

**Initiation (Mite or Mini-mite) Hockey Registration
Frequently Asked Questions
2025-26 Season**

How do I register my child?

You must register your child online. Registration deadline for returning mite/mini-mite players is August 31, 2025.

You will register online and then attend one of the document submissions sessions at the Buffalo Civic Center on Sunday, August 10, 4-5:30pm or Monday, September 22, 6:30-8pm. Registration document turn-in sessions will be in the conference room above the Purple Rink at the Buffalo Civic Center.

ALL BYHA PLAYERS can attend one of the document submission sessions to turn in birth certificate (if applicable) and volunteer deposit check. Volunteer checks may also be dropped off at the Civic Center in drop box labeled "Registration" inside the main doors of the Purple Rink. **REGISTRATION IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL THESE ITEMS ARE ON FILE. NO PLAYER WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE ICE WITHOUT THESE DOCUMENTS ON FILE.**

How old does my child have to be to play hockey?

Mites: Children must be seven years old by June 1, 2025

Mini Mites: Children must be four years old by June 1, 2025

Does my child have to know how to skate to start hockey?

The BYHA Initiation program is a developmental program designed to teach all kids the fundamental skills necessary to play the game of hockey, as well as the elementary concepts of the game itself. Skating is the most fundamental of these skills and a major focus of the entire Initiation program. If your child does not know how to skate, he/she will be taught proper hockey skating form.

How long does the season run?

The season runs October 2025 through mid-March 2026. BYHA does offer a Bison Rookie Program for new players/skaters. More information about this program can be found on website under BISON ROOKIE.

How often do they practice?

Mini Mites: 1-2 hours of ice time per week beginning mid October and going through March, which will include 8-10 inter-association 1/3-ice games and one (1) district jamboree in March.

Mites: 1-2 practices per week beginning mid October and going through mid March, plus 12-15 inter-association games (½ will be cross-ice and ½ will be full ice) One (1) district jamboree in March.

At what Initiation level do I register my child?

All Players **must** register for the appropriate level according to their birth date. Buffalo Youth Hockey is in alignment with the governing body, Minnesota Hockey, with regards to this policy. Please refer to the BYHA Age Level Chart for further clarification. The Mite Director and Level Coordinators may recommend, based on a skill assessment after the season has started, a move to a level best suited for the development of your child.

Will my child be placed with other children from his/her school/neighborhood?

The program director tries but does not guarantee that a child will play with others from the same school/neighborhood. It is dependent upon number of teams, number of children registered, etc. Teams at all levels are balanced by skill level following an on-ice evaluation of all players. BYHA and the Mite director will attempt to form the teams with the schools/neighborhoods in mind to increase the likelihood that the players will have a friend on their team and to facilitate car-pooling efforts.

Do I need the players' birth certificate in order to register?

Yes. According to USA Hockey rules we cannot complete a registration without a legible copy of a player's official birth certificate. **Hospital or baptismal certificates cannot be used.** *Please also note that you must register your child with the name that appears on the birth certificate.* If you registered your child with BYHA last year, we should have a birth certificate on file. If you are new to the program, USA Hockey requires us to get and keep a copy of the child's birth certificate before processing the registration forms. No skater will be permitted on the ice without a copy of an official birth certificate. **What is the refund policy if my child doesn't like it?**

Refunds are available through Dec 1st (and not processed until this time). The fee will be prorated for ice time skated and a \$50 administration fee. All refunds must be requested in writing to the Treasurer.

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Equipment Required

Certified Helmet
Shin pads
Elbow pads
Mouthguard
Skates
Stick
Cup
Neck guard
Breezers
Shoulder pads/chest
pads
Gloves

Recommended:

Hockey bag
Skate guards
Velcro shorts w/built-in cup to hold up the hockey socks
Hockey socks (provided by BYHA)
Practice jersey
Game jersey (provided by BYHA)

Do I need to live in the Buffalo School District?

Your child may attend school in the Buffalo Hanover Montrose School district, the Annandale School district or live in the Buffalo Hanover Montrose school district but attend school elsewhere to play with Buffalo Youth Hockey.

What are the fees for Mites or Mini Mites?

USA Hockey and MN Hockey require registration for all players. Players aged 6 and older pay an annual \$50 registration fee directly to USA/MN Hockey prior to registering with BYHA. Registration fees for BYHA are paid in full at the time of registration. Additional fees for ice time will be assessed during the season and will vary per level based on number of practice hours/games scheduled and number of players per team. **All fees are estimates until teams are formed and ice/game schedules are finalized.**

Is a payment plan available?

Registration fees will be billed separately and will not be paid at the time of registration. See the fee schedule posted on the BYHA website for payment options. Fundraising is available to players and their families to offset the cost of hockey.