North Branch Mite Committee

Monthly Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm.

Committee Members Present: Ray Croal, Tim Hink, Cherie Turek, Jesse Meyer, Dawn Sachs

Members Present: None

Stacy Days Parade

- Ray is looking for volunteers to participate in the upcoming Stacy Days Parade.
- Plan to have kids skating on roller blades and pass out candy to the spectators.
- All kids that are planning to skate at this event will be required to wear a helmet.
- Ray will check with Lisa on getting publicity cards printed out for distribution at this event.

Methods to Increase Mite Registration Numbers for 2010/2011 Season

Registration Flyer Distribution

- Hand out flyers at T-Ball and Soccer fields
- Distribute flyers to the coaches so they are received by all players.
- Last year Tim handed out a double-sided flyers that included Mite Registration and signups for the "Learn to Skate" sessions.
- Ray will talk with Lisa about updating the flyers to pass out at the T-Ball and Soccer fields at the end of July.
- Suggestions were made to post these flyers in local businesses such as Nelsons, Dairy Queen and more.
- Suggestions were made to purchase additional yard signs (16x14) and post them on corners throughout town.
- Jesse Meyer created a draft flyer with his idea of what could be included in our updated flyer. Ray plans to create an online document with this information and present it to Lisa for proofing and updating before final copies are printed.
- Ray will contact Mite Committee members to get volunteers to distribute these registration flyers.

Discuss Equipment Needs

- Communicate out what equipment is needed for new skaters. All equipment is provided and each player will only need to provide their own skates, stick and a mouth guard.
- Discussed ideas of how to let new families know about cheaper opportunities for purchasing skates and sticks for their kids from leasing skates to buying used equipment from organizations like "Play-it-Again Sports".

Registration for 2010/2011 Season

- Other hockey associations already have registration open to players.
- Chisago has an early bird special pricing for those that register early.
- Registration will take place from September 1st through the 16th.
- The 1st "Learn to Skate" sessions will be from October 8th – 24th on Friday and Saturdays.
- There will be 2 "Mite Nights" one taking place prior to the "Learn to Skate" and another following it.

Mite Equipment

- Paige Lee is still determining our current Mite inventory
- Suggestions were made by committee members to look at providing an online equipment donation program. This would allow members to donate their used equipment to the association and use this as a write off.

Pre-Skate / Evaluations Ideas for Mites

- This will take place after the 1st "Learn to Skate" sessions. These pre-skates and evaluations will take place at the end of October. Mite ice will consist of 2 hours of pre-skate and 2 hours of evaluations.
- The purpose of the pre-skate hours is to give all kids the opportunity to get on the ice and feel more comfortable before the evaluations take place.
- Mite rosters need to be set by December 4th. We will have from October 30th through November 25th to set the teams.
- Planning to have our coaches perform the evaluations for the Mite level players
- Last season the evaluations consisted of grouping all of last years returning B-Mite players and had them run through drills a couple of times with some 3 on 3 scrimmages. There were 8 stations setup on the ice that all players were rotated through.
- We can look at doing some 3 on 3 or 5 on 5 for the pre-skate sessions.
- Ray mentioned the idea of keeping all kids on the ice at the same time based on level until teams are defined.
- There was an agreement to hold off on handing out jerseys to players (unless it is a brand new player that has no other jersey to wear) until all teams are defined. This will hopefully help in preventing a lot of confusion for families and team managers.

Fall Hockey Opportunities

- Ray will talk with Lisa about posting Fall hockey opportunities on the website.
- Nick Miller provided some skills training sessions last year. Ray will contact him to see if he plans on providing this opportunity again this Fall.

Meeting ended at 9:15pm