



Playing for the Melbourne Ice

Melbourne Ice are the reigning Australian Ice Hockey League's (AIHL) National Champions. Winning back to back championships in 2010 & 2011 and the league title in 2011. The team comprises local players and import players from North America and Europe. Since its entry into the league in 2002, Melbourne Ice has built up a strong core of players, sponsors, members and supporters.

2012 is an extra special year, as the club celebrates its 10 year anniversary. The team is completely focused on securing a third consecutive Championship and establishing a new league record. Do you have what it takes to be part of the ACTION?

Our Mission is:

To be the best club in the Australian Ice Hockey League;

In providing elite ice hockey to the people of Melbourne we value:

- Excellence, commitment and team work
- A family spirit, marked by hospitality, honesty and integrity
- The development of each member of the Melbourne Ice family



What to expect from Melbourne Ice

We can promise you, that if you are successful in making the team, you will be playing with a great bunch of players; at the highest level Australia has on offer. Currently we play a 24 game regular season (12 home and 12 away) plus pre season, exhibition and finals games. We also promise you travel around Australia, as we fly to Canberra, Sydney, Newcastle, Gold Coast, Perth and Adelaide during the regular season. So you can look forward to 6 months of good fun, hard work, great hockey and strong friendships.





In 2012 the Melbourne Ice will be signing 6 imports:

- 4 import players based on resume and references
- 2 import players based on resume, references and try outs who would play local 'Premier A' ice hockey, compete for a playing spot each week and be called up as emergencies.

All overseas players playing in the AIHL must have an ITC (International Transfer Clearance) card. The Melbourne Ice will pay the ITC transfer fee for the signed imports.

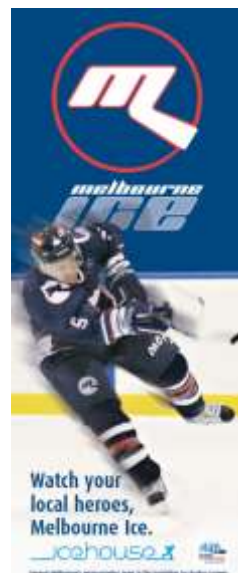
The official pre-season starts on the 1st of February 2012. The time commitment required by imports is an arrival by the end of April 2012, later arrival by negotiation depending on your current season playoff commitments; however a definite is our imports must be here until the end of the first week of September.

The Icehouse – home of the Melbourne Ice

“The Icehouse” www.icehouse.com.au Australia’s newest ice facility with 2 IIHF certified rinks. This is a state-of-the-art complex that provides players with the best available facilities in the southern hemisphere both on and off ice.

The Icehouse is also the home of the Australian Olympic Winter Institute, providing state-of-the-art training facilities for athletes in, Ice Hockey, Speed Skating, Curling and Figure Skating.

Two Olympic-sized ice skating rinks, stadium seating for 1000 people, specialised winter sports gym and sports medicine clinic.





Playing in the AIHL

If you intend to play for Melbourne Ice, there are a few things you need to know. The AIHL is an amateur league, observing NCAA guidelines. No one at Melbourne Ice, on or off the ice, gets paid. If you come down to try out, there are no guarantees you will make the team. Every person, including every member of the 2011 squad, will have to compete for a 2012 roster spot based on merit alone. On current rules, we can sign 6 imports for the season and dress 4 per game.



In terms of standard, the level of play in the AIHL has risen exponentially in the last few years. Most teams are now bringing in imports that have played professionally in the AHL, ECHL, CHL, OHL or in one of the European Elite leagues. Whereas in recent years, a player with “Junior A” experience would have been dominant, that is not necessarily the case any longer. You can see examples of Melbourne Ice and AIHL games on our Livestream site www.livestream.com/melbourneice .

Melbourne the city and surrounds

Play and live in ‘The World’s Most Liveable City’. Melbourne the capital of Victoria boasts a thriving outdoor culture, a vibrant nightlife, a high but affordable standard of living, and a bumper economy. The sporting capital of Australia, Melbourne is relaxed, friendly and community focused. Many players take off on day and overnight trips to Bells Beach, The Great Ocean Road, Phillip Island, the Yarra Valley and Tasmania.



Clockwise from top right
Map of Victoria, Grampians, Bells Beach,
Great Ocean Road, Docklands at night
and the city of Melbourne

The state of Victoria

Hugging the tip of the Australian east coast, Victoria is Australia's second-smallest state, covering 227,600 square kilometers.

Attractions include, sweeping coastline, pristine beaches, national parks and forests teeming with wildlife to wineries, lakes and mountains offering skiing, climbing and hiking.



What you need to prepare

Step one

Please register your interest by contacting us (if you haven't already)

president@melbourneice.com.au

You should include:

- A personal/professional resume including references
- An ice hockey resume including references (with contacts)
- State the reason why you would like to play for Melbourne Ice
- State the reason for coming to Australia

Step two

Once you know you are coming to Melbourne you will need the following:

An Australian visa, we recommend a working holiday (you can also come as a student if you are studying at one of Melbourne's many educational institutions)

- Most players who play for the Ice come to Australia on the working holiday program. At the time of writing, countries that participate in this program are Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, Ireland, Italy, Japan, RO Korea, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Chile, Thailand and USA. You should check this information for yourself at www.immi.gov.au. You should understand that Melbourne Ice would be unlikely to sign you if you are not able to work during your stay in Australia.

A letter of clearance

- You will be asked to bring with you a letter of clearance from your most recent club or league, stating that you are not under suspension, do not owe any money and that there is no impediment to you playing for the Melbourne Ice.

Medical Certificate

- You should also arrange a medical certificate confirming that you are fit to play hockey at an elite level.

We assist players with flights, finding employment and accommodation, however there are no guarantees. The 4 key signings are also given access to additional benefits based on a case by case situation.

If you are planning to come down and play for the AIHL reigning champions Melbourne Ice and would like further information, please contact us by email; we look forward to meeting you in 2012. president@melbourneice.com.au

Regards,

Andy Lamrock
President Melbourne Ice Inc.



A few words from past imports

"I couldn't have asked for a better season with the Ice. Melbourne Ice is truly a professional outfit; they made me feel part of their great family from day one. The fans, members, volunteers and committee are totally passionate and welcoming. This is a truly professional outfit, the pre-season camp was as good as I have attended anywhere in the world. Not only have I had the chance to travel around Australia and play the sport I love, but I'm living the dream, Melbourne Ice have sponsored me and I'm staying down under for another season, absolutely FANTASTIC!"

Matt Armstrong, Orleans, Ontario, Canada (2010)

"The best thing about playing for the Ice is the good group of guys and the way they do the road trips. The standard of play was a bit better than I thought. The calibre of hockey was better than I expected - the standard of play was very competitive and a lot of import players play semi-pro in Europe and the States and many of the locals are from North America, so the league is good. The Ice has a real team atmosphere, not to mention Melbourne is a great city. I would encourage friends to play for the Ice, a great organisation, a lot of passion for the players from the sponsors to the volunteers, and there is a real family effect felt from the coaches to the players. One of the best times of my life I will never forget it or any one."

Doug Ferguson, Finch, Ontario, Canada (2006-8)

"Playing for Melbourne Ice as an import was a fantastic experience. The team was accommodating to everyone and had a real sense of community feeling. It was a great experience playing with Australian and other import players, and I became good friends with many of the guys. I really found Melbourne a great place to visit, there were so many things to see and do, it was so different from my home town in Italy. I would recommend this experience to players overseas who are considering joining the team."

Thomas Zoeschg, Merano, Italy (2008)

"The expectations I had were greatly exceeded. I didn't know what to expect when I came to Melbourne Ice. The quality of play both from the Melbourne team and in the entire league was much better than I expected. The relationships with my team mates I will hold forever. Coming to Australia was a once in a lifetime experience. Melbourne is an amazing city, with great people. The people in the Melbourne Ice organisation and the coaches are great. I feel lucky that I was able to travel the country."

Kyle Teague, St Albert, Alberta, Canada (2008)

"My expectations were greatly exceeded when I arrived in Melbourne for the 2007 season. From the moment you come into contact with the Melbourne Ice organization and extended family it is evident that this is a first class, professional Hockey Club. The people that are involved in this from the president and coaching staff through to management and the volunteers all are dedicated, friendly and generally fun to be around. It truly was an experience that I will never forget, an absolutely stunning city, a great group of guys that I will always call friends and a top notch organization in a competitive league. As an import player I can assure you the opportunity to play the sport you love, for a club like this, in a county as stunning as Australia is something you don't want to miss."

Tyler Abrams, Gibson's, British Columbia, Canada (2007)

"I made a phone call to Josh Puls, our president, just before the season began and introduced myself as a backpacker who had some hockey experience in Canada and wanted to lace up my skates again. My expectations were to meet 20 great guys, travel around Australia and play the game that I have loved my whole life. As I look back on the 2007 season with the Ice and the AIHL as a whole, I can honestly say that it has been the best hockey experience of my life. I was looked upon as a leader, both on and off the ice, which is a feeling I haven't had since minor hockey...FANTASTIC! The Ice is a volunteer run organization, but our management ensures that everyone right from the individuals who help out with our home games, to the managers, to the coaching staff and the players are professional both on and off the ice. It has been an honor to represent the Ice and I will never forget my experience."

Rob Murray, Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada (2007)



Medibank Melbourne Ice – Import Information Pack 2012 v1.1

"Playing a season for the Melbourne Ice was a great experience. The Club is run with a professional attitude and players are treated well. From the President right down to the fans and all the volunteers, you come to an organization with class. The Ice have created a team with not only really good local talent but a great group of boys to socialize and experience life playing hockey in Australia. The quality of the league is much better than I initially thought it would be which will surprise a lot of import players. Great experience, good league, fun group of guys, entertaining city, class organization-the Melbourne Ice."

Jeff Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada (2007)

"Having the opportunity to travel Australia and play a high level of hockey has been great. The quality of play is much better than what I anticipated as an outsider looking in. There is a very positive culture throughout the organization starting from the volunteers, to management, to players and coaches. The organization continues to evolve and improve and it has been fun being a part of the process. I have met tons of great people and played in some great games and I couldn't have asked for more."

Tom Yawney, Oakville, Ontario, Canada (2007)

"This is been awesome experience for me. One of the greatest things in my life. We have had great season. Thanks to my team-mates, you guys are awesome and THE FANS, your support has been indispensable. Thank you!!!"

Risto Tuunanen, Savonlinna, Finland (2006)

"Melbourne Ice is a very well run organisation. They treat their players with respect; they give everyone a chance to play. There are no favours given. The organisation itself is very classy. They do what they have to do to make you feel comfortable and welcome. The chance to come across the world to play hockey has been the experience of a lifetime."

Dan Pitre, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. (2006)

"Playing for the Ice is one of the best decisions you could make. The nucleus of the team are a great bunch of guys. They'd make anybody feel welcome. The class that the players have on the ice as well as off the ice is awesome."

Jeff Mildenberger, Kitimat, British Columbia, Canada (2006)

