



February 22, 2007

To: Texas/Oklahoma Associations, Texas Amateur Hockey Association (TAHA)
From: T.C. Lewis, TAHA President
Re: **2007 Boys Texas Affiliate Camp (TAC)**

I am pleased to announce that the Boys Texas Affiliate Camp (TAC) will again be hosted this year by TAHA and will be held at the Dr Pepper StarCenter-Farmers Branch in Dallas, Texas, on March 16 - 18, 2007. This memo contains information pertinent to the Camp and should be distributed to all coaches within your respective associations who will be nominating players.

Any questions pertaining to the goals and objectives (e.g. nominations, evaluations, etc.) of the Texas Affiliate Camp should be sent to T.C. Lewis at TLewis@aerodromes.com. Questions regarding TAC logistics/planning (e.g. registration, schedule, etc.) should be sent to Camp Director Ted Skinner at TSkinner@junioraeros.com.

TAC Objectives

The objective of TAC is to evaluate those players who, in the judgment of their coaches, are the best players at their respective position and age group (Boys: 1990, 1991, 1992 or 1993). Based upon each player's performance in a series of structured drills and scrimmages, TAC evaluators will select a limited number of players at each age group and position to represent TAHA at the Rocky Mountain District (RMD) Player Development Camp, which is scheduled for May 2-6 at the Olympic Oval in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Similar to last year, this year's TAC evaluators will be experienced hockey coaches from outside the state of Texas and Oklahoma. Our goal is to improve the integrity and consistency of the player evaluation process by eliminating the natural biases that can occur when coaches are evaluating groups of players that include those from their own team and/or association. The high number of Texas and Oklahoma players who were selected for the Festival teams and camps last year validated our approach of using out-of-state evaluators.

Player Nominations

As has been the case in the past, any player may be cut as early as 15 minutes into the evaluations. Each nominating coach and association should set the expectations with their players of the extremely competitive nature of TAC. The best players from Texas and Oklahoma will be competing for relatively few spots at the RMD camp in Salt Lake City. In addition, because of the number of overall participants at the RMD Camp in Salt Lake City this year, players selected at TAC to move on to the RMD Camp will be very limited. Therefore, each respective association is encouraged to make absolutely certain that each nominated player belongs at TAC and is committed and available to participate, both at TAC as well as the RMD Camp in Salt Lake City on May 2-6.

Since the competition is always extremely intense, each coach must adhere to the following ground rules when considering which of their players to nominate for TAC:

- TAHA wants to send "the best of the best" to Salt Lake City. As such, coaches should nominate their most highly skilled players at each position (i.e. first-line forwards, defensemen, and starting goaltender), and should take time to set each nominated player's expectations as to the extremely competitive nature of TAC.
- Players nominated to attend TAC must be members in good financial standing of their respective association and with USA Hockey.
- Players must be citizens of the United States. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Nominations can only come from a player's coach or association – not from parents.
- Evaluators will be given the discretion to make "cuts" as early as 15 minutes into the first session. Coaches are therefore asked to keep this in mind prior to nominating a player for TAC, so as to prevent the inevitable disappointment and embarrassment that a player experiences when asked to make an early exit from any tryout or evaluation of this type.

Registration Process

All associations must follow the registration process that is outlined in the steps below. **NO INDIVIDUAL NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

- Coaches should nominate qualified players on their respective teams and submit a list of players to their association president or coaching director.
- The association president or coaching director should review their entire list of nominated players, and then **rank order by birth year and position.**
- Once acceptable, the association president or coaching director shall submit the list in the attached Excel file to TSkinner@junioraeros.com by no later than **Fri Mar-2**. Coaches should be sure to confirm availability of all nominated players to attend TAC given potential schedule conflicts with spring break and league playoffs.
- By **Mon Mar-5**, the association president or coaching director shall receive an email stating that the list of nominated players is either approved or approved with exceptions for certain players not accepted.
- The list of approved players by association will then be submitted to a third party service (e.g. Rocky Mountain Register or RMR) that has been contracted by TAHA to administer the electronic player registration process. TAHA will submit the list of approved players to RMR in the same format received (e.g. name, DOB, position, association, team, & email address), so all data submitted should be accurate, especially email addresses.
- RMR will send an email to each approved individual player with instructions on how to electronically register for TAC, in addition to remitting payment by credit or debit card (Visa or MC only). This year's camp fee is **\$100 per player** to be collected by RMR via credit or debit card only. Personal checks will not be accepted.
- Each approved player will then need to register with RMR by **Fri Mar-9** in order to participate in TAC (**NO EXCEPTIONS**).
- **TAHA reserves the right to limit the size of the camp to approximately 200 players by utilizing the association player rankings by age and position as a screening tool. TAHA would like to avoid rejecting player nominees, so all coaches and associations are strongly encouraged to be objective in their assessments.**
- **NOMINATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE MARCH 2 DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Schedule

A detailed schedule is shown below, but please keep in mind that schedule modifications may be necessary. If needed, these schedule changes will be published by March 9. It is the responsibility of each association to communicate any schedule changes to all nominated players.

Evaluations of all players will start on Friday, March 16 with session(s) devoted to each birth year. Upon arriving at the Dr Pepper StarCenter-Farmers Branch (see map on pg 3), players are to check in at the TAC registration desk. **All players must provide definitive proof of U.S. citizenship (passport or birth certificate) at this time.** Pre-numbered jerseys will be issued to each player, and locker room assignments will be posted.

A goalie-only session will be held Saturday morning to enhance the evaluation process. When each session is concluded, a list will be posted of players who are invited to attend the next session. The final cut for each age group will be made after each evaluation session on Sunday.

Friday, March 16, 2007	
Age	Time
1993	3:45 – 4:45 PM
1992 A-M	5:00 – 6:00 PM
1992 N-Z	6:15 – 7:15 PM
1991	7:30 – 8:30 PM
1990	8:45 – 9:45 PM

Saturday, March 17, 2007	
Age	Time
All Goalies	7:30 – 8:45 AM
1993	9:00 – 10:00 AM
1992 A-M	10:15 – 11:15 AM
1992 N-Z	11:30 – 12:30 PM
1991	12:45 – 1:45 PM
1990	2:00 – 3:00 PM
1993	4:45 – 5:45 PM
1992	6:00 – 7:00 PM
1991	7:15 – 8:15 PM
1990	8:30 – 9:30 PM

Sunday, March 18, 2007	
Age	Time
1993	7:45 – 9:00 AM
1992	9:15 – 10:30 AM
1991	10:45 – 12:00 PM
1990	12:15 – 1:30 PM

Rocky Mountain District Camp

At the conclusion of each age group session on Sunday, a list of those players who have been selected to advance to the Rocky Mountain District Camp will be posted. **Each player selected to advance to the RMD Camp should be prepared to register and pay the \$225.00 RMD Camp fee prior to leaving the Dr Pepper StarCenter, or their spot will be awarded to another player. NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE WILL BE ALLOWED.** The Rocky Mountain District Camp will be held May 2-6 at the Olympic Oval in Salt Lake City, Utah.

TAC Waivers to Rocky Mountain District Camp

In order to ensure a fair evaluation, we expect everyone to attend the Texas Affiliate Camp. Similar to last year (<5 given), a granted waiver request will be extremely limited. This may prove to be a hardship for some and we apologize for such in advance. To be considered for a waiver, you must meet the following criteria:

1. You must have attended last year's RMD Camp and have finished in the top 33% at your age and position.
2. You must be currently playing out of state and unable to attend the TAC.
3. You must submit a waiver request via email to T.C. Lewis and include your name, parents name(s), Texas address and phone numbers, current address and phone numbers, birth date, position played, current team, coach and coach's contact information and most recent statistics. This information should be sent to: tlewis@aerodromes.com.

Each waiver request will be reviewed individually. Players meeting the above criteria will be considered for a waiver to the Rocky Mountain District Camp, but certainly **NOT GUARANTEED**.

Accommodations

For those from outside of Dallas, we recommend you stay at the hotel below for convenience and to keep costs down. A block of 30 rooms has been reserved through **Mar-9**, so any rooms not booked by then will be released.

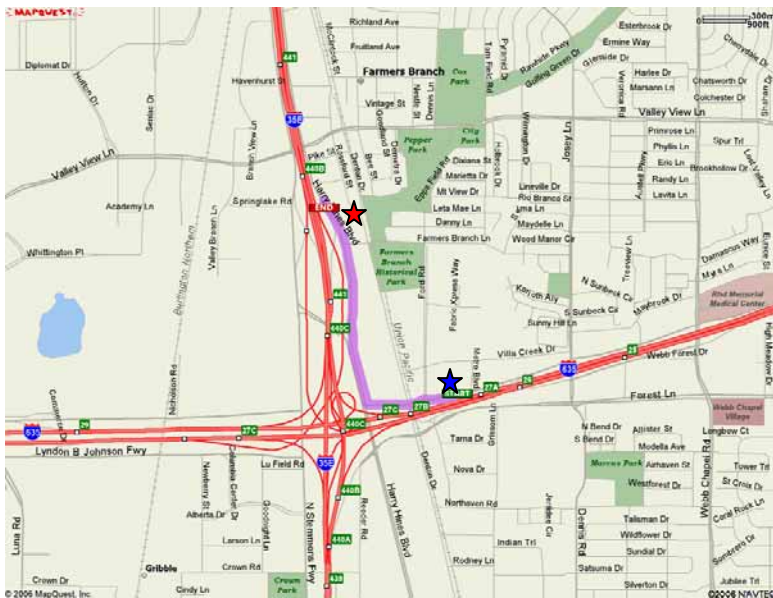
Holiday Inn Select North (see ★)

2645 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, TX 75234

Phone: (972) 243-3363 for reservations, ask for **TAC** code (\$75/night w/o breakfast, \$85 w/ hot breakfast for two).
www.holiday-inn.com

Dr Pepper StarCenter – Farmers Branch (see ★)

12700 N Stemmons Frwy
Farmers Branch, TX 75234-5806
Phone: (214) 432-3131
Fax: (214) 432-3132



Thank you in advance for distributing this information to your coaches, as well as your commitment to providing the information requested by the **March 2** deadline.