

WELCOME TO THE  
2023-24 MINNEAPOLIS  
SQUIRT HOCKEY  
SEASON



# Squirt Leadership

---

- Kevin Bloss, Squirt Director
  - [kbloss@mplshockey.com](mailto:kbloss@mplshockey.com)
- Darrin Hunter, Squirt Coordinator
  - [dhunter@mplshockey.com](mailto:dhunter@mplshockey.com)
- Todd Murray, President
- Bill Nolin, Vice President of Youth Hockey
- Brad Johnson, Vice President, Operations
- Mick Mullin, District 3 Representative
- Squirt Committee, (18 parents of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year Squirts)

# Squirt Commitment

---

- Players turning 9 prior to June 1, 2023, must play Squirts
- Players turning 9 on or after June 1, 2023, that are going into 4<sup>th</sup> grade have the option to move up to Squirts
- Players turning 9 on or after June 1, 2023, but in a grade lower than 4<sup>th</sup> grade may attend evaluations for Squirts, but must be placed on a B-1 or A team in order to stay in Squirts
- Time Commitment: 4-6 ice times/team activities each week
- 3 tournaments per team (Sqt A team has a 4<sup>th</sup> this year due to abridged District 3 schedule)
  - Thanksgiving weekend (Mpls Cup for B1, B2 and C teams, Hopkins Tourney for A team)
  - Local (drive time within 45 mins)
  - Out of town (drive time greater than 90 minutes)
  - Tournaments can (and often do) have morning or mid-day Friday games even on non-holidays

# Expectations from Parents

---

- SportsEngine (RSVP attendance for each event)
- Sportsmanship
  - Positive Coaching Alliance class required if this is your first time in Squirts - Oct
- Home Game Duties
  - Running score board, working penalty box, and keeping stats
- Dibs hours
  - 12 hours of volunteering hours posted on the MHA website
  - Don't wait until the end of the season to sort this out
  - Teams with several coaches helping - be aware that not all coaches may get Dibs

# Preseason Squirt Clinics

---

- Schedule
  - [mplshockey.com](http://mplshockey.com) > program info > clinics & evaluation > Squirts
- Three skating groups for preseason clinics starting with last name (A-H, I-O, P-Z)
  - Starts on Sept 9<sup>th</sup> and ends on October 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Each player following their alpha designations will have 12 sessions available to skate
  - Please try to attend your assigned sessions
    - Exceptions for players who have a parent on the ice for that clinic and goalies playing goalie at that clinic
- Coaches
  - All coaches have to be registered with all certifications complete and verified by ACE coordinator, except for CEP class, in order to be on the ice for clinics – no exceptions
  - Coaches meeting in September

# Evaluations – Dates and Pools

---

- All evaluation information will be posted on the Squirt clinic & evaluation page
  - [mplshockey.com](http://mplshockey.com)> program info> clinics & evaluation> squirts
- Evals start on Oct 5<sup>th</sup> and will be completed by Oct 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Goalies will have goalie-specific evaluations September 23<sup>rd</sup> and September 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Goalies will also attend player evaluations as goalies for further evaluations
- After registration closes, you will be contacted and asked to select an evaluation pool
- New this year, we will start with a A-only pool on October 5.
  - There will be a \$50 entry fee for A pool tryouts
- The B1/B2/C Pool will start on October 10<sup>th</sup>
- All A/B1/B2/C Pool ice times will be posted on the Squirt clinic and evaluation page

# Evaluations – A Pool

---

- Signing up for the A Pool evaluations does not guarantee placement on the A or B1 team
- Players are not guaranteed to stay in the A Pool evaluations for more than one session
- Participating the A Pool evaluations does not provide preferential scoring or ranking for the B1/B2/C Pool evaluations that follow
- Players not selected to participate in the final day of A Pool evaluations will continue to be evaluated in the B1/B2/C Pool evaluations that will begin after the A Pool evaluations are complete
- There will be 3 session days for A Pool evaluations with a 4<sup>th</sup> day involving an officiated scrimmage with an outside association
- Non-goaltender players selected to return for the scrimmage will either be placed on the A team or auto-placed on the B1 team

## Evaluations – B1/B2/C Pool

---

- All Players in B1/B2/C Pool start with a clean slate
- No scores are carried over from A Pool
- Evaluations will take place over 5 session days
- No player will skate in more than 3 session days once B1/B2/C Pool begins
- Skating pools are reconstituted after every session for the following session
- Goal is to give players opportunity to go against different players during their sessions



# Evaluations – Process and Evaluators

---

- Players should arrive 1 hour prior to first evaluation and 30 minutes prior for the rest
  - Suggest player having ½ equipment already on
- Must remove or cover player's name from jersey and all outward showing gear
- Skater will be assigned a pinnie at first evaluation check in for entire evaluation
  - Return pinnie after last evaluation (\$15 fee if unreturned)
- Parents allowed to come into locker room to tie skates, but can't watch evaluations
- Should have between 4 – 8 evaluators per session
  - Typically, at the level of an ex-college hockey players or a person with extensive coaching experience
  - No parents of squirt players can be evaluators

# Evaluations – Team Selections

---

- After each evaluation day players will be identified by their pinnie number
  - Storm Squirt website will be source of notification for player outcomes
- Important take aways
  - Player-first hockey evaluation
    - We will not take coach/manager team needs into account when leveling a player
  - Ultimate goal is to place each player at a level where they will be challenged to improve and still have the opportunity for individual growth and success
  - First year C player can turn into second year A player

# Team Levels/Numbers

---

- Team numbers based off of squirt survey and last year's numbers
- 9<sup>th</sup> team possible
  - Number of kids registered
  - District 3 approval
  - Tournaments
- We will seek to build balanced rosters at levels where we have multiple teams.
- The jump from Mites to Squirts is substantial
- This is the start of the journey

Levels	Number of teams 2023-24	Number of teams 2022-23	First year kids 2022-23
SQT A	1	1	1
SQT B1	1	1	2
SQT B2	3	3	24
SQT C	3	3	31

# Season Starts

---

- Practices could start shortly after evaluations are complete.
- We play in District 3
- Teams (D3hockey.org)
  - Armstrong Cooper
  - Delano
  - Hopkins
  - Mound Westonka
  - Orono
  - Osseo-Maple Grove
  - St. Louis Park
  - Wayzata
- District games won't start until after Thanksgiving
- No state tournaments at the Squirt level

# Tournaments

Team	Thanksgiving Weekend	Local	Travel
A	Hopkins	Bloomington Jan 5-7	Alexandria Dec 1-3 Fargo Feb 22-25
B1	Minneapolis Cup	Wayzata Jan 5-7	Brainerd Jan 26-28
B2	Minneapolis Cup	Bloomington Jan 5-7	Fargo Feb 9-11
B2	Minneapolis Cup	Northfield Jan 27-28	Alexandria Jan 5-7
B2	Minneapolis Cup	Lakeville Jan 5-7	Brainerd Jan 26-28
C	Minneapolis Cup	St. Paul Jan 5-7	Fargo Feb 2-4
C	Minneapolis Cup	Inver Grove Feb 2-4	Sartell Jan 5-7
C	Minneapolis Cup	Eden Prairie Feb 1-3	Breezy Jan 12-14

# Team Managers

---

- Gets full dibs credit
- Collects team fees approximately \$150-300 per family
  - Scrimmage cost
  - Team swag
  - Team parties
- Distributes team duties (scoreboard, penalty box, and stats)
- Schedule scrimmages or designate another parent to serve this role
- Manages team website
- Sponsorships (all families need to help with this)

# Goalies

---

mplshockey.com> program info> goalie zone

- Joel Laing, Minneapolis Goalie Coordinator
  - [joellaing20@hotmail.com](mailto:joellaing20@hotmail.com)
- Goalie Evaluation
  - Sat 9/23 11:30-12:30 Parade North
  - Sun 9/24 10:30-11:30 Parade North
  - A Pool, B1/B2/C Pool player evaluations 10/5 – 10/15
    - This applies to both players who have selected full-time goalie and players who have selected part-time goalie during registration

# Questions

---

Feel free to contact us if you have questions any time

- Kevin Bloss, Squirt Director
  - [kbloss@mplshockey.com](mailto:kbloss@mplshockey.com)
  - 952.607.0897
- Darrin Hunter, Squirt Coord
  - [dhunter@mplshockey.com](mailto:dhunter@mplshockey.com)
  - 651.308.7016

