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Mass/Conn United to Join Springfield Pics, Add EHF Teams in the 2019-'20 Season

West Springfield, MA and Enfield, CT: The United States Premier Hockey League (USPHL) today announced a merger between two of its member organizations, the Springfield Pics and Mass/Conn United (MCU). This merger brings together the area's two USPHL franchises to form the region's only club offering programming from Mites through Juniors.

"Today's announcement is the continuation of the synergies we are seeing with the merger of the USPHL and the Eastern Hockey Federation," stated USPHL Commissioner Richard Gallant. "New partnerships amongst our ownership will provide tremendous new opportunities for young aspiring hockey players, and their families, to experience the best coaching and best competition within the best league in New England."

Along with the merger, Mass/Conn United has announced that they will be adding new Tier 1 teams to the USPHL's youth division, the Eastern Hockey Federation (EHF), beginning in the 2019-20 season. The Springfield Jr. Pics, as they will be called, will host teams from across the EHF at their home facility, the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield, MA.

"On behalf of the Springfield Pics and our GM Rob Bonneau we are proud to announce this merger of the Springfield Pics franchise with Mass/Conn United's youth program providing the area the continuity it has been craving for many years," praised Patrick Tabb, owner of the Springfield Pics.

For MCU, the addition of the Jr. Pics strengthens a youth program that includes the Connecticut Jr. Huskies (EHF Elite), Springfield Jr. Thunderbirds (EHF Tier 1) and New England Jr. Falcons (EHF Full-Ice Mites) currently skating out of Enfield Twin Rinks in Enfield, CT.

"It's an exciting time to be a part of Mass/Conn United," stated Keith Hillebrecht, President and General Manager of Mass/Conn United. "Our vision has always been to see players from Western Massachusetts and Connecticut competing together rather than against each other. Our integration with the Springfield Pics and Olympia Ice Center gets us closer to seeing that vision become a reality."

Together, the Pics and Mass/Conn United will provide a qualified, professional staff to instruct players and offer programming designed for youth to learn and play the sport of ice hockey. All teams, regardless of level, are structured to provide players with the opportunity for individual growth and preparation for success on the ice and in life.

“[The Pics] look forward to working with MCU in providing a development ladder that will allow players to progress from the youngest ages to our top junior team,” said Tabb.

About the United States Premier Hockey League (USPHL)

With over 170 teams from across 17 states, The United States Premier Hockey League is the nation’s largest amateur ice hockey league. Founded in 2012, the league’s mission is to prepare and develop players for college hockey (and beyond) through the establishment of a tiered development program. Through the USPHL and its tuition-free junior division, the National Collegiate Development Conference (NCDC), over 300 alumni have advanced to the collegiate level and beyond.

About the Eastern Hockey Federation (EHF)

Founded in 2004, the Eastern Hockey Federation is New England’s premier youth ice hockey league. With over 20 of the top organizations from across the region, the EHF provides the opportunity to play amongst some of the top young talents in the sport. The league offers Elite and varied levels of Tier I competition; along with the exclusive, split-season midgets league, EHF Selects. In 2018, the EHF merged with the United States Premier Hockey League, becoming the first amateur ice hockey organization to offer a complete development model from “cradle to college.”