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OHIO FLAMES

# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**64 GIRLS HOCKEY TEAMS TO COMPETE IN OHIO FLAMES ANNOUNCE 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**ANNUAL "IGNITE THE ICE" GIRLS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**

**CLEVELAND, OH; SEPT. 25-27, 2009**

CLEVELAND, OH; SEPTEMBER 17, 2009: 64 Girls hockey teams from across North America have entered the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ignite the Ice Girls Hockey Tournament, hosted by the Ohio Flames in Cleveland, Sept. 25-27, 2009. To accommodate the 134 hockey games required for the event, the Ohio Flames have scheduled games at the following local Ice Rinks from Friday afternoon until mid day Sunday:

- Serpentine Arena (Lakewood, OH)
- Cleveland Heights Community Center (Cleveland Heights, OH)
- Mentor Civic Ice Arena (Mentor, OH)
- KSU Ice Arena (Kent, OH)

~ MORE ~

The 64 teams, with over 1000 players from 8-19 years old, will compete in age divisions including:

- 10U
- 12U
- 14U
- 16U
- 19U

The age divisions will be divided into Tier I and Tier II groupings. The teams entered in the Tier I Divisions are all declared "Tier I National Tournament Bound" by USA Hockey (or are top Canadian teams) and will include some of the best players in North America at each age group (two Ohio Flames alumni are currently on US National Team training for 2010 Olympic Games). The Tier II brackets will include US teams targeting the USA Hockey Tier II National Championship (new in 2010) and competitive Canadian teams.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual "Ignite the Ice" teams come from 10 states and Canada:

- 1 - Alaska
- 2 - Arizona
- 9 - Illinois
- 14 - Michigan
- 1 - Minnesota
- 14 - New York
- 10 - Ohio
- 8 - Ontario
- 4 - Pennsylvania
- 1 - Virginia

The 2008 "Ignite the Ice" scheduled 120 competitive games played over the week end and it ended with two Championship games going into overtime. Of the 67 teams entered in the 2008 "Ignite the Ice" nine teams finished their seasons' by advancing to the Tier I USA Hockey National Championship in Rochester, NY. Of the nine teams at Nationals, four advanced to the ¼ Finals and two advanced to the Championship.

## About the Ohio Flames

The Ohio Flames ([www.ohioflames.org](http://www.ohioflames.org)), operated by The Ohio Women's Hockey Association are members of the Mid America District ([www.midamhockey.com](http://www.midamhockey.com)) of USA Hockey ([www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com)). The Ohio Flames mission is to *"To promote excellence in women's hockey by providing hockey teams and coaching so that female players may develop their hockey skills and achieve their fullest potential while playing at their highest level possible. To provide growth opportunities for females. To be the option of choice for the best female hockey players."*

For 2008-09 Season just completed, the Ohio Flames fielded 6 teams for girls between 8 years old and 19 years old.

- The 19U Tier I team finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the prestigious Tier 1 Elite Hockey League, with a record of 14-2-3 and advanced to the ¼ finals at the USA Hockey National Championship.
- The 16U Tier 1 team finished in 11<sup>th</sup> place in the Tier 1 Elite Hockey League, with a record of 7-12-1 and won the Silver Medal at the USA Hockey Mid-America District Championship.
- The 16 U Tier II team won the regular season championships and was playoff champion of the GLGHL (Great Lakes Girls Hockey

League). In addition the 16U Tier II team won the inaugural USA Hockey Mid-America District Tier II Championship.

- The 14 U Tier I team finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Tier 1 Elite Hockey League with a record of 11-5-4 and won the Silver Medal at the USA Hockey Mid-America District Championship.
- The 12 U Tier I team played in several tournaments and advanced to the ¼ finals at the USA Hockey National Championship.
- The 10U team played in several tournaments.

In addition to fielding competitive teams, the Ohio Flames host an annual tournament in Cleveland each Sept., attracting over 60 teams from across North America to the greater Cleveland Area. The Ohio Flames also support girls exposure to hockey by sponsoring the "Sugar and Spice, but not on the Ice" spring Girls Hockey program. Over 16 Ohio Flames Alumni have continued their hockey career playing in collegiate programs across North America, with one alumna currently on the US U22 National Team.

**About USA Hockey, Mid-America District**

[www.midamhockey.com](http://www.midamhockey.com)

The Mid-America district is one of 12 USA Hockey districts nationally, governing hockey in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania. Each district has a registrar to register teams, a referee-in-chief to register officials and organize clinics, a coach-in chief to administer educational programs for coaches, a risk manager to oversee liability and safety programs and an initiation program administrator to facilitate learn-to-play programs for youth players and their parents. Currently there are 30,000 registered players in the Mid-American District, of which 2,400 are girls/women.

**About USA Hockey [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com)**

USA Hockey Inc. is the national governing body for the sport of ice hockey in the United States. It is the official representative to the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF). In this role, USA Hockey is responsible for organizing and training teams for international tournaments that include the IIHF World Championships and the Olympic Winter Games. USA Hockey also coordinates activities with other national ice hockey federations around the world and, closer to home, works with the National Hockey League (NHL) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) on matters of mutual interest. Currently there are 470,000 registered players in the USA Hockey, of which 60,000 are girls/women.