



## **ST. CLOUD YOUTH HOCKEY - JR MITES**

We are so excited to have your family in SCYHA!

The purpose of this letter is to cover a few points that will be important for you to know. First and foremost, the season begins with Skating Dynamics. It is VERY important that your child attends as many of the Skating Dynamics sessions as possible. We will begin working on various skating and stick handling skills that your child will be using throughout the season.

Skating Dynamics schedule- BE SURE TO MARK THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!!! Also, make certain to note the rink location of the Skating Dynamics sessions. Our teams skate at both the Municipal Athletic Complex (MAC), which includes the "Torrey" and "Ritsche" rink, as well as the National Hockey Center (NHC), which includes the practice rink NHC-P and the main rink NHC-M. The dynamic sessions will be followed with our HEP testing on the last session. HEP (Hockey Education Program) testing allows us to place your skater in the best learning environment that will ensure fun and development.

Please arrive at the arena for 1st dynamics session at least 45 minutes prior to your start time. This should allow adequate time to check in and take care of anything that needs to be completed prior to "taking the ice". There will be a table set up at the arena for check-in.

The following must be completed prior to getting on the ice:

- Completed registration (USA Hockey & SCYHA)
- Copy of child's birth certificate (only if first year SCYHA skater)

Your child should come equipped with the proper equipment for your child's safety. This includes:

- Hockey skates
- Hockey gloves
- Helmet, HECC certified, with face shield, chin pad and chin strap
- Shin Pads
- Mouth guard (may need to be trimmed)
- Elbow pads
- Protective cup or pelvic protector
- Breezers
- Throat protector (recommended but not required)

- Shoulder pads
- Youth/Junior size hockey stick (All Jr Mites skaters will receive a new stick at the first session. Each skater is measured and we will take care of cutting and taping the stick for them)

Equipment rental is available if needed. There will be a minimal rental fee for the season of \$35, along with a \$100 refundable deposit. There are a limited number of sets, so these will be available on a first come, first served basis. The rental fee will be applied to maintaining this equipment, and providing additional equipment in following years. We will have an equipment checkout during the Family Fun Day at the MAC.

Please put your child's first name and last initial on a white piece of hockey tape on the front and back of the helmet. This aids the coaches in calling the kids by name. Mark your child's name on the equipment so it can be easily identified when it is misplaced. Hockey tape works great! Please do not permanently mark any rental equipment, only equipment you own.

After Skating Dynamics and HEP testing, team rosters will be formed. SCYHA provides jerseys and socks for the players to keep. Team schedules will be posted by team on our website. There is a lot that goes into team formations; specific requests for a player to be on a team with another player may or may not be granted. Playing with different children gives your child an opportunity to make new friends and experience different coaching perspectives. All special team requests must be given to us in writing prior to HEP testing.

Thanks to everyone who has already volunteered to coach our Jr. Mite skaters. We could still use several more volunteers, so if you are willing to help, please call. All coaches must be USA Hockey certified in order to get on the ice with the players and have a background check done by MN Hockey. SCYHA pays the cost for this certification for those persons who will coach with SCYHA. It is very rewarding to be with the kids on the ice as they learn. Come and join the fun and excitement of Jr. Mite hockey!

There is a Level 1 Coaching Clinic (requirement for Jr. Mite level) scheduled in St Cloud. If this date does not work there are also other clinics available outside the St. Cloud area. Please inquire for more information on signing up. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Thank you for your support of the St Cloud Youth Hockey Association. If any of your friends have children that want to play hockey, please help them get registered.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call or email. More information can be found on our website [www.stcloudhockey.com-TEAMS-JRMITES](http://www.stcloudhockey.com-TEAMS-JRMITES)