



## 2009 SCHEDULE RELEASED

The making of the 2009 Bauer International AAA Invite schedule was a process that actually began six months ago, and the final product is now released. It started as a blank canvas. It spans time and space, accounting for 855 games in a 57 hour window. Today it becomes the road map for 384 teams' journey to the Bauer Championship. Creating the schedule was a tedious manual process, not unlike putting together a giant jigsaw puzzle without a picture on the box to work from. Forty (40) sheets of ice will be utilized in twenty one (21) different ice facilities around Chicago. Care was given to playing teams you do not normally see, 2008-09 rankings/records, 2009 current records/opponents, logistics, travel considerations and any special requests noted on each team's application form. Fourteen (14) teams are attending the Chicago Bulls game on Saturday night which required them finishing up their 2<sup>nd</sup> game that day in time to attend the event. Forty One (41) teams have coaches doing more then one team which required allowing time between games to get to as many as possible.

As you know we have two separate divisions this year at all age levels except the 2000's and there will always be some teams that did not get into the level they desire. This is October so the teams we may have assigned to each division certainly may not be the same come February. There were plenty of difficult situations regarding like teams, records, opponents, etc., and it becomes quite clear that there is no possible way to ever reach a consensus in assigning teams. Every year we simply try to have more competitive games for all teams entering the tournament. Nothing is better or does more to keep interest high in AAA hockey than evenly contested games.

We have worked extremely hard to make sure we have good match ups for all the teams involved once again. This schedule is FINAL. We tried to make sure we had a minimum of three hours between any two games for one team. While every coach and manager wants to ensure that their own schedule is ideal with certain opponents, no early or late times etc... ~ there's no pleasing everybody.

Thanks  
Kevin Mann

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