



www.SECHChockey.com

Greetings To all high school age hockey players, coaches and parents interested in the South Eastern Collegiate Hockey Conference (SECHC):

This informational document is provided to you as our way of saying that there is an exciting opportunity to continue your education and play competitive ice hockey at the collegiate level on one of our ten SECHC hockey teams. If you are not headed to the NCAA D1 or Major Juniors after high school, do not despair! **The single most important thing you can do is to continue your education.** We encourage you to stay in the southeast and to apply at one of the outstanding SEC universities. If you choose to attend any of the following eleven schools, you can also play college hockey as a member of the SECHC: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Vanderbilt, Tennessee, Alabama, Auburn, Arkansas, LSU, Mississippi or Mississippi State.

Each of the outstanding schools mentioned above have competitive ice hockey programs and are members of the SECHC. Each of our teams are coached by experienced hockey coaches and are well run organizations. While the SECHC cannot provide scholarships, this does not stop you from obtaining a scholastic scholarship to the SEC school of your choice. Most of our student athletes are on scholastic scholarships and/or ROTC scholarships while playing hockey for their school.

The South Eastern Collegiate Hockey Conference (SECHC) is entering its 7th season in 2014-15 as the representative body of 11 teams participating in Division III of the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA). The 11 teams are non-varsity intercollegiate ice hockey programs at universities that are members of the Southeastern Conference (SEC) in NCAA athletics.

The SECHC grew to 10 members four seasons ago when Auburn joined the conference in its first season of ACHA hockey. Mississippi joined the SECHC the previous season. *LSU will become an affiliate member beginning in the 2014-15 season.* Our teams are also members of the American Collegiate Hockey Association, ACHA D-III and have the opportunity to qualify for the ACHA D-III Regionals and an opportunity to qualify for the ACHA D-III nationals:

www.ACHAhockey.org

The teams of the SECHC all play each other frequently throughout the season. This season, similar to the SEC and NCAA athletics, the teams in the SECHC are broken down into East and West divisions. Each Division has a divisional coordinator responsible for interacting with each of the teams and reporting directly to the commissioner on any issues that cannot be resolved at the coordinator level. The East Division Coordinator is John Hoos, head coach of the

University of Georgia and one of the founders of the SECHC. The West Division coordinator is Steve Durrigan, former head coach of the University of Tennessee. SECHC Teams will play 2-games against each divisional opponent that will count toward the divisional standings. *The top four teams in each division at the end of the season will play for the conference championship in the SECHC Tournament.* Teams can also play SECHC teams in the other division, but those games will count for ACHA rankings and not for the SECHC standings.

In the inaugural year of 2008-2009, eight teams participated in the SECHC Tournament, hosted by the University of Alabama hockey program in Pelham, Ala. The teams were seeded by their rankings within the South region of ACHA Division III. Tennessee and Georgia met in the first championship game, with Tennessee taking home the inaugural SECHC Tournament Championship.

During the 2009-2010 season, the tournament was held once again at Pelham, Alabama with the top seeds having a chance to win the conference championship. The team's seeding were again based on the coaching rankings and top-seeded Arkansas took home the 2nd Annual SECHC Tournament Championship. Arkansas repeated as SECHC champions in 2010-2011 as the tournament shifted to Columbus, Georgia. The University of Alabama won their first SECHC championship at the 2011-12 playoffs held in Huntsville, Alabama. The 2012-2013 SECHC playoffs held in Huntsville, Alabama resulted in Arkansas winning their 3rd SECHC championship. Arkansas repeated as SECHC champions in 2013-14 with an exciting 2-1 victory over Alabama during our playoffs held in Pelham, AL.

Our 2014-15 SECHC Playoffs will once again return to Pelham, Alabama February 6-7-8, 2015.

As the SECHC continues to expand and grow its fan base, teams are seeking out larger venues for games, and conference games and championship tournament are becoming sought after events. Additionally, SECHC teams will play games in arenas like the Pelham Civic Center, Von Braun Center, Bridgestone Arena, Knoxville Coliseum, the DeSoto Civic Center, the Jones Center, and the Savannah Civic Center, among others. The University of Georgia Ice Dogs will play their home games at the beautiful on-campus Classic Center starting in 2014-15.

<http://onlineathens.com/sports/2014-04-09/ice-dogs-classic-center-debut-step-toward-making-athens-hockey-home>

Several SECHC teams have played games at NHL venues and Georgia and Florida participate in the annual Savannah Hockey Classic in Savannah, Georgia before sellout crowds exceeding 11,000 fans during the 2-day tournament.

The members of the SECHC are proud to see old rivalries turning into new traditions on the ice among universities who are members of one of the most historic athletic conferences in the nation. We would be proud to have you, your son, or your players obtain a quality education and experience an exciting college atmosphere at an SEC school while playing hockey as a member of the SECHC.

We are also proud partners with the Southern Amateur Hockey Association (SAHA) <http://www.sahaonline.org> and the Southern Youth Travel Hockey League (SYTHL) <http://sythl.goalline.ca>.

For more information on the SECHC and to request assistance at applying to an SEC school, please contact either the commissioner or one of the divisional coordinators listed below:



Kenny "Sarge" Day

Commissioner

Email: sargeday@comcast.net

The SECHC is led by Kenny "Sarge" Day who became the conference's first elected commissioner prior to the 2010-11 season. Day is a retired US Army Master Sergeant with 30-years of service and former Army Paratrooper who served with the 82nd Airborne Division; Commissioner Day continues to serve as an Operations Technician with the US Army 2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion located at Redstone Arsenal (Huntsville) Alabama. Day previously served as assistant coach and business manager for Georgia Tech ice hockey for 10-years and was the assistant coach of the University of California-Davis ACHA D3 team for three seasons. Georgia Tech made five trips to nationals and earned two 3rd place finishes and one national championship runner-up and UC-Davis won their only Pacific Coast Hockey Association championship during Day's tenure. Commissioner Day also served as the ACHA D3 south regional coordinator for five years and coordinated three national tournaments for the ACHA. During his Army career, Day was a standout defenseman and member of the Army's club hockey team at Fort Bragg, NC. Commissioner Day also played high school hockey for Lockport West (IL) High School in the Joliet High School Hockey Association and bantam & midget hockey in Joliet, IL.

Commissioner Day also coached high school hockey at Lockport West High School and coached various bantam & midget level teams in Illinois, Alabama, and California. Day and his wife, Sandra have four children and four grandchildren and reside in Madison, AL and will celebrate their 32nd wedding anniversary in January 2015.

*"I consider it an honor and privilege to serve as commissioner of the SECHC, said Day. My goal is to create a positive college hockey experience for the student athletes of our conference and to ensure that the Army's core values of **LOYALTY-DUTY-RESPECT-SELFLESS SERVICE-HONOR-INTEGRITY and PERSONAL COURAGE** are the core values emulated by our players and coaches."*

John Hoos

East Division Coordinator

Email: coachhoos@ugahockey.com



John Hoos is entering his 6th season as the East Division Coordinator and 14th season as head coach for the Georgia Ice Dogs, having led Georgia to eleven winning seasons, and post-season play in nine seasons. Hoos developed the idea behind the creation of the South Eastern Collegiate Hockey Conference and joined together with Steve Durrigan and Kenny Day to help form the conference.

Under Coach Hoos, Georgia has earned 7 ACHA national tournament entries, including an ACHA national championship game in 2004. Georgia brought home its first ever hockey championship with Hoos behind the bench winning the 2000 Thrasher Cup at the Memorial Health Hockey Classic in Savannah, GA, and has won the tournament 4 times since.

Originally from Birmingham, MI, “Hoos” was a high school stand out at Cranbrook High School, and played Junior A hockey with the Bloomfield Jets in Detroit, competing against NHL stars Eric Lindros and Brian Holzinger, among others.

Coach Hoos was a standout player at Georgia. Playing both as a defenseman and center, Hoos was surpassed in 2003 as the all-time career points leader for UGA, but remains one of the Ice Dogs career leaders in points-per-game. Hoos was a four-time College Hockey South All-Star, and is well known as having been one of the leagues’ best play-makers, top goal scorers, and hardest hitters.

After moving to warmer climates, Coach Hoos served as Georgia’s player-president during his playing career with the Ice Dogs, and has been integral in advancing the team, serving on league boards, and promoting hockey in the South. Coach Hoos has secured high profile events such as College Hockey Night in the Philips Arena, the Omni, and the new Gwinnett Center Arena in conjunction with the Atlanta Thrashers, Atlanta Knights, and Gwinnett Gladiators, and was integral in the formation of the annual Savannah Hockey Classic, the annual Georgia/Florida hockey game played in Jacksonville, FL, and the first ever College Hockey Clash in Columbus, GA.



Steve Durrigan

West Division Coordinator

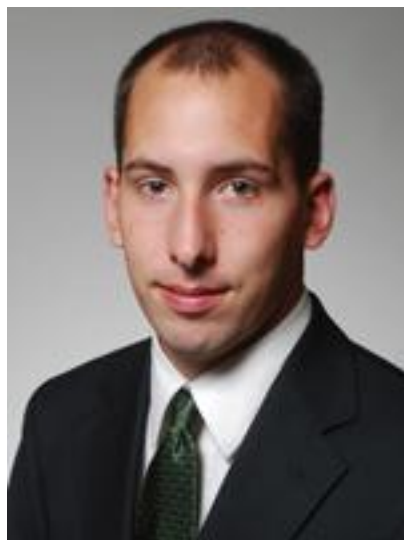
Email: sdurrigan@comcast.net

Steve Durrigan is entering his 6th season as the West Division Coordinator of the South Eastern Collegiate Hockey Conference. Durrigan is also entering his 4th season as the General Manager for the Tennessee Ice Vols after retiring as head coach in March, 2011.

Durrigan coached the Tennessee Ice Vols for 6 seasons and retired as the all-time winningest coach in Tennessee history. During his tenure as the boss on the bench, the Ice Vols made three consecutive trips to the National Tournament, including a top-seed appearance and three 20-win seasons.

Durrigan also coached Tennessee to the first ever SECHC Tournament Championship in 2009. As the head coach, Tennessee went 105-55-6 including a 26 win season in 2006-07. Durrigan also holds the best record for his first year as coach in Tennessee history, going 18-6-0 in 2005-06.

Steve and his wife Kathy have been married for 29 years and have 2 children and a 4 year old grandson. He splits his time between Chattanooga, TN and Crystal River, FL.



Benjamin Dishong

Director of Media Relations and Web Design

Email: bdishong@sechchockey.com

Benjamin Dishong is entering his 6th year as the Coordinator of Media Relations and Web Design for the South Eastern Collegiate Hockey Conference. Dishong designed the conference's website, SECHChockey.com, and was also the lead designer of the conference's logo.

Since coming into the conference, Benjamin has expanded the conference's reach on the web with the integration of social media. Dishong has also developed and currently maintains websites for five teams within the conference.