

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



P.O. Box 30736
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

DANA NESSEL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 9, 2026

By Email Only

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Re: *Stay to Play Tournaments Antitrust INV*
AG No. 2025-0446246-B

Dear [REDACTED]

The Michigan Department of Attorney General, Corporate Oversight Division ("COD"), is reviewing potential anticompetitive and unfair trade practices involving the consolidation of youth ice hockey facilities and programs in Michigan under corporate ownership, including but not limited to Black Bear Sports Group. These practices may affect consumer choice, access to essential recreational facilities, pricing, and the availability of independent, community-based hockey programs.

This civil inquiry is issued pursuant to Section 6 of the Michigan Antitrust Reform Act ("MARA"; MCL 445.771 *et seq.*). It supplements information previously provided during our preliminary outreach and is intended to ensure a complete and accurate understanding of your experience. All materials you provide in response to this correspondence are protected by the Attorney General's confidentiality obligations.

We have reason to believe you may have information relevant to this review. Please provide the following documents and written answers to assist us in assessing how rink-ownership consolidation and related policies affect Michigan families and independent hockey organizations.

Please produce the following documents:

1. Communications, schedules, invoices, and other documentation showing your family's access to ice time at Michigan rinks over the past five years, including any reductions in available slots or changes following facility ownership transitions.

2. Written materials (emails, notices, league communications, facility policies) describing changes to team placement, association affiliation, rink scheduling, or priority access after acquisition by a corporate operator.
3. Any documents reflecting increased fees or new costs associated with participation, including league dues, practice fees, tournament charges, or required add-on services.
4. Policies or notices restricting outside filming, livestreaming, or media coverage of youth games, including any requirements to use paid streaming platforms.
5. Any contracts, handbooks, terms and conditions, or policy documents provided by arenas or affiliated hockey organizations that reference access limitations, preferred-partner requirements, exclusivity provisions, or restrictions affecting independent teams.
6. Financial records or summaries showing expenses related to hockey participation during the past five years, including registration, equipment, travel, tournaments, ice-time fees, and media/streaming charges, even if receipts are incomplete.

Please provide written answers to the following questions:

1. Please list the rinks and programs your family has participated in during the past five years. Include:
 - facility name and location
 - team or program name
 - dates of participation
 - any documentation available (invoices, registration confirmations, schedules)
2. Describe any changes you experienced after a rink or program became corporately owned, including:
 - reductions or limitations in available ice time
 - increases in fees or overall participation costs
 - displacement or replacement of nonprofit associations
 - changes in scheduling, priority access, or team placement
 - any difficulties securing ice time for independent or unaffiliated teams
3. Have you observed policies or practices that limited competition or consumer choice?
Examples may include:
 - exclusive access for corporate-affiliated clubs

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- restrictions on independent program operations
 - requirements to use particular leagues, coaches, or services
 - barriers to external tournament participation
4. Please describe any experiences with filming or streaming restrictions imposed by rink operators.
 - Were you permitted to film your child's games?
 - Were you required or pressured to purchase a paid stream?
 - Did you observe policy changes or inconsistent enforcement?
 5. If you experienced increased costs related to rink access, league participation, or ancillary services, please provide examples and explain how these changes affected your family.
 6. How have these policies or changes influenced your ability to participate in nonprofit or community-based hockey programs?

While the Attorney General is obligated by law to keep all responsive materials confidential, you may share the existence of this inquiry with others, including families or organizations who may have relevant information. Additional perspectives are helpful in understanding the full impact of these practices across Michigan communities.

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Please submit your responses and documents electronically or by mail within thirty days. Your assistance plays an important role in ensuring fair, competitive, and accessible youth sports opportunities for Michigan families.

If you have questions or wish to submit materials, please contact:

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Sincerely,



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