



# LONG ISLAND ROYALS

## Junior 'B' Hockey Club

### PRESS RELEASE

## ***“The Long Island Royals Return to the Junior Hockey Ranks”***

After a 15 year absence, the Long Island Royals are returning to the Junior hockey arena. The Royals will skate a team next season in the highly regarded, Jr 'B' Metropolitan Hockey League.

As most in the LI hockey community know, over the past years the LI Royals have developed one of the most highly respected and competitive youth hockey (Mite thru Midget) programs in the tri-state area. During this time, they have proudly passed a great number of players on to local Jr 'A' and Jr 'B' clubs. Many of whom have gone on to college hockey and beyond.

“It’s time to throw our hat back in this ring,” says Rich McGuigan, President of the LI Royals hockey club. “With the current level of cooperation among the local organizations, namely the LI Rebels, LI Gulls/Bobcats, and Suffolk PAL, our Board of Directors feels the time is right.” In fact, the Royals Director of Junior hockey operations will be John Zerillo (formerly with the LI Rebels Jr C team) and they will skate this coming season out of Iceworks in Syosset, home of the LI Gulls, along side the Jr 'A' NY Bobcats. In addition, The LI Rebels will deactivate their Jr C program and the LI Gulls will deactivate their Midget 18U team to compress the player pool and create a stronger avenue for the Royals Jr 'B' program to succeed. “This should create another solid avenue for players to reach their goals,” says Mr. McGuigan.

Junior Hockey is no stranger to the LI Royals. They enjoy a rich and proud history at that competitive level and look forward to returning to this highest level of play. As a founding member of the “MET” league, the Royals Jr’s, though the 1970’s, 1980’s and early 1990’s we’re a perennial powerhouse in the Junior hockey circles, winning numerous League and National titles. In fact, the LI Royals were the first team on LI to compete at the Jr “A” level back in 1979-81 when they participated in the NEJHL. Alumnus of which, have gone on to the pinnacle’s of professional and college hockey.

The LI Royals have named Gerry Higgins as their Head Coach for this upcoming season. Coach Higgins has led the Royals Midget 16AAA team over the past 3 seasons. During his tenure as a coach with the LI Royals, Coach Higgins has guided his teams over the past 8 years to unprecedented success, with four State championships and two appearances in USA Hockey National Championship tournaments to his credit. Coach Higgins looks forward to this exciting challenge. He combines the unique experience and energy needed to succeed at this level.

The LI Royals will hold open Tryouts April 13-15 at Iceworks in Syosset.

**Friday, April 13, - 6:00PM-9:00PM**

**Saturday, April 14, - 7:00PM-9:00PM**

**Sunday, April 15, - 1:00PM-2:00PM (All Star Game by Invitation)**

**COST: First Two \$100 (\$50ea) Third \$50 by Invitation**

***Please send \$100 tryout fee with Application***

For Further information please contact John Zerillo at [johnZ@liroyalsjrs.com](mailto:johnZ@liroyalsjrs.com) or Rich McGuigan at [coachrm@liroyalsjrs.com](mailto:coachrm@liroyalsjrs.com) Or Call 631-269-3900. There will be an information session for all Junior eligible players at:

**Old Bethpage Village Restoration  
(exit 48 – South, off the LIE)  
On Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm**

For Further info on the LI Royals youth program go to [www.liroyals.com](http://www.liroyals.com)