

## SAHA Mite and U8 Evaluation/Team Selection Process:

Mite and U8 level 1 and level 2 teams will be created by grouping kids together based on their school as well as any parent requests. These levels play minimal or no games and as such “equality” does not matter. Further, we let parents decide which level their kid should play at and deal with any outliers on an individual basis. In any given year, there are usually only 1 or 2 outliers among 200+ players at these levels.

For mite and U8 level 3 teams it is quite different. Although we still let parents sign up for the level they feel is appropriate, we conduct an informal clinic and the beginning of the year to ensure that all kids that registered for level 3 have the skating aptitude to play at this level. The clinic also provides a mechanism to create equally skilled teams. For the past 2 years we have utilized the HEP skills program whereby the kids are timed performing 5 different activities (the actual activities are attached below). All 5 “stations” are going on at the same time and kids rotate through each of them. We will use this program again for the upcoming season. The kids are ranked based on their times and we tell the parents that we reserve the right to request players to play level 2 if they are way off the mark based on these times. We also use the rankings for creating equally skilled teams when the coaches sit down together to “draft” players. Again, we try to let kids play with their buddies provided it does not create a significant inequality among the teams.

