

## Minnetonka Youth Hockey Association Girls Mite Parent Information



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2023-24 Minnetonka Youth Hockey Association (MYHA) season. My name is Jerry Mitchell, and I am the Girls Mite Director. As registration wraps up and the season begins, I just wanted to share some information regarding the upcoming season. 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.

Please read this entire email, as it contains pertinent information for the upcoming season. You can also find the slides from our parent night call, located [here](#).

As the Girls Mite Director, one of my primary objectives is to keep all parents well informed. I hosted a call on Oct 3 but wanted to pass along important updates to you here as well, repeating some of the most important information, and giving it to those who could not attend. My plan is to keep you all informed through communications via the Minnetonka Girls Mite Memo and through email. There will also be some important information posted on the Mite page of the [tonkahockey.org](http://tonkahockey.org) website.

Here are some of the highlights for the upcoming season:

- Team season starts October 28, 2023
- Season ends with the Tonka Mite Jamboree on March 8-10, 2024
- Each team will practice twice per weekend. A majority of practices will be Saturday and Sunday, with a potential for limited Friday or Monday practices for some 8Us.
- 8Us will have a mid-week training option this year (starting in December), which will consist of either ice time at Velocity, Dicks House of Sport, Pagel, or will be optional dryland practice and shooting training at Pagel.
- We will post most of the season schedule by the start of the season, so families can plan accordingly. Due to ice availability challenges, this may not be completely possible until travel teams get their game draws. And any ice times are subject to change. Always consult SportsEngine, it is the most accurate source of info.
- Primary rinks utilized will be:
  - Pagel Activity Center - located at the Minnetonka High School
  - Minnetonka Ice Arena – located near City Hall off of Williston and Minnetonka Blvd
  - Velocity – located in Eden Prairie off of 5 and Fuller Rd
  - Dick's House of Sport (outdoor) – located at Ridgedale shopping center (old Sears place)
- Coaches will decide on adding additional outdoor ice once rinks are ready
- Team breakout this season
  - 5 8U teams
  - 4 6U teams
- With 50 6Us and 65 8Us, that's 11-15 girls a team at the current levels
- 8Us will have a skills session practice the weekend of Oct 7 & 8<sup>th</sup>, and then evaluations the weekend of Oct 14 & 15.

- Detailed information on the 3 timed stations for tryouts can be found in the parent call deck, located [here](#).
- ♣ 6Us don't have any evaluations and will start their season Oct 28.
- ♣ Teams will be formed mid-October, just after evaluations have been completed. We will email parents to inform them of their teams.
- ♣ Team formation will be based on the timed evaluations at 8U, with school considerations after that. 6U team formation will be based on school consideration.
- ♣ Teams at 8U will be split into two distinctions: Advanced and Intermediated. The teams at each level will be evenly balanced.
- ♣ Team names will have nicknames this year, to give each team more identity. Team names are listed below, with 8Us receiving more traditional hockey names, and 6Us getting nautical themed animals

8U	6U
North Stars	Stingrays
Moose	Sea Otters
Gophers	Dolphins
Whitecaps	Narwhals
Mavericks	

- ♣ One of the special experiences added this year:
  - MYHA goes to Ridder – Dec 9, 2pm
    - **We have booked a block of tickets to watch the University of Minnesota Gopher women's hockey team** play host to the Wisconsin Badgers
    - Families can buy tickets [here](#) for their whole family
    - Individual transportation is required
- ♣ Each family is required to fulfill 8 volunteer hours per year per player. Coaching and team managing are a great way to fulfill some of those hours. Click [here](#) for more details.
- ♣ Team Managers – once teams are formed, we need a Team Manager. The Team Manager is the organizer, juice and snack planner, the information person, and the fun party planner. They work in collaboration with the coaches to make it a great season experience for the players and the families.
- ♣ There will be an option for 8Us to attend goalie clinics, starting in December. These are on Monday night, and they are a great opportunity for those interested to put on the pads and learn more about how to play the position.

### **Skill Development Practices and Evaluations – all 8Us**

Skills Sessions – Oct 7,8

Evaluations – Oct 14,15

For the skills session and evaluations listed above, we have split the 8Us into 2 groups. See the tonka hockey website ([here](#)) for details on those splits or look below. Splits are mostly by school, with a few exceptions. Please have your child attend your appropriate session at the following times.

**8U Group 1**

*Deephaven, Excelsior, Groveland, Clear Springs*

	Day	Start	End	Arena
10/7	Sat	4:00	5:00	PAC 1
10/8	Sun	1:30	2:30	PAC 1
10/15	Sat	11:00	12:00	PAC 1
10/16	Sun	9:45	10:45	PAC 1

**8U Group 2**

*Breck, Minnewashta, Providence, Scenic Heights, St Hubert, St Therese*

	Day	Start	End	Arena
10/7	Sat	2:45	3:45	PAC 1
10/8	Sun	2:45	3:45	PAC 1
10/14	Sat	9:45	10:55	PAC 1
10/15	Sun	11:00	12:00	PAC 1

**If you have a family conflict, and your daughter needs to attend a different session, please let me know.**

**Also, if you daughter cannot make the timed evaluation days on Oct 14 or 15<sup>th</sup>, please let me know ASAP. We will then evaluate her at the skills sessions.**

All goalies will need to do timed evaluations as skaters.

Teams at 8U will be split into two distinctions: Advanced and Intermediated. The teams at each level will be evenly balanced and formed based on school consideration. Placement into the two levels will be based solely on the station times. We will place your daughter on the team we think it best for her and her development.

Once evaluations are completed, we will form teams and inform head coaches of their respective teams. Coaches will be in touch with parents welcoming them to the team before the MEA weekend.

Thank you all for your time and help in making this season such a great success. Looking forward to a fun year. See you at the rink.

Regards,

Jerry Mitchell

MYHA Girls Mite Director