

To the MYHA Upper Mite Parents,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Minnetonka Youth Hockey Association Season. If you are receiving this email, your child is an "Upper Mite" this season.

Registration will end on September 29, but until then, I thought I would share some specific information for just your level.

Again, my name is Scott Zacharias, I am the Boys Mite Director. My goal, and the goal of MYHA, is to help make this upcoming season as great an experience as possible for the players and their families.

For those of you who were Mite 2's last year, a brief description of Upper Mites terminology. Upper Mites, along with Mite 3 and Mite 4, are all used interchangeably. 2nd graders and 3rd graders are combined together to form our Upper Mite teams. End of October "Evaluations" will determine which Upper Mites will play at the Mite 3 level and which will play at the Mite 4 level.

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE EMAIL. INCLUDED IN THIS EMAIL IS A LOT OF IMPORTANT AND TIMELY INFORMATION, AND FOR SOME OF YOU, I WILL NEED IMMEDIATE RESPONSES. SO PLEASE READ ALL OF THIS EMAIL AND RESPOND APPROPRIATELY AS NEEDED. THANK YOU.

To get the party started, I will be hosting two **Upper Mites Parent Meetings**. Due to the size of this very large Upper Mites group, I'm providing all of you two options to attend. The content for both meetings will be the same. Feel free to choose the meeting that best works with your family schedule.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Tuesday, October 10 - 7:00pm in the "Warming House" (Rink 2) at Pagel Center
Wednesday, October 11 - 7:00pm in the "Warming House" (Rink 2) at Pagel Center

Everything you want to know about the upcoming season will be presented at this meeting. Who are the coaches, what teams will the players be on, and when and where do the kids start practicing? What about my volunteer hours requirements? Those questions and so much more will be all answered at these parent information meetings. These meetings are NOT mandatory, but it will provide you all the details for the upcoming season, so I hope you can attend. I will provide time at the end for any questions you may have. I look forward to seeing all of you at the rink.

Note - these meetings will NOT have a video option (such as Zoom) and it will NOT be recorded.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES – ALL UPPER MITES

The following practice sessions are for **ALL** Upper Mites – once you registered for MYHA Hockey, your child was automatically enrolled in these optional, yet highly encouraged practice sessions. This seasons Upper Mites group is near an all-time MYHA record high, so we've divided these sessions by **LAST NAME**. Please have your child attend the appropriate session at the following times (**this information will soon be posted on the Mites page of the MYHA website**):

ALL Sessions at Pagel Center – 18313 Highway 7, Minnetonka			
DATE	LAST NAME	TIME	RINK
Saturday, October 7	A – E	9:45am – 10:45am	1
Saturday, October 7	F – L	11:00am – 12:00pm	1
Saturday, October 7	M – SA	12:15pm – 1:15pm	1
Saturday, October 7	SC – Z	1:30pm – 2:30pm	1
Sunday, October 8	SC – Z	9:45am – 10:45am	1
Sunday, October 8	M – SA	11:00am – 12:00pm	1
Sunday, October 8	F – L	12:15pm – 1:15pm	1
Sunday, October 8	A – E	1:30pm – 2:30pm	1
Saturday, October 14	A – E	12:15pm – 1:15pm	1
Saturday, October 14	F – L	1:30pm – 2:30pm	1
Saturday, October 14	M – SA	2:30pm – 3:30pm	2
Saturday, October 14	SC – Z	3:45pm – 4:45pm	2
Sunday, October 15	SC – Z	12:15pm – 1:15pm	1
Sunday, October 15	M – SA	1:30pm – 2:30pm	1
Sunday, October 15	F – L	2:30pm – 3:30pm	2
Sunday, October 15	A – E	3:45pm – 4:45pm	2

EACH OF THESE SESSIONS ARE JAMMED PACKED – IF YOU HAVE A FAMILY CONFLICT AND NEED TO ATTEND A DIFFERENT SESSION THAN THE ONE ASSIGNED TO YOUR CHILD, YOU MUST CONTACT ME FOR APPROVAL NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 (FOR THE FIRST WEEKEND) AND NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 (FOR THE SECOND WEEKEND).

THERE IS NO ICE FOR MITES OCTOBER 21-22, MEA WEEKEND

EVALUATION PREPARATION PRACTICES – ALL UPPER MITES

ALL Upper Mites are assigned to a team for the upcoming season based on their combined “timed” score of three drills. Just as your child practices numerical equations prior to a math test at school, the coaches will be using this session to have the players repeatedly practice the three drills they will be timed at during evaluations. Again, these practice times have been divided by **LAST NAME**. Please have your child attend the appropriate session at the following times (**this information will soon be posted on the Mites page of the MYHA website**):

ALL Sessions at Pagel Center (Rink 1) – 18313 Highway 7, Minnetonka	
LAST NAME	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28
UPPER MITE PLAYERS WILL BE ASSIGNED THEIR TIMES IN EARLY OCTOBER (AFTER REGISTRATION CLOSSES ON 9/29)	9:45am – 10:45am
	11:00am – 12:00pm
	12:15pm – 1:15pm
	1:30pm – 2:30pm

EACH OF THESE SESSIONS ARE JAMMED PACKED – IF YOU HAVE A FAMILY CONFLICT AND NEED TO ATTEND A DIFFERENT SESSION THAN THE ONE ASSIGNED TO YOUR CHILD, YOU MUST CONTACT ME FOR APPROVAL NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25.

GOALIES – YES, YOU WILL BE TIMED DURING EVALUATIONS TOO, SO WEAR REGULAR HOCKEY EQUIPMENT THIS WEEKEND (NOT GOALIE GEAR)

EVALUATIONS – ALL UPPER MITES

THE BIG DAY!!! **ALL** Upper Mites are assigned to a team for the upcoming season based on their results of the combined 3-drill evaluation times. The 3-drills follow the Hockey Education Program (HEP) that were created and are endorsed by USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey. As recommended per HEP, there will be no subjective evaluations conducted at Mites (i.e. – scrimmages, that occurs at traveling levels). Mite evaluations is 100% based on time, and the stop watch will be the sole judge. Hockey is a speed game, so time will be the sole criteria at the Mite level for evaluations. To briefly answer a common question – can a 2nd grader aged player make a Mite 4 team? Yes – the stop watch will decide player placement. Can a 3rd grader be placed on a Mite 3 team? Yes – the stop watch will decide player placement. Again, the assigned evaluation times have been divided by **LAST NAME**. Please have your child attend the appropriate session at the following times (**this information will soon be posted on the Mites page of the MYHA website**):

ALL Sessions at Pagel Center (Rink 2) – 18313 Highway 7, Minnetonka	
LAST NAME	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29
UPPER MITE PLAYERS WILL BE ASSIGNED THEIR TIMES IN EARLY OCTOBER (AFTER REGISTRATION CLOSSES ON 9/29)	8:15am – 8:45am
	8:45am – 9:15am
	9:30am – 10:00am
	10:00am – 10:30am
	10:45am – 11:15am
	11:15am – 11:45am
	12:00pm – 12:30pm
	12:30pm – 1:00pm

PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY TO EVALUATIONS!!! THIS IS SO IMPORTANT. THIS IS NOT THE DAY YOU WANT TO BE ARRIVING AT THE RINK LAST MINUTE. THERE WILL BE A CHECK-IN DESK LOCATED IN THE MAIN FRONT LOBBY AT PAGEL CENTER. AT CHECK-IN EACH PLAYER WILL BE GIVEN A NUMBERED EVALUATION JERSEY.

WITH ONLY 30-MINUTE TIME SLOTS FOR EACH EVALUATION SESSION, THERE WON'T BE A MOMENT DELAY AT ANY SESSION. I CAN NOT STRESS THIS ENOUGH – DON'T BE LATE!!! THEREFORE, IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT EVERY PLAYER IS FULLY DRESSED READY TO GO 10-15 MINUTES PRIOR TO THEIR ASSIGNED TIME SLOT.

SUPER IMPORTANT!!! - EACH OF THESE SESSIONS ARE JAMMED PACKED AND EACH OF THE THREE EVALUATION DRILLS WILL NEED TO BE CONDUCTED BING BING BING IN THE 30-MINUTE TIME ALLOTMENT – IN FAIRNESS TO ALL PLAYERS, PLEASE DO YOUR UTMOST BEST TO ATTEND THE SESSION ASSIGNED TO YOUR CHILD, HOWEVER, IF YOU HAVE AN UNAVOIDABLE FAMILY CONFLICT AND NEED TO ATTEND A DIFFERENT SESSION THAN THE ONE ASSIGNED TO YOUR CHILD, YOU MUST CONTACT ME FOR APPROVAL NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25.

WHAT IF YOUR CHILD CAN'T ATTEND ANY EVALUATION SESSION ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16? IF SO, PLEASE NOTIFY ME IMMEDIATELY. IN THAT CASE, THOSE PLAYERS WILL BE "TIMED" ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 AT ONE OF THE SESSIONS LISTED ABOVE. TO DO SO, YOU NEED MY APPROVAL FIRST, SO PLEASE NOTIFY ME NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25.

WHAT IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT AVAILABLE THE ENTIRE OCTOBER 28-29 WEEKEND? DUE TO THE SIZE OF THIS UPPER MITES GROUP, WE'VE ALREADY BOOKED MORE ICE FOR THE OCTOBER SESSIONS THAN WE WERE ORIGINALLY BUDGETED FOR. TO ADD ANOTHER HOUR FOR THE RARE FEW WHO WILL BE UNAVAILABLE THE ENTIRE WEEKEND JUST WON'T BE POSSIBLE. THE UPPER MITE COACHES ARE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON THE SKILL SETS OF MOST OF THE PLAYERS, SO WE WILL DO OUR VERY BEST TO APPROPRIATELY PLACE THE UN-TIMED PLAYERS ON THE LEVEL AND TEAM THAT MAKES THE MOST SENSE. AGAIN, PLEASE NOTIFY ME IMMEDIATELY IF YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ATTENDING ANY SESSIONS DURING THE OCTOBER 28-29 WEEKEND.

GOALIES – YES, YOU WILL BE TIMED DURING EVALUATIONS TOO, SO WEAR REGULAR HOCKEY EQUIPMENT THIS WEEKEND (NOT GOALIE GEAR).

Once evaluations are completed, the data will be compiled. Within 24 hours after evaluations, the Upper Mite coaches and I will meet to work on distributing the players amongst the Upper Mite teams based on their evaluation results. Based on the near all-time high registration numbers, each of the Upper Mite teams will have approximately 14-16 players per team. Parents will be notified soon after the coaches and I meet.

Thanks everyone. I look forward to seeing all of you at the rink.

Thank you.

Scott Zacharias
MYHA Boys Mite Director