of the finest arenas in Indianapolis, including the Arctic Zone, Indy's newest arena.

Don't miss a trip downtown, a Junior Ice, Pacers or Colts game. Strolling through downtown and great dining will take up most of your time while away from the rink.

- The FireStorm** **September 25 - 27, 2009**
Mite thru Midget/H.S. A & AA
plus Girls U12 – U14 – U16 – U19
- The Indy Jones** **November 27 - 29, 2009**
Mite thru Midget/H.S. B, A & AA including H.S.J.V.
- The Brickyard** **January 16 - 18, 2010**
This event will run Saturday through Monday (MLK day)
Mite thru Midget/H.S. B, A & AA including H.S.J.V.
- Gasoline Alley** **February 13 - 15, 2010**
This event will run Saturday through Monday (Presidents day)
Mite thru Midget/H.S. B, A & AA including H.S.J.V.
plus Girls U12 – U14 – U16 – U19

CLEVELAND, OH

Cleveland offers a great time in a great city, whether it's the Flats, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame or an array of other diversion, that await your arrival.

- Fire on the Water** **October 23 - 25, 2009**
Mite thru Midget B, A & AA
- The Wintergarden** **January 16 - 18, 2010**
This event will run Saturday through Monday (MLK day)
Mite thru Midget B, A & AA

GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Michigan's 2nd largest city, Grand Rapids is a quiet mid-western town just a short ride to Lake, Michigan. While in town you may want to enjoy the downtown area, visit the Gerald Ford Presidential Library or take in a Griffin's game.

- The Early Bear** **September 18 - 20, 2009**
Peewee thru Midget/H.S. A & AA including H.S.J.V.
plus Girls U12 – U14 – U16 – U19
- The Fall Classic** **September 25 - 27, 2009**
Squirt thru Midget/H.S. A & AA including H.S.J.V.
plus Girls U12 – U14 – U16 – U19
- Cold Fusion** **November 6 - 8, 2009**
Mite thru Midget/H.S. B, BB, A & AA including H.S.J.V.
- The Avalanche** **January 29 - 31, 2010**
Mite thru Midget/H.S. B, BB, A & AA including H.S.J.V.
plus Girls U12 – U14 – U16 – U19
- The Spring Showdown** **March 5 - 7, 2010**
Mini-Mite thru Midget/H.S. B, BB, A & AA including H.S.J.V.
- The Killer Bees** **March 12 - 14, 2010**
Mini-Mite thru Midget & H.S.J.V. House Rec. B & BB only

CHICAGO, IL

Our Chicago tournament features teams from across the U.S. and Canada playing in greater Chicago's finest arenas. The possibilities are endless in Chicago. Shopping, sporting events and great dining will take up most of your time while away from the rink.

- The Crossroads** **January 16 - 18, 2010**
This event will run Saturday through Monday (MLK day)
Mite thru Midget B, A & AA (Bronze, Silver, Gold)
plus Girls U12 - U14 - U16 - U19

KALAMAZOO, MI

Located between Ann Arbor and Chicago, this is a great destination with a long history of hockey. Games will be played at the newest arena in town, the S2 Arena.

The S2 Invitational **November 27 - 29, 2009**
Bantam Minor and Bantam Major AAA Tier 1

The Luck of the Irish **March 19 - 21, 2010**
Mite thru Midget / H.S. & H.S.J.V. B, BB, A, & AA

TAMPA, FL

Tampa in the dead of winter, need we say more. All of these tournaments are scheduled to begin on Saturday, but depending on the number of teams entered, a Friday start may be necessary for the local teams or for any team traveling who may want a night off to attend an NHL game.

The Eye of the Storm **October 10 - 12, 2009**
Saturday through Monday (Columbus Day & Can. Thanksgiving)
Mite thru Midget A & AA

The Mountain King **January 16 - 18, 2010**
This event will run Saturday through Monday (MLK day)
Mite thru Midget A & AA

The Palms **February 13-15, 2010**
This event will run Saturday through Monday (Presidents day)
Mite thru Midget A & AA

Coaches Discount - Each team that books a minimum of 14 rooms per night will receive 1 comped room for each night. This room may be assigned to a bus driver or team manager upon request. Hotels participating in this program will be designated with a **C** on our web site.

Also new this season, each team booking 20 or more rooms per weekend that does not qualify for the 14 room per night discount above will receive 1 comped room for one night for a 2 night stay. Hotels participating in this program will be designated with a **X** on our web site.

2009 - 2010 DISCOUNTS

For the best service, when applying for a discount, please fill in a **team discount form** and attach it to your team application.

Early Season Discount – A & AA teams playing in any of our **September and early October** tournaments will receive a **\$250 discount** on their next Big Bear Tournament during the 2009-10 season. Entering one of the tournaments listed below in this section will make you eligible for this discount. **B or house** teams will receive this discount by playing in any of our **September thru October 23, 2009 events**.

A & AA events:

September 18-20, 2009 in Grand Rapids, MI - The Early Bear
September 25-27, 2009 in Grand Rapids, MI - The Fall Classic
September 25-27, 2009 in Indianapolis, IN - The Fire Storm
September 25-27, 2009 in Detroit, MI - The Rouge River Shootout
October 2-4, 2009 in Ann Arbor, MI - The Flatwater
October 2-4, 2009 in Nashville, TN - The Fall Prep Showcase

B events:

September 25-27, 2009 in Indianapolis, IN - The Fire Storm
September 25-27, 2009 in Detroit, MI - The Rouge River Shootout
October 2-4, 2009 in Ann Arbor, MI - The Flatwater
October 2-4, 2009 in Nashville, TN - The Fall Prep Showcase
October 23-25, 2009 in Cleveland, OH – Fire on the Water

Discounts eligibility must be brought to our attention when applying for an event. Players and coaches must be the same to be considered as a team playing in multiple events

Multi-tournament - Individual teams in multiple events will receive discounts based on the number of tournaments in which they play:

full entry fee on 1st event \$75 on 2nd event entry fee
\$125 on 3rd event entry fee \$250 on 4th event entry fee

Multi-team / tournament - clubs bringing multiple teams to any single tournament or any event on the same weekend in different cities will receive the following discounts:

2 or 3 teams \$40 on entry fee 6 to 8 teams \$100 on entry fee
4 or 5 teams \$75 on entry fee 9 teams & up \$150 on entry fee

Discount offers may not be combined. We will work with each team or club to determine the maximum discount that may be applied.

TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

The following links, which can also be accessed from the tool bar at the top of each page on our website, will help you to register your team for an event whether you are new to the process or a grizzled veteran.

[Checklist](#)

A useful tool to help organize the process

[Tournament Application](#)

[Player and Staff List](#)

This list will be used to create your bag tags and t-shirt information. Please make sure the spelling is correct.

[Team Evaluation Form](#)

This form, along with the questionnaire and game log below with help us in placing your team in the appropriate spot.

[Questionnaire](#)

[Game Log](#)

A list of games you've played, the opponents, and scores.

[Age Chart](#)

Every USA Hockey affiliate organizes their teams with slight variations. This can help you compare how Michigan organizes their programs with yours.

[Discount Application](#)

If you are coming to several events or traveling with a number of teams from your club this form will help define the discount process

[General information](#)

Gives you an overview of the rest of the details.

Teams must be registered with USA Hockey or their IIHF affiliate and are required to submit a certified roster prior to the start of the tournament.

HOTEL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Big Bear Tournaments has secured room blocks for all out-of-town teams participating in our events. **As a condition of acceptance and participation in our tournaments, all teams utilizing hotel rooms, including out-of-town teams, must reserve rooms through Big Bear Tournaments by way of a rooming list and stay in an authorized hotel.**

Any team whose home arena is more than 70 miles from the tournament rink will be considered an out-of-town team and will be required to comply with our hotel policies and procedures. Out-of-town teams must utilize a minimum of 18 room nights during the tournament (i.e. 9 rooms per nights).

Please be aware that many of our partner hotels offer a **complimentary room** with 14 or more rooms per night consumed. Please see our discount programs for additional details.

Please do not contact hotels directly, as team reservation must be made via a rooming list and cannot be accepted over the phone.

Upon registration, team contacts will receive rooming list forms and instructions to complete the reservation process. These forms are also available on our website.

Rooming list forms should be completed and returned to the Big Bear Tournament office at least 3 weeks prior to each event. Regardless of when room blocks are assigned, room blocks will be determined on a first come, first served basis.

We receive many requests from teams within the same organization wishing to stay in the same hotel. We make every effort to accommodate these requests and early receipt of completed room lists will help our efforts. Please keep in mind that many hotels are securing blocks 1 year in advance of the event, so don't be concerned about being too early.

Hotel selections will be listed on our website, which will include a picture, the nightly contracted rate, and a description.

Big Bear Tournaments offers an outstanding selection of hotels in each of our cities, chosen to provide first class comfort and service to our out-of-town guests.

Additional details, including rooming list forms, policies and procedures are available on our website at www.shootouthockey.com.