



## BHA Mite 2014 – 2015

## Bulletin #1

October 23, 2014

Hi Everyone,

Hockey is Here! Its truly hard to believe how fast time goes by as it seems we just put the skates away. We have great expectations for another great year of Hockey. We are especially excited to welcome 5 new players to the program that consists of 26 total Mites and Mini Mites. So, on behalf of the Benson Hockey Association, Thank You to all for joining BHA as we look forward to a great year!

The purpose of this Bulletin is get everyone updated with the latest developments with BHA and our Mite program. As we move thru the season, you will see more bulletins via email or the MBA Calendar as to the latest with dates and times of practices, games or events.

**Website** - Go to [www.MBASTORM.com](http://www.MBASTORM.com) for the latest in times, games, practices and events.

**Mite Time** - This is time for all MITES to wear off the "Rust". It's an OPTIONAL time to skate and play games and is not directed as a practice. It's truly a time where the MITES will have the full sheet of ice to themselves. Watch the MBA Calendar for the latest dates and times.

**Learn to Skate** - For the new skaters, please use the MITE TIME to learn to skate, learn to put on the pads, and just learn. Practice formally starts on the 16<sup>th</sup> of Nov. However, if you're interested to hit the ice before the 16<sup>th</sup>, please consider using the MITE TIME as a great place to LEARN TO SKATE. Coaches and parents will be available to assist you with just about anything.

**Practices** - Our 1<sup>st</sup> practice will be on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> starting at 4pm. We will run practices on Sunday's and Tuesday's. Practice times will be 2 hours on Sunday's (4-6) and will run 1 hour on Tuesday's (6:15 – 7:15). The additional hour on Sunday's (last year we went for only 1 hour on Sunday's) will be used for games and skating....basically, use the last hour for the kids to have fun. As we get into the Season, (ie after Jan 1) we will use the last hour on Sunday's to "teach" the game of hockey to the older MITES (BLUE SQUAD). You will receive more info on the planning of the practices at our Parent's Meeting and once we start playing games. Also, we will plan on using the USA HOCKEY ADM Model for our practices. More info to come at our Parent's Meeting.

**Teams** - Like last year, we will divide our 25-26 players into two squads – a RED SQUAD and a BLUE SQUAD. The RED's will be comprised of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year skaters. The BLUE's will be comprised of older MITES. The Coaches will divide the teams up by Nov 30<sup>th</sup> as required by USA Hockey regulations. We will announce the player's squad sometime mid to late November.

**Games** - For the Red's, the games will be primarily local to the area with most of the Games being played with our sister Association, Morris. For the Blue's, the games will be primarily on Saturday's starting either in late Dec or beginning of January. The games have not been scheduled as most Associations save their MITE game planning until early December. Watch the MBA Calendar for the latest in Game Times. Be sure to select RED or BLUE on the website in order to get the accurate time for your player. (Again, we will announce teams late November so there is no need to check the Calendar for games until approximately mid December.) As the games are planned, I will also send out an announcement via email.

**Parents Meeting** - We will have our Parent's Meeting on Sunday November, 16 starting at 4:10 pm or once the kids are on the Ice. We will meet in the upper viewing area of the Rink. I'll run through practice plans, expectations, work hours, goals and along with reviewing most of this Bulletin's content. Expect the meeting to last 30 minutes.

**Equipment** - Let one of the Coaches know if you are in need of any equipment. The MITE TIME is a great time to see if the pads still fit from last year. Or, for our 1<sup>st</sup> year Skaters, trying to figure out how to put the pads on!

**BHA Kickoff Night / Tuesday, Oct 28** - As you may have seen, the BHA will be having a kick off night for the hockey year on Tuesday, Oct 28 starting at 5:45 pm. We're fortunate to have some players from the Alexandria Blizzard coming down to Benson to Skate with our Players. This Skate with the Blizzard is ONLY OPEN TO RETURNING MITES AND MINI MITES (RED'S AND BLUES) or any player with AT LEAST 1 YEAR OF ICE SKATING EXPERIENCE. Please be ready to Skate at 5:45 promptly. The players will have 45 minutes of time on the Ice. If your player is a 1<sup>st</sup> year skater, please come to the meeting to learn more about the BHA.

**Blizzard vs SJU 7pm in Willmar / Nov 1, 2014** - All MITE players, including the 1<sup>st</sup> year players, will receive 2 tickets to this event. Please RSVP to myself @ [corey.claussen@customrotomold.com](mailto:corey.claussen@customrotomold.com). I'll have your tickets available at MITE TIME or at the front desk of CRM. Many players have already RSVP'd and the vision would be to have all of MITE players attend the game. The goal is to promote HOCKEY out in Western MN. So, your support is appreciated.

**Blizzard vs SJU - Returning MITES play between Periods** - Open to all MITE players with at least 1 year of skating experience, we have been invited to play between periods of the Blizzard & SJU game on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. Please plan on playing in front of an anticipated crowd of 750 people! It will be fun. Please let one of the coaches know if you plan or do not plan to play in this exciting event.

**Coaches** - Coaches this year will be Corey Claussen, Mike Hadfield, Jeremy Schauer, and Matt Mattheisen.

Thanks again for your support and we look forward to seeing everyone at the Rink!

Corey