

Mite Ad-Hoc Committee Report

January 26, 2013

USA HOCKEY STANDARD (Adopted June 2012)

1. The age appropriate standard playing surface at 8 & Under is cross-ice or half-ice.
2. Effective for the 2013-14 playing season, but subject to limited exceptions as are approved by the USA Hockey Player Development Committee, all games and scrimmages at the 8U age level shall be played either cross-ice or half-ice, or on a surface that is equal to or less than the dimensions of cross-ice or half-ice. Each Affiliate shall enact applicable rules and regulations to address the governance, implementation and transition for this rule to become effective within the Affiliate on or before September 1, 2013. To the extent an Affiliate desires to seek exceptions for a limited number of full ice games or scrimmages for its teams at the 8U level, the Affiliate shall submit a plan by May 15 each year detailing such request to the USA Hockey Player Development Committee. The Affiliate's plan is subject to the annual approval of the Player Development Committee which will give final determination by June 15 of the same year.

CURRENT RULE – MINNESOTA HOCKEY HANDBOOK

- F. MITE HOCKEY – MH strongly encourages the skill level development of all players, especially at the entry level. Therefore, the following is effective for the Mite level.
1. Mite teams shall participate within their district only, except the District Director may, for convenience or to maintain continuity, permit a team to play outside the district. The District Director's decision is final.
 2. Cross-ice, ½ ice and small area games are recommended for Mites to increase ice time, puck touches and skill development. Using the ADM model as a guideline, Districts and local associations shall establish a maximum number of games, not to exceed 15 full-ice games. The above policies will be monitored by each local association and District. Failure to comply will result in sanctions against the respective association as determined by MH.
 3. MH does not permit Mite Tournaments. MH Mite teams cannot participate in out-of-state tournaments.

PROPOSED RULE

- F. MITE HOCKEY – MH strongly encourages an emphasis on basic skill develop of all players, this is particularly critical at the Mite level so as to provide players with the foundation to enjoy and have success in the game.

1. In an effort to reduce travel expense, Mite teams shall participate within their home association and district only, except the District Director may, for convenience or to maintain continuity, permit a team to play outside the district. The District Director's decision is final.
2. Mites are generally organized into levels (teams) based on age, skill and the number of players Mites in the association. For the purpose of providing guidelines the Mites will be divided into two levels, Mini-Mites (6 and Under) the youngest, beginners, less skilled and Mites (8 and Under) the older, experienced, more skilled players.
3. With the focus on teaching and developing the basic skills of skating, puck handling, shooting and passing, cross-ice, ½ ice and small area games (Red, White and Blue) are recommended for Mites to maximize ice utilization, increase puck touches and increase the competition and fun. The American Development Model (ADM) provides the overall blueprint for player development.
4. At the Mini-Mite (6 and Under) level - all hockey games should be played cross or half ice.
5. At the Mite (8 and Under) level - During the first half of the season hockey games (before December 31st.) should be played cross or half ice. During the second half of the season there should be no more than 10 full ice games.
6. It should be recognized that the local hockey association is in the best position to design a program based on the principles of ADM, Red, White and Blue, the number of players in their program, the skill of their players, the availability of ice and coaching staff so as to provide an experience where the players can develop and have fun.
7. In recognition of a need for flexibility and differences between associations, the guidelines outlined in #4 and #5 will be monitored by the District Director and abuses will result in sanctions against the respective association at the discretion of the Director.
8. MH does not permit Mite Tournaments. MH Mite teams cannot participate in out-of-state tournaments. Jamborees as outlined in Section IX Invitational Tournament Sanctioning Paragraph E are allowed. (Possibly the rules on Jamborees should be moved from the Sec IX to this section)