



- To Whom It May Concern;
- We would like to take a moment of your time to share with you the purpose of the Chicago Mission Tier 1 AAA Hockey organization and how it relates to the student and family presenting you with this letter.
- The Chicago Mission is a club that fields 9 boys' teams and 4 girls' teams ranging in ages from 9 through 18. These athletes are considered to be among the best in North America. As such they have chosen to play for us at a level of competition that necessitates a great deal of travel for both national and international competition. Unlike other sports in Illinois, hockey is not sponsored by local elementary and secondary schools, so for athletic development, there are no school-associated organizations within the state that offer similar opportunities for athletic growth and exposure.
- Our athletes and their families are incredibly dedicated. They practice on ice 2-3 evenings a week, and have off-ice training 2 days per week. On the weekends they will play anywhere between 2 and 6 games per weekend, 50-80 games a season. When including travel, most of our families spend between \$12,000 to \$20,000 annually to help their children pursue the dream of collegiate hockey and beyond. Many weeks they must travel on a Thursday evening, heading to Detroit, Minnesota, Florida, Texas, Canada and many other locations. Games can begin as early as 8am on a Friday where they will play against other top ranked teams in the US and Canada.
- We do want to stress that while we certainly encourage our players to dream of playing on a team representing the United States in Worlds or the Olympics and professionally, our primary goal is to prepare them for collegiate hockey. The challenges that come with being a student athlete at the collegiate level – student first and foremost is a first step in our training. I am very proud to be able to say that we have been extremely successful in helping our players to reach these goals. In the past 5 years alone, over 85% of our alumni are playing intercollegiate hockey and pursuing degrees. Beyond the collegiate level we have alumni playing in the NHL and from our girls program have had 6 players participate in the last Olympic Games and most recently 3 women who were a part of the USA Womens Gold Medal Team World Championships just this past April 2023. In addition April 2023 saw 3 of our Boys Alumni win the Gold Medal in the U18 mens World Championship.

While we are primarily an athletic organization, we understand the priority academics must have in the lives of our athletes, and we want to make sure to support that priority without exception. On the attached page, the parents of the athlete in your school have detailed the travel dates that are on his/ her schedule that would necessitate a missed school day. We share this in the hopes that you might understand the demands of this schedule, and perhaps extend the courtesy of accommodating that schedule as you see fit. We want to be clear that if a student is underachieving, or you suspect is not balanced enough when juggling academic requirements with the athletic schedule, we ask for no special consideration. We at the Mission make it clear from DAY ONE to our players and their parents that what they do on the ice is nullified by under performance in the classroom. Our coaches schedule study time when the teams are traveling, and we have a "quiet room" study facility at our rink.

All this is to say that we ask for your understanding and consideration as we look to create a cooperative environment where our student-athletes can excel both in the classroom and at the rink. Should you have any questions about our program, your student's involvement in that program, or any related matter, please feel free to call at 314-625-2743 any time.

Gino Cavallini
President
Chicago Mission AAA Hockey Club

CHICAGO MISSION AAA HOCKEY CLUB- 1801 W Jackson Blvd Chicago IL 60612 - 630-442-7234

Student Name: _____

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