District 4 Hockey

November 10, 2016

Dear mite coaches and families,

November 20, 2016 will mark the start of the mite pilot program in District 4. Our host are Redwood Falls Area Hockey Association and Fairmont Hockey Association. On November 20, 2016 all mite coaches will participate in a brief ADM/MDM class room session with Wes Bolin in Fairmont and Guy Gosselin in Redwood Falls. The coaches’ session will run from 12:00 – 12:50. At 1:00 p.m. the coaches and players from the programs participating will take the ice for 45 minutes of AMD/MDM practice, followed by 45 minutes of cross ice play from 1:45-2:30 p.m..

This program will run every third Sunday of each month during the season, with details being found on the district 4 website. <http://mnhdistrict4.pucksystems2.com/page/show/2911849-dist-4-2016-2017->

The host association is responsible for organizing the ADM/MDM practice, all coaches from each program are encouraged to participate in each of the on-ice sessions. The goal is to work in collaboration on skill development of these young players.

During the cross-ice games, players will change lines every minute to minute and a half. Coaches will serve as the officials.

Frequently asked questions –

We have families that do not want to travel. *This program is designed so the only travel the families must do is within Minnesota Hockey District 4 boundaries.*

What if we are unable to field and full team? *No problem, attend with the players you have available, the goal of this program is to collaborate and work together in the skill development of these young players. Please do not view it as competition between associations.*

The following information is from the Minnesota Hockey Handbook for 2016-2017 and rules for Mite Hockey.

*F. MITE HOCKEY*

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*MH strongly encourages skill development for all players. This is particularly critical at*

*the Mite level so that players are provided with the foundation to enjoy and have success in the game.*

1. *To reduce expense and promote development rather than competition, Mite teams shall participate within their home association and district only. However, the District Director(s) may allow exceptions for convenience or to maintain continuity. The District Director's decision is final.*
2. *Mites are generally organized into levels based on age, skill and number of players. As a*

*guideline, Mites should be divided into two levels: Mini-Mites (6 &Under) -the younger, beginner and less skilled players; and Mites (8 & Under) -the older, experienced, more skilled players.*

1. *The focus for Mites is to teach and develop the basic skills of skating, puck handling, shooting and passing. Cross-ice, half-ice and small area games are the standard of play*

*to maximize ice utilization, increase puck touches and increase the competition and fun.*

*The American Development Model (ADM) and Minnesota Development Model (MDM)*

*provide blueprints for player development.*

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*4. At the Mini-Mite (6 and Under) level –all games shall be played cross or half ice.*

*5. At the Mite (8 and Under) level –the standard playing surface for all games is cross-*

 *or half-ice. Recognizing that associations may want to deviate from the standard,*

*after December 31st up to six full - ice games are allowed with the District Director's approval. The Director's decision is final.*

*6. Local hockey associations are in the best position to design programs so their players can develop and have fun. This should be based on the principles of the MDM and ADM, the number of players in their program, the skill of their players, the availability of ice and their coaching staff.*

*7. In recognition of a need for flexibility and differences between associations, the*

*Standards outlined in #4 and #5 above will be monitored by the District Director. Abuses will result in sanctions against the respective association(s) at the sole discretion of the Director.*

*8. MH does not permit full ice Mite Tournaments; cross/half ice Mite Tournaments are*

*permitted. A guideline for sanctioned Mite Cross/Half Ice Tournaments is found in the*

*Tournament Supplement. MH Mite teams cannot participate in out-of-state tournaments,*

*except cross/half ice tournaments as approved by their District Director.*

*9. Jamborees may be conducted at the Mite level. A jamboree is defined as a low-key full*

*participation event where players have an enjoyable and learning experience in a non-*

*competitive environment. Jamborees need not be registered as tournaments, but must follow the “Team Rest” provisions as provided for under “Playing Rules”. The format for a Jamboree shall be as follows:*

1. *Approval to conduct a Jamboree must be obtained from the cognizant District Director at least thirty (30) days in advance.*
2. *All teams must be from one MH District, unless approved in writing by the MH Directors involved.*
3. *Information referring to the event must state “Jamboree”, not tournament.*
4. *Team fees can cover only costs for ice time, officials, medical attendants and participant awards.*

*e. There can be no gate fee. A free-will donation box will be permitted.*

*f. USA Hockey certified officials are recommended.*

*g. No score may be kept, no winners, no losers, no standings. This will generally require a*

*predetermined round-robin format to be followed.*

*h. No statistics may be kept, such as shots, saves, goals, assists, time of possession, etc.*

*i. Participation awards, if given, shall be the same for all participants. No team awards or trophies.*

Please consult your local association District 4 representative or association president for further information. Thank you for your participation in Minnesota Hockey and the District 4 Mite Pilot Program.

The following is a nice article written on our Mite Pilot program by Minnesota Hockey.

<http://www.minnesotahockey.org/news_article/show/714720?referrer_id=80470utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=Secondary&utm_content=Headline1&utm_campaign=11-01-16>

Respectfully,

Jeremy Reed

Director MH District 4