

**Mannheim Hockey Club and HTC Field Hockey Club
Exchange Program**



Summer 2016

Field Hockey Parent:

First of all, thank you for considering your player for our exchange program. This is a unique opportunity for your player to train at one of the elite clubs in all of Europe. The Head Coach, Andreas Hoepfner, is regarded one of the best and most successful field hockey coaches in all of Europe. He has produced an extraordinary number of national team players and his U16 club has won the German National Championship over three consecutive years. Our concept for this program was hatched during his visit to the United States in the summer of 2014 where he conducted a series of hockey camps in the Town of West Hartford. Last summer, Darren Smallhorn joined the camp and HTC is pleased to partner with the Mannheim Club for this exciting opportunity.

Coach Hoepfner and I have known each other for 30 years. We can attest to the benefit of these types of cultural exchanges as it was in the summer of 1986 that I first visited him in Germany and learned about the beautiful game of hockey. After 3 decades, we have remained close friends and this experience has enriched our lives. I have travelled to Germany more than 50 times since my first visit for both business and personal reasons. The visit in 1986 opened my eyes and has had a profoundly positive impact on my view of the world and my personal and professional life.

In recent months, I have been discussing the program with Darren and Deb Brickey and they are excited to offer this exchange to club members. Now, your daughter has a unique opportunity to experience an exchange program that may open many doors in her future. In the attached, I have outlined a general program for your daughter's visit. I have also attached some photos so that you can visualize the Mannheim region prior to the visit.

While in Germany, your daughter will be well cared for. We sent four players last summer and they had a terrific time and learned what it takes to become a fully committed player. If you like, I can arrange time for you to speak to one of the host families from last year to discuss the program and their daughter's experience.

So, please review the information enclosed and, again, thank you for your interest in our program.

Kind Regards,

Joe Marie

General Description of the Exchange Program:

This is essentially a reciprocity based program. You will be hosted by an existing Mannheim Hockey Club's family in exchange for your family hosting their player later in the summer. The Mannheim Hockey Club was established in 1907 and is considered one of the best in Europe. It has four world class fields and an exceptional training facility. Your player will receive the best training by some of the finest coaches in Germany. Their instruction will be in English, though the coaches will instruct their own players in German during team training.

Your program in Germany:

1. Accommodation and full board at the host families
2. Participation in the team training of their hosts (3 days per week)
3. Participation in the games of their hosts (Players ID has to be applied for before the 1st of April)
4. 3 session single training with Andreas Höppner per week
5. 2 sessions athletic training with Stefan Mücke per week
6. Participation of the school lessons of their hosts
7. Spare time program – travel to nearby cities and cultural attractions

Cost of the Program:

Your costs will be essentially the cost of a round trip flight to Germany. Your hosts will take care of your room and board (food). You should bring some spending money. All of your transportation needs while in Germany will be managed by your host family and the club. The club does not charge anything for the training and game participation. You will receive a German Federation Player Identification Card prior to your arrival which will enable you to play in sanctioned games. This will also cost you nothing. The club views this as a terrific cultural opportunity for their players and underwrites the cost of the program entirely. So, you get over two weeks of exceptional training for the cost of a round trip flight to Germany and agreement to host a Mannheim player later in the summer.

What is needed prior to travel:

1. Copy of Passport Photo Page for proof of birth year – pdf format.
 - a. Due Date: March 15, 2015.
2. A high resolution head shot of your daughter in .jpeg format. This will be used for their Mannheim Club Identification and so that they can compete in games.
 - a. Due Date: March 15, 2015.
3. A notarized letter signed by both parents.
 - a. Due Date: June 25, 2015.
 - b. Please refer to the following from the Customs and Border Patrol (CPB) website:
 - c. If a child (under the age of 18) is traveling with only one parent or someone who is not a parent or legal guardian, what paperwork should the adult have to indicate permission or legal authority to have that child in their care?
 - d. “Customs and Border Protection (CBP) strongly recommends that unless the child is accompanied by both parents, the adult have a note from the child's other parent (or, in the case of a child traveling with grandparents, uncles or aunts, sisters or brothers, friends, or in groups*, a note signed by both parents) stating "I acknowledge that my wife/husband/etc. is traveling out of the country with my son/daughter/group. He/She/They has/have my permission to do so.”
 - e. There is not a CBP Form letter, however, the parental consent letter should include: Who, What, Where, When, Why, and contact information for the absent parent(s).
 - f. Having the letter notarized is not necessary but highly recommended. For frequent border crossers, the letter should not exceed one year. It is recommended to have the letter in English.
 - g. I will provide you with the precise text and a German translation – it will all be on one page.
 - h. Field hockey sticks must be in checked baggage.
 - i. A Letter of No Objection from USA Field Hockey: This is a pro-forma requirement of the Mannheim Club. Essentially, it states that USA Field Hockey has no objection with you training overseas. USA Field Hockey is familiar with this requirement and issues the letters frequently so it is easily obtained.

Organizing Travel plans:

1. Since there will be four (4) players traveling, players should travel together on the same flights directly to Frankfurt, Germany. The host families will arrange for transport to Mannheim which is approximately 45 miles south of Frankfurt.
2. Approximate Departure date: Immediately following the completion of the school year – mid to late June.
3. Duration of Stay: 17 days.
4. Options: Depart from Boston or New York.

German program in the United States:

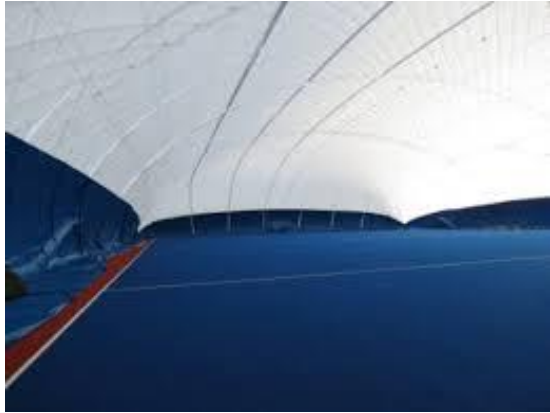
1. Arrive from Germany (dates are approximate): July 28, 2015 – Depart to Germany August 13, 2015
2. Accommodation and full board at the host families
3. Participation in a field hockey camp
4. Trip(s) to major city: New York/Boston
5. English language assistance – help them improve their spoken English.



Mannheim Club Logo



Mannheim Club Main Entrance



Mannheim Club Indoor Bubble



Mannheim Club Facilities – Several Fields



Mannheim Club Restaurant



Mannheim Central Area



Mannheim Central Area – Public Transportation



Mannheim Location – Close to Frankfurt Airport



Mannheim University



Outdoor Field



HTC player competing for Mannheim U16 A Club