

UVHA Learn-to-Skate, Learn-to-Play and 8U Travel (Mite) Program Definitions & Policies for Participation and Advancement

Learn-to-Skate Participation (previously Termites)

- a. Participation in the Learn-to-Skate program has no strict age limits. Instead, the inclusion or exclusion of skaters within this program will be made based on the preservation of a safe environment for the majority of the participants. Coaches at this level are to consider such elements as relative size, body control, coordination, temperament, and aggressiveness when assessing the overall safety within a group of skaters spanning a broad range of ages.
- b. Participation in Learn-to-Skate requires no prior skating experience and has no minimum age requirement, although skaters should be able to take direction from a non-parent adult, follow-instructions, and generally stay on-task for 1 hour without parent intervention.
- c. Advancement from Learn-to-Skate to Learn-to-Play requires the recommendation of the Learn-to-Skate coaching team. The Learn-to-Skate coaching team should evaluate the advancement readiness of each participant on or before the end of the season and clearly communicate the status to the player's parents. In the case of a determination that a player is not ready to advance, the coaching team should clearly communicate the areas of improvement required for future advancement.

Learn-to-Play Participation (previously House Mites)

- a. Participation in the Learn-to-Play program has no strict age limits. Instead, the inclusion or exclusion of skaters within this program will be made based on the preservation of a safe environment for the majority of the participants. Coaches at this level are to consider such elements as relative size, body control, coordination, temperament, and aggressiveness when assessing the overall safety within a group of skaters spanning a broad range of ages.
- b. Participation in Learn-to-Play requires previous participation in Learn-to-Skate. Alternatively, players who have not previously participated in Learn-to-Skate must demonstrate skating proficiency consistent with the [USA Hockey Skill Progression](#) for 8U players. Proficiency assessments will be made by the Learn-to-Play coaching team.
- c. Should coaches elect to participate in cross-ice games or tournaments with the Learn-to-Play group, then only players meeting the age requirements of the games or tournaments may participate. Historically, most of the Learn-to-Play group has consisted of 8U players and the Learn-to-Play group has participated in a limited number of games and 1-2 tournaments at the 8U level. Families of players who are not 8U (10U or 12U for example), should be notified both at registration and again at the beginning of the season that they are ineligible to participate in such events to set expectations appropriately.
- d. Advancement from Learn-to-Play to 8U, 10U, or 12U Travel teams requires the recommendation of the Learn-to-Play coaching team. The Learn-to-Play coaching team should evaluate the advancement readiness of each participant on or before the end of the season and communicate the status to the player's parents. In the case of a determination that a player is not ready to advance, the coaching team should clearly communicate the areas of improvement required for advancement.

8U Travel Participation (previously Travel Mites)

- a. Participation in 8U Travel requires previous participation in Learn-to-Play. Players who have not previously participated in Learn-to-Play must demonstrate skating and game-play proficiency consistent with the [USA Hockey Skill Progression](#) for 8U players. Proficiency will be assessed by the 8U Travel coaching team, and the coaching team may make exceptions to this policy in the interest of generating sufficient numbers to complete a team.
- b. Participation in full-ice 8U Travel is limited to final-year 8U Travel players who will be advancing to 10U in the following season. The 8U Travel coaching team may make exceptions to this policy in the interest of generating sufficient numbers to complete a team or if a younger player has demonstrated the skill necessary to participate safely and competitively as determined by a majority of the coaching team. The age of all full-ice 8U Travel players must be consistent with any standing exemption granted by USA Hockey to sanction full-ice 8U play.