



Changes to Mite programs for 2011-2012 Season

The Midwest Amateur Hockey Association has mandated, that starting with the 2011-2012 season, all Mite (8 and under) programs must be cross-ice without exception within individual organizations. In response to this new rule, area hockey organizations have been cooperating in the redesign of our Mite programs.

League play will be non-competitive as follows:

- All games will be played in a half-ice format. Two games will be played simultaneously.
- Dividers will be placed along the red line with goals in the creases and two more goals near the red line.
- Teams will be created with about 22 players. These players will be divided into 2 groups of 10 players plus a goalie for game days. Those groups will play against the respective skill level group from the opposing team.
- Goals will be regulation size. Full-time goalies are not recommended, everyone should be encouraged to try. Those liking the position may rotate in more frequently.
- 2 referees will be present on the ice. One in charge of each half-ice game.
- Scores and standings will not be displayed or recorded.
- The clock and horn will be used to signal line changes every two minutes.
- After a goal, freeze or other stoppage, the referee will toss the puck back into play. Faceoffs will only occur on line changes.

- Penalties will result in a penalty shot. The penalized player may be removed for the remainder of the shift for severe offenses.
- The season will be extended from 12 to 14 games. There will be no playoffs or championship. A non-competitive tournament may be substituted in March or April.

While we recognize that sometimes change is difficult, please understand that the new format is designed based on the USA Hockey ADM model which demonstrates that small-area games will speed the development of younger players. Please see go to the USA Hockey ADM website for more information: www.admkids.com

Players will also enjoy more game time as they will be on-ice every other shift. Teams at the 'Mite' level will receive the same amount of practice ice-time.

With all that has been mentioned regarding the half-ice format and the ADM model, the LIHA Board of Directors are open to the development of a Mite (Coach Selected) Friendship Team to play full-ice friendship games and tournaments if available. The Midwest league will not host a full-ice Mite tournament as they have in previous years.