



### IMPORTANT DATES

*August 23rd – Parent Info Meeting*

*August 31st – Coaches Info Meeting*

Dear MWAH Mite Parents and Players,

Thank you for your interest in the MWAH's Mite Hockey Program. This program is designed to introduce new skaters to the game of hockey as well as progressively develop and challenge skaters through third grade all while having fun. This season is gearing up to be action-packed with fun and engaging practices, games, Mite Olympics, and Jamborees. Please be sure to read the entirety of this letter as there will be new information for returning families and important dates to note.

### PROGRAM GOALS

- Build passion, excitement and love for the game of hockey
- Develop foundational hockey skills through skills progression
- Teach life lessons to our kids (teamwork, dedication, accountability, work ethic, etc.)
- Build meaningful friendships with other players, coaches and families
- And most importantly, Have Fun!!!

### SKILL PROGRESSION PHILOSOPHY

We believe that in order to have successful hockey players in our program and maintain a high level of competition we must implement a skill progression/development philosophy at our Mite level. Players must master the basic skills before they can move to the next level. The Mite level will be focused on individual skill development with game play taking a back seat. It is imperative to teach and foster the basic hockey skills necessary for these young players to make a successful transition to the traveling program. The skills needed for each of the Mite levels can be found on the MWAH website.

### MWAH MITE LEVELS

Based on age and skill evaluations, players will be placed in the proper Mite level. The table below gives the breakdown of the current Mite levels and the typical age range found at that level. There are four levels; Mini-mites Mite 1, Mite 2, and Mite 3. The Mini-Mites level is for players new to hockey and will learn the most basic of skills. The Mite 1 level is our intermediate level typically for our 2nd and 3rd year players. The Mite 2 level is our intermediate program typically for our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year players. The Mite 3 level is our advanced program typically for our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year players.



Age/Birthdate	Mini Mites	Mite 1	Mite 2	Mite 3
Pre-School (Born Before June 1, 2016)	All	-	-	-
Kindergarten (June 1, 2015 - May 31, 2016)	Beginner- Intermediate	Advanced	-	-
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade (June 1, 2014 - May 31, 2015)	First year skaters - Beginner	Intermediate - Advanced	Advanced	-
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade (June 1, 2013 - May 31, 2014)	-	First year skaters	Intermediate- Advanced	Advanced
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade (June 1, 2012- May 31, 2013)	-		First year skaters	Intermediate- Advanced
Projected Number of players	40+ Players	30-35 Players	30-35Players	30-35
Cost*	\$99	\$400	\$700	\$700

*\*First time Mini-Mite skaters fees are waived and first time skaters at the other 3 levels get a \$99 credit on fees*



### PLAYER EVALUATIONS

All mite players within MWA will be evaluated to not only determine their level to play, but also make the teams as equal as possible. The MWA Mite hockey evaluation follows the Minnesota Hockey HEP program. The scoring will be as objective as possible but ultimately up to the discretion of the evaluators.

### COACHING

If you know you would like to coach in the upcoming season for your player's team/level, either as a head coach or assistant, please be sure to register on the Westonka Hockey Website, under the coach's registration tab. This will walk you through everything that is needed to get registered as a coach with USA hockey and MWA. Further, A coaches meeting will be held **August 31st from 7:00-8:00pm at Thaler Ice Arena Meeting Room** to discuss the upcoming season and required training necessary to become a coach. For parents who would like to learn more about becoming a coach, I encourage you to attend this meeting as well. We need many helping hands on the ice to make this season successful. You do not have to be a highly skilled skater/hockey player to coach, especially at the Mini-Mite level, all you need is a passion to want to help develop our kids and make sure they are having fun.

### PARENT INFO NIGHT

Lastly, there will be an informational meeting held on **August 23rd at 7:00 – 7:30pm** at Thaler Ice Arena Meeting Room. We will discuss the registration process and pricing, the Mite program structure, the schedule, volunteering and parent commitment, and answer any questions.

See you at the rink!!!

Phil Kading

Mite Coordinator

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