

North Branch Mite Committee

Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Committee Members Present: Barb Boelk, Ray Croal, Scott Hannah, Michael Whiting, Shaan Hilber, Tim Hink, Rick Huth, Mike Pizzuti, Cherie Turek

Members Present: Ryan Coleman, Lyndsey Whiting, Annie Kurkowski, Jeff Schertz, Don Schmitt, Will Turek, Janelle Olson, Paige Lee, Pat Steffen, Jana Huth, Ami Moreland, Nikki Saleen

Annual Membership Meeting

The annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 30th at 7pm at the North Branch Library conference room. All members are encouraged to come and vote for new members of the board.

Parent Survey

A survey has been posted on the North Branch Hockey website under the Mite Page. Go to the following web site <http://www.northbranchhockey.com/page/show/107348-mites> and click on the link "NBAHA Mite Parent Survey".

This survey will provide the association with information on how the 09/10 season has gone and look at improvements to the program for next season.

Please take the time to complete this survey. We have received 44 responses to date.

2010-2011 D10 Mite Level Designation Change

The letter designation for the Mite levels will change for District 10 Mite teams starting next season. We have been starting our lowest level of play as A-Mites and then went to B-C-D Mite levels. Next season our lowest level of play will be D-Mites and then going up to C-B-A Mites.

2010-2011 Season Registration Online

All hockey registration for the 10/11 NBAHA hockey season will be done online. Look for more information on the North Branch Hockey website: <http://www.northbranchhockey.com>.

Volunteer Hours

Last season there was a requirement for 3-shifts of volunteer time. The board has voted to raise this to 4 shifts of volunteer time for the upcoming 10/11 hockey season. As we look at moving forward with building our new Ice Arena, we need volunteer help to raise money and promote our hockey association.

As of April 1st, you can start volunteering to get your service credits filled.

There is a new online volunteer registration program called DIBS. All volunteer opportunities will be posted on DIBS and you can select what you would like to volunteer for. The NBAHA Board is working to update this program with more detailed information on the volunteer programs with contact and location information and descriptions of the volunteer service that you are registering for.

Disbursements

Paige Lee, NBAHA Board Treasurer, let everyone know about the annual disbursement that is given out to our community each year. At the Membership Meeting we decide who and how much will be disbursed to the community. At the upcoming Annual Meeting on March 30th, all members will have an opportunity to vote on this disbursement.

Mite Committee Overview

The Mite Committee was formed to look and discuss new ideas for the Mite program. There is currently one person from each Mite team on the committee. Minutes from the Mite Committee Meeting are posted on the website under Board – Mite Directory – Mite Committee (<http://www.northbranchhockey.com/page/show/149256-mite-committee>). This committee meets once a month to discuss a variety of different subjects.

1st Mite Committee Meeting

The committee compared the North Branch Mite program with other D10 Mite programs researching areas that included fundraising, fee structure, ice bills, registration fees, games, indoor/outdoor ice, evaluations, shared ice time, level of play, volunteer hours, volunteer deposits, and association fees.

It was found that associations that have more ice time did start their season in October instead of the later part of November.

Open Discussion Items

Start date for mites

Mite evaluations

Amount of ice time

IN house league for beginner skaters (do not need rosters for D10)

Level of play

Co-op at mite level – Do we want to do this at the mite level?

Open hockey night at the shack (look at making this a regular event Friday nights at the shack for the next season coming up)

General Discussion from the Floor

In-House League

There was a discussion on an in-house league that would only include first year and some second year skaters. These skaters would only scrimmage against themselves or maybe Cambridge. These in-house skaters would not be able to participate in the Mora Jamboree as this does require that rosters are signed for each player. Many thought that there would be enough players at this level to play against one another with the lower registration costs.

Start Dates

Traveling skaters do start 2-3 weeks before the mite players, but their season also ends earlier than the Mite players. In years past the association used to start the really small players in December to shorten the season for them.

C and D Mites would like to see 5-6 hours more ice time before going into the 1st game. They would rather see the ice time start earlier in the year to be more prepared for games that take place at the start of the season.

Evaluation Process

There was a full agreement that we need to continue with evaluations at the Mite level. There were some concerns about how stressful it was for some of the players, but most agreed this was still needed. Most would like to try and get 2 teams instead of playing our skaters at levels they are not ready for.

A comment was made that we need to start kids skating earlier before they come to evaluations. We need to look at the evaluations to group players together at the right skill level and then determine the correct level of play.

Most agreed that we need more time to decide how to group and create our teams. It was noted that the 1st year of CMites is hard because there are a lot of associations that do not have a D team and will play D level skaters at the CMite level.

Mentoring

There was some discussion around having some of our older skaters play with the younger skaters as a motivational push for our younger skaters. There are insurance issues with having High School players coaching our younger initiation skaters on the ice. It was agreed that the younger players do listen more to older players and there have been older sibling that have helped out at different teams.

How do you feel about Fees?

There is more ice time at the C and D Mite levels and therefore the costs are much higher. The beginning mite player cost has been subsidized by the association to keep these costs down as this has proved to get more kids skating in the association. Some parents did think that the

BMite payments could go up to the same level as the C and D prices. NBAHA did subsidize \$1500 to the mite program in the 09/10 hockey season.

Co-Op at Mite Level

Many Mite parents feel that there are enough Mite players to continue skating with just North Branch players and that we do not need to Co-Op at this level. If we look at doing another DMite level team it may make sense to co-op, but there was talk about just having more than 1 CMite team and not a D-Mite team. Some parents would like to keep kids skating together as they move up so they know one another.

Coaching Director for Mite and Traveling Levels

In years past our coaching director has had no involvement in the Mite program. We are looking to interview for head coaching positions at the Mite level. We need to look for more continuity. We may need to look at setting up a program and will need a coaching committee. Look at setting up a curriculum from A-Z. Slowly work through levels. If evaluations are done correctly we should have a good comparison in skill level.

Look at pulling in one Coaching Director to cover all Mites and Traveling teams so there is one system and the kids know what to expect.

We need to make sure the kids are having fun throughout the season. Parents also need to realize that kids may not move up levels and may move back levels to be competitive and therefore have fun. Start the season earlier so you get a better idea of where the kids are at and then decide what level to put the kids at. NBAHA does need to declare our teams and rosters by December 5th.

At Mite level you need to underestimate your skill levels. The Ice Director can work with teams to schedule more difficult teams to compete with if there is a need to challenge the players. The schedule can change as you go throughout the season.

Volunteer Hours

There were about 10 to 12 families that did not get in their service hours for the 09/10 hockey season. NBAHA had a buyout of \$200 for all returning skaters. Chisago has a buyout of \$400. There were 3 families that opted for the buyout at the beginning of the season. It was noted that some events are just for PR and do not make money for the association.

There was a suggestion to offer a ½ credit to families that show up at the Membership Meetings. Another suggestion was to require that all families attend at least 2 Membership Meetings a year as a requirement. This would provide more families with information on how the association is run and may gain interest after attending a few of these meetings.

Discussion around condensing down the number of events that the association requires volunteers for. Some thought that all Mite families should be required to sell the raffle tickets.

The association is working to put together a Ground Breaking Ceremony for our new Ice Arena sometime in April. This will be a huge fundraiser for the association. We are looking to build 2 sheets of natural ice during this first building stage with the hopes of also having a Zamboni.

Look at putting up some type of Sun Fence to get an extra 2-3 weeks of outdoor ice from these 2 sheets. Craig Molene is looking for volunteers to help out with this project. Craig's contact information (email and phone) can be found on the website at <http://www.northbranchhockey.com/page/show/107418-arena-project-manager>.

Meeting ended at 8:25pm