

## **EMPIRE CONFERENCE AND SNOWBELT LEAGUE ANNOUNCE RED DIVISIONS THRUWAY SERIES!**

To Empire and Snowbelt Coaches, Managers, Parents and Players:

**The Empire Amateur Hockey Conference and the Snowbelt Hockey League are excited to announce the inter-conference Thruway Series and Cup competition for the 2018-19 Season!**

**RED DIVISION SQUIRT/10U and RED DIVISION PEEWEE/12U** teams from Empire and Snowbelt will have the option to compete in a season-long competition, with home-and-home scheduling of approximately 8-10 additional games, Series standings kept for each age division, and a four-team one-day Thruway Cup bracketed playoff for the top two Thruway Series finishers from each conference.

Only **RED DIVISION SQUIRT/10U and RED DIVISION PEEWEE/12U** teams have the option to participate in the Thruway Series and Cup for 2018-19. To accommodate the Thruway Series and be in-step with Snowbelt, **Empire has now formally approved a change to Red/White/Blue division classifications, replacing the prior A/B designations.**

Over the past month, Peewee/12U teams previewed the Thruway Series in a collection of games, all held in Rochester. Several strong Snowbelt squads traveled to play challenging Rochester-area competition, resulting in great action and competitive games – overall Snowbelt came out on top 4 games to 3.

Starting with the upcoming 2018-19 season, the Thruway Series will provide Empire and Snowbelt teams with the opportunity to experience this great level of play all season, against strong competition in awesome new places and rinks, all while competing in both regular Empire or Snowbelt league play and the Thruway Series. USA Hockey rules and policies will govern all rostering, on-ice play and rink activity, at all age levels.

The Empire and Snowbelt Boards are working on developing more structure and providing more information for the Thruway Series, including classification of Red Division teams, opt-in mechanism for Thruway Series participation, assigning designated weekends for Thruway Series play, hosting of playoffs in the spring of 2019, and budgeting for Thruway Series expenses to conclude the Squirt/10U and Peewee/12U competitions with that playoff to award the Thruway Cup.

We will be working diligently to develop this new opportunity for our organizations and players, and will have more information out to everyone very soon. Please do not hesitate to contact your Empire or Snowbelt representative with any questions about the Empire/Snowbelt Thruway Series!

EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE

Jayne Hurwitz, President  
(Home Org: Rochester Youth Hockey)

SNOWBELT HOCKEY LEAGUE

Doug Lindsey, President  
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