

North Branch Mite Committee

Monthly Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Committee Members (not all were present): Barb Boelk, Ray Croal, Scott Hannah, Shaan Hilber, Tim Hink, Nichole Holman, Rick Huth, Lisa Isaacson, Gina Klein, Chris Klein, Anne Meyer, Lori Pendergrass, Mike Pizzuti, Dawn Sachs, Michael Whiting, Cherie Turek

Mite Committee members will meet once a month or upon request by Mite Director or other committee members.

Winter Learn to Skate

- Flyers will go out in school Friday folders and community boards
- \$20 Registration Fee for all 4 days
- Located at the Outdoor Rink South of the High School
- Medical forms will not be required for current hockey players in the North Branch Hockey Association.
- Currently 1 session from 6-7pm on Friday nights (Jan 8th, Jan 22nd, Jan 29th, Feb 5th)

Ideas for Improving the Mite Program

- 1) Adding a 2nd session of “Learn to Skate” from 7-8pm Friday nights for older skaters already in the North Branch Hockey program. This could include more training on skating and hockey skills.
- 2) Create a Family Skate Night and use this as an opportunity for collecting donations and/or fundraising.
- 3) Improving Communication methods for Team Managers
 - a. Provide handouts of team managers and coaches to all team parents
 - b. Have a team meeting to introduce the team coaches and managers to parents
 - c. Have all team player parents check in with the Team Manager during the first 3-4 practices.
 - d. Sending out email notifications of changes and requesting confirmation of receipt.
 - e. Phone calls to all parents on schedule changes
- 4) Start the Mite program earlier in the Fall as many other Hockey Associations started several weeks before North Branch this year.
- 5) Find more ice time for players even if it means having to travel further for ice time (The Super Rink in Blaine is just one example)

- 6) Find ways to help our North Branch hockey players keep up and improve their skill sets to be competitive in District 10 competitions. We look at losing kids that are really good hockey players to other associations if we are not competitive.
 - a. Some parents are willing to pay more for additional ice time for their children.
 - b. Additional ice time will require Board Approval and must be an Association Sponsored Event for insurance coverage.
 - c. Create more Skill Clinics for our players.
 - d. Look at Open Public Skating options at other arenas
 - e. Having Black and Red B-Mite teams share half ice for practice – Will they be ready for Full-Ice games?
 - f. Create a traveling team that is separate from an in-house team. Traveling players would require more funding from parents for additional full-ice time at rinks all around the twin cities.
- 7) Create skills assessments for all Mite Levels not just returning B and C Mites.
- 8) Look at placing players on the correct levels based on skills taken through early skills assessments.
- 9) Work together with other sports programs on scheduling for players participating in multiple sports.
- 10) Create a published guide on available Spring, Summer, and Fall training and game clinics throughout Minnesota. Players involved in off season programs with friends will learn more and have more fun.
- 11) Look at adding more games to our program to stay competitive with other District 10 associations.
- 12) Share ice differently between U8 Girls and the Black and Red B-Mite teams. Coaches will request changes to current usage of ice by teams that are sharing ice for practices.
- 13) Look at the possibility of requiring initiation and A-Mite parents, that are new to the association, to have some mandatory fundraising or community involvement.
 - a. Include information to new parents as to why fundraising is so important.
 - i. More Ice Time
 - ii. Reduced Fees
 - iii. Building our own Rink for North Branch players
- 14) Look at new ways of fundraising
 - a. Selling Christmas wreaths
 - b. Selling Candy Bars
 - c. Other Ideas...
- 15) Request for earlier communication to new and existing parents on fundraisers such as the Power Play event.
- 16) Purchase Hockey Jerseys, through the association, for C and D Mite Players as we already provide this to all of the Initiation, A, and B Mite players.
 - a. C and D Mite players were told they could not add names to the jerseys
 - b. Mite Directory, Tim Hink, will look into why C and D Mites are unable to have their names added to the jerseys.

17) Prism Design & Embroidery (North Branch Logo on clothing apparel)

- a. Look at adding sweatshirts and jackets to the apparel list with a possible percentage of sales going toward the North Branch Hockey Association.

Task for all Committee Members

Communicate with friends and family of other Hockey Associations. Find out how these other associations work and bring this information to the next Mite Committee Meeting.

- Fundraisers
- Ice Time
- Ratio of games to practices
- Traveling Teams
- Skills Clinics
- Goalie Training
- Shared Ice?

Meeting ended at 9:00pm