



Andover Huskies Youth Hockey Association Mites/8U 2011/2012

Welcome to the 2011/2012 hockey season for the Andover Huskies! We are all looking forward to a great season of hockey! I wanted to put together some information for everyone about our upcoming season, especially for those of you that are new to the association. Hopefully this will answer all of your questions but if you need more information, please feel free to contact me at anytime! For general information about our association and the sport of hockey, please refer to our "Hockey 101" Brochure which can be found on our website.

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Mite Meet-and-Greet

The Mite Meet-and-Greet is the first event of the season for Mites. It is basically a fun event to kick-off the start of our hockey season! It is held the first or second Sunday in October at the Andover Community Center. This event will usually have games in the gym, food, open skate, and a gift bag for every Mite player. The purpose of the Meet-and-Greet is for Mite players to come and have fun, see friends from last year and maybe make some new ones! Your child will also get their initial skating schedule at this event.

Please note that you will not be meeting your child's coach or team at this event. Please see "Schedules/Website" for more information on your child's team.

***This year the Meet-and-Greet will be on Sunday October 9th from 4:30pm-7pm at the Andover Community Center.**

Schedules/Website

The first schedule that you will receive for hockey will be at the Meet-and-Greet. If you are not able to attend, you will be able to find it on our website. For this first schedule, we will group all of the Mite/8U players into "pools" based on their previous hockey experience. These pools will skate together for approximately 6-10 sessions. During these sessions, the coaches will be evaluating all of the players. Players may be moved to different pools throughout this period if deemed appropriate. After the evaluations are over, the players will be put into their teams that they will play with all season. This is usually done in the middle of November. At that time, you will receive the next schedule, which will be for your specific team.

Each team will also have their own website which can be found at ahyha.com under "Teams", "Mites" and then the name of your team. The website is where all of your team information can be found and where your schedule will be posted. When in doubt, check the website!

HEP Testing

On October 15th and 16th, the kids will participate in HEP Testing, which stands for Hockey Education Program. Every fall and spring, we test the kids on certain skills and record their times so that we can see the progress that they make between the beginning and end of the season. We have several stations set up on the ice where kids are all testing at the same time, which makes this a comfortable environment for the kids.

Practices/Gear

If this is your first time in Mites, you might not know what to do for your child's first practice. When you first walk into the building for practice, look to find the "TV screen" that shows all of the events for the ice arena for that day. It will be scrolling information and will tell you which locker room your team or group is assigned to. From there, you can just go in to that locker room and get your child ready. Make sure to arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the start of your practice so that you have time to get your child geared up. We have a list of hockey gear in our "Hockey 101" Brochure (on our website) if you're unsure of what to buy. If you are unsure of how a piece of equipment goes on, feel free to ask anyone in the locker room...we have all been a first time hockey parent and can relate! Please also make sure that you have your child's name on the front of their helmet using white hockey tape with their name written in black. Feel free to leave your child's hockey bag in the locker room during practice but please make sure not to leave any valuables. After your child is dressed in their gear, they are ready to go out on the ice and you can go to the bleachers and watch. It takes a little while to get used to all of the preparation for hockey but soon you'll be doing it in your sleep!

Season Timeline

Here is the approximate timeline for the 2011/2012 season for our Mite/8U players. Please note that this is only an estimate and is subject to change.

October:

9th – Meet-and-Greet, 4:30pm-7pm, Andover Community Center
15th /16th – HEP Testing
Evaluations continue throughout the month

November:

Mid-November – Mite teams are formed
Hopefully we will have our Mite Team Managers Meeting this month as well

December:

2nd – Picture Day
Mid-December - League play begins for Mites/8U

January:

Practices and games continue. Typically this is when the outdoor rinks open up and an outdoor practice (or 2) will be added to your weekly schedule.

Saturday 21st - Andover Winter Classic! (outdoor jamboree for all Mite/8U teams to celebrate Hockey Day Minnesota)

February: Practices and games continue.

March:

Mid-March: SKATE Banquet (Please see more information in the “SKATE” section)
Mid/End of March – Andover/Anoka Jamboree

End of Season

*Mite Jamboree dates are still TBD

Jamborees

All of our Mite/8U players will participate in at least one Jamboree this season. A Jamboree is similar to a tournament except that it is a non-competitive environment. At a typical Jamboree, players will receive a gift bag or gift item, have opportunities to purchase other Jamboree merchandise, play officiated games against other local teams and even get to hear their name called over the loud speaker! In the past they have also dimmed the lights while introducing players...the kids love it!

The Jamborees are a lot of fun and the kids (and adults) have a blast! Even though it is not competitive, you still get that “tournament atmosphere” and the kids love it!

Team Managers

Every team will have a team manager. The team manager will be in charge of their team “book” which has all of the registration information, official team roster, etc. This person will also manage the team’s website (on our site...very easy), plan any team get-togethers and be the contact person between the association and their team. If you are interested in being the team manager for your team, please let me and your coach know as soon as teams have been formed. This is a really great way to get involved and doesn’t require any experience! I do ask that you check your email at least once a day so that we can make sure all of our communications to the teams are timely. Also, this position will fulfill all of your volunteer hours for the season!

[Volunteer Hours](#)

If this is your first year in our association, you are not required to complete any volunteer hours.

All others will need to complete 12 hours of volunteer time per family. Please go to our website and click “Volunteer” on the left-hand side and it will walk you through the process of signing up and looking for volunteer hours.

Our volunteers help to make our association a success!

[S.K.A.T.E](#)

AHYHA endorses the S.K.A.T.E. Academic program, which stands for Skaters Keep Achieving through Education. This academic achievement program recognizes the efforts of student athletes who play hockey. Minnesota Hockey, the statewide governing body of amateur hockey, voted overwhelmingly to endorse this program. This program encourages, rewards, and supports youth hockey players who commit themselves to their schoolwork while enjoying the sport of hockey. Typically in March, AHYHA hosts an end of the season banquet for our Academic All-Stars.

Please note that this is an optional program and that your child must be in at least Kindergarten to participate.

I hope you all have an awesome hockey season!

