

North Branch Mite Committee

Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 7:15pm.

Committee Members Present: Ray Croal, Tim Hink, Cherie Turek, Dawn Sachs, Rick Huth, Lisa Isaacson

Members Present: None

Co-Op update with CI

CI took a vote to not continue with the co-op for next season. North Branch is now looking for other alternatives and options for our traveling level skaters. The biggest concern is at the traveling levels. Squirts should be able to create 2 teams. Bantams would be short on players if others went to the High School team.

Bantam parent meeting next Wednesday to talk with parents and get a feel for what they would like to see for their kids.

Tom Garin has already talked with several arenas to let them know we are looking for ice and that we will not have a co-op with CI next season.

New Mite Director

Ray Croal was voted in as the new Mite Director at the annual membership meeting on March 30th. The Mite levels will be changed from A-B-C-D to D-C-B-A.

What should Mite Program look like for next year?

- In house league for lower level skaters (initiation A Mites) so you did not have to roster or schedule games for these players. The Mora Jamboree would not be an option with the in-house league. We can still schedule scrimmages against other associations.
- Continue with Mite evaluations for player evaluation. Would like to have more ice time for the kids before the evaluations. Traveling usually starts prior to the Mite evaluations. Traveling tryouts would be in early October and then look at getting Mike kids on the ice for pre-skate evaluations.
- Look at pushing learn to skate out to November instead of the end of September because of the gap between these skating sessions and evaluations.
- Try and correspond learn to skate with Mite Night. May need to back up Mite Night or have 2 Mite Nights with one earlier and another one following learn to skate sessions.
- Have more dedicated players in a traveling Mite program as another option.
- Some associations have clinics instead of in-house leagues to teach kids how to skate and then put a stick in their hands.

- Look at getting High School players involved in the in-house league. There are ways around supporting insurance for these players. Other programs required their high school players to donate their time to the Mite program. We do believe the HS Hockey Coach, Randy, would promote his players to participate in our hockey program.
- Look at having Mite Committee members participate in the Blue Line Club meeting to get participation from their players for our Mite players. Next meeting is scheduled for April 26th.

Recruiting

- Look at creating a skating session for boy and girl scouts to encourage more kids to join the association.
- Have Mites participate in the “Midsummer Day Parade” on June 20th at 2pm to promote the association. Need to get in contact with Mite families to participate. “Stacy Days” also has a parade on August 7th around noon. Ray has requested that Lisa sign us up for both parades.
- Figure out a way to have Jersey day at school where all of the kids wear their Jerseys at school before the season starts to promote the hockey program. Put on our calendar to have kids wear their jerseys on certain days of the week.
- Went to soccer fields and handed out flyers of hockey registration.
- Include hockey registration in the Friday folders.
- Have Banks and City Boards post information on registration sign-ups.

Online Survey

We started off with one survey with 45 responses. We separated out a Mite survey. Most were in agreement and liked the coaching staff. Good communication. Need to make sure our players are playing at the right level.

Evaluations

Mite Levels D, C, and B would all have to be evaluated. Those kids that do not fit into any of these levels will then have the option to play in a house league.

Figure out how to do evaluations without stressing out the younger kids.

Ray would like to follow what Coon Rapids does where they have 2-3 practices where all the kids come together to play pond hockey and have coaches evaluating during this time. The coaches then create groups and have the kids go through a practice session and the coaches are in the stands evaluating the kids during this “practice” session.

Look at finding different coaches for evaluations. Centennial would like their Mite program to swap coaches for evaluations. They are also having 2 practices with the last practice labeled as an evaluation day. Centennial has about 150 mites compared to our 124 mites. By swapping coaches this could be done free of charge. Bring this to the next Board meeting to discuss this as a possibility. This is a wonderful way to share ideas with an exceptional hockey association.

Tom Garin will be putting together a coaching curriculum that all of our coaches can follow to know where the kids should be as they progress through the levels. This will also help during

the evaluation process. Watch other practices, such as AAA hockey to learn about new drills that could improve our program. Tom wants to stress variety in the practices for our players.

Present Proposal to Board

Present our ideas to the Board in the near future so we have their approval to move forward on our ideas. This is especially important as we start setting our budget earlier in the year.

Parental Contact

Have more communication with Mite parents on what they think we can do better with the Mite program to generate ideas for the Mite Committee.

Meeting ended at 8:45pm