

## **Mite Post-Season Meeting Summary – March 2025**

Unfortunately, due to the changes in the ice schedule on March 4, the meeting with Mite Tier 3 and Tier 4 families was cancelled. We also know that not all of the families were able to be present on March 3 for the meeting with Tier 1 and Tier 2.

We wanted to be able to offer a summary of what was covered in this meeting to all of the Mite families in SFYHA.

### **Players Moving to Squirt (2016s):**

A handout was provided for the players of families moving from Mites to Squirts on the differences between Travel and City League hockey. The document is attached to this email.

We highlighted the time commitment, cost differences, and schedule differences between the travel and city. The one point that is important is to think about - what would work best for your family as every family's situation is different. The other point that Coach Houck touched on was, as a parent, you need to think about where your son or daughter will have the highest potential to enjoy the game the most. If you have questions on your skater's ability or questions on where they should sign up, please do not hesitate to reach out to either Dan or Cherry.

### **Players Returning to Mites (2017s):**

A handout was provided on the various Mite tiers and differences that were put into effect for 2024/25 season for the Travel (Tier 1 and 2) and City (Tier 3 and Tier 4). This information is the same as presented prior to the beginning of the 2024/25 season. We do not expect any significant changes for 2025/26 season. The Mite document is attached. Again, if you have questions please feel to reach out to Cherry or Dan.

Coach Houck did touch on summer hockey related topics. He discussed the importance of spending time in the off-season shooting pucks and stickhandling. Players need to become more comfortable in their sneakers by doing drills like handing balls around cones or pulling the ball from one side of their body to the other. We also encouraged kids to be active, to get outside and play other sports like soccer, baseball, basketball, and tennis. If parents have specific questions on what their Mite or rising Squirt should be working on a home please feel free to reach out to Coach Houck.

The remainder of the informational session was an open forum for parents to ask questions which included:

-Commentary regarding Girls 10U team: If there are enough interested girls, a Girls 10U team will be hosted. If not, the girls will meld to Girls 12U or Squirt co-ed teams.

-Squirt Travel practice schedule was 2 times a week plus Tuesday night 4v4 League. All players from Squirt Blue to Squirt White are split onto teams and play every Tuesday night during the season.

-Squirt Travel will play a SDAHA league schedule and non-league tournaments plus friendlies/exhibitions. The furthest driving distance any of the Squirts did this year was to Grand Forks and we do not expect in 2025-26 for it to be more than 5 hours for any tournament.

-Parents of Mite Tier 2 unanimously supported not having City league games the Sunday nights of Saturday/Sunday travel games or tournaments which was noted by Cherry and Dan.

-Rental gear will be available to check out for Mite families for the cost of \$200 for the summer for the players who want to utilize it.

-SCHEELS IcePlex Facebook and website is the best place to look for summer camps and clinics. Sioux Falls Youth Hockey will host Fall clinics starting after Labor Day.