

Siouxland Youth Hockey Handbook



To Coaches, Coordinators and Treasurers:

Thank you to the parents who volunteer their time and energy to the Sioux City Junior Musketeers. Your efforts on and off the ice are instrumental in making the season successful for the skaters, coaches and team parents.

This handbook describes many of the responsibilities in the association. Our website, www.siouxcityhockey.com has a "Documents" link on the front page containing a lot of helpful information. We encourage you to visit and be familiar with the www.tristatehocky.com website.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the SYHA Coordinator or the SYHA Treasurer. Their names and contact information can be found on the Sioux City Hockey website listed above.

The Board of Directors
Siouxland Youth Hockey Association

Travel Team Selection Guidelines

Please refer to the most currently approved Siouxland Youth Hockey (SYHA) Tryout & Team Formation Policy.

Parent Meeting

After teams are selected, and as necessary throughout the year, a parent's meeting should be held to preview the year and ensure all questions and issues are brought out in the open. Full and honest communication up front can eliminate potential problems and misunderstandings as the year progresses. The coach should be an integral part of this process.

Topics to cover during the initial meeting with team parents may include, but not be limited to:

1. An outline of the year's planned travel events (tournaments required and those available for registration)
2. An estimate of costs for the year and the billing procedures. A discussion about any fees outside of normal tournament registrations, official fees and coaches travel expenses.
3. An explanation from the coach of his/her philosophy regarding playing time, discipline, tournament activity (team meals, lights out times), and other issues.

It is important to confirm with parents their commitment to the proposed program. Discuss proposed plans that conflict with vacations, religious observances, and other events. There may be financial issues to resolve, and it is up to the coordinator and treasurer to make appropriate arrangements. SYHA expects each team member to pay his/her share of team expenses timely. *Travel activity is a team effort and a team expense. An informed parent is a supportive parent!*

Player Move-Up Policy

The term "moving up" refers to a player playing up from his/her USA Hockey age group. The purpose of this policy is to remain consistent with the concept of grouping players according to their skill level and what is in the best interests of player development. SYHA believes that players should be grouped together according to their hockey skills wherever possible. At the same time, it is recognized that although a player may be skilled enough to play up a division, there are legitimate concerns that he or she may not be prepared mentally or socially. These aspects should be considered by the player and his/her family prior to making application to play up. The following process will be followed regarding the request for a player to move-up.

Requests to move up must be submitted in writing to the SYHA Coaching Director/ACE Coordinator and the SYHA Board President.

A recommendation to allow a player to "move up" will be made by the SYHA Coaching Director/ACE Coordinator to the SYHA Board of Directors for approval after coordination and discussion with the coaches at the levels involved.

The request to move from your assigned USA Hockey group to another must be made in writing PRIOR TO tryouts for the upcoming season. Please note that this is only a request, and requests must be approved

by the SYHA Board. Moves made after team tryouts will only be done in “extremely special circumstances” by the SYHA Board.

SYHA encourages those players who are ready to move up from the Tyke Program to do so when there is adequate room in the Mite Program. By moving these players up, it allows the Tyke coaches to focus on the players who require more attention and keeps the game interesting and challenging for the Tyke moving up which accelerates their learning. The recommendation to move up to the Mite Program will be made by the Tyke Program Director and discussed with the Mite Program Director and the SYHA Coaching Director/ACE Coordinator for concurrence. The decision to remain at the Tyke Program or move up to Mite program will then rest with the player's parents.

Travel Team Game Guidelines

SYHA strongly encourages the skill level development of all players, especially at the younger age levels, therefore, a practice to game ratio of 3 to 1 is encouraged. The following guidelines should be followed regarding the number of games scheduled, these are recommendations and not limits. Teams should submit their season schedule to the ACE Coordinator/Coaching Director and if needed, the Executive Committee, for prior approval.

Squirts

The number of games recommended is 34 games per season.

For the purposes of major tournaments such as the Fargo Squirt International and MWL Championships, those tournaments can be considered as 4 game tournaments for the purposes of scheduling (sometimes these tournaments may exceed 4 games).

Pee Wees

The number of games recommended is 40 games per season.

For the purposes of major tournaments such as the MWL Championships, those tournaments can be considered as 4 game tournaments for the purposes of scheduling (sometimes these tournaments may exceed 4 games).

Bantams

The number of games recommended is 44 games per season.

For the purposes of major tournaments such as the MWL Championships, those tournaments can be considered as 4 game tournaments for the purposes of scheduling (sometimes these tournaments may exceed 4 games).

2022-23 Travel Season travel team fees

Bantam \$ 915** (3 payments \$305)

Peewee \$ 840 (3 payments \$280)

Squirt \$ 765 (3 payments \$255)

Payments will be due by the following dates - 10/31/22, 11/30/22 and 1/15/23

1/3rd of payment will be due by each date.

Greens discount will be applied to 11/30 or 1/15 payment.

**Bantam will incur increase in fee if tournaments/games are added. Team treasurer will be communicating any increase due to additional tournaments/games

Travel Team Management

In addition to at least one coach, each travel team is required to have one individual from the team who serves as coordinator and a second person who serves as treasurer. These positions serve two primary functions: to facilitate communication within the team and to manage the team's finances. It is expected that the individuals assuming these responsibilities be comfortable and accomplished in dealing with others as well as handling money. SYHA requires that these positions be filled with a parent from the team and not the coach's spouse.

The primary duty of the coaching staff is to work with players on the ice. They should not be left to make tournament entries, arrange accommodations, handle finances or communicate schedules to parents. It is the responsibility of the coordinators and treasurers to serve as this conduit between the coaches and parents. All coaches are encouraged to maintain open lines of communication, but off-ice, non-skating issues should be handled to the greatest extent possible by the coordinator. Some Teams may choose to have a Team Manager in addition to the two positions described above. The Manager may handle scheduling, as well as pre-game activities such as checking equipment, filling water bottles, etc.

Travel Team Coordinator

Rosters

All travel teams must be officially rostered with USA Hockey. The roster contains a listing of all of the team's eligible players and coaches. All tournaments will require a copy of the Team's roster in order to be eligible to participate. Rosters are also a requirement for certain provisions of the USA Hockey insurance coverage.

A player registered with SYHA is not permitted to participate in or play for any other USA Hockey team or association during the winter hockey season. Exemptions to this policy are permitted under limited circumstances as follows. Girl hockey players registered with SYHA will be permitted to practice and play with all-girls teams outside of SYHA while continuing to participate in SYHA activities. Players selected for "before & after" teams, including but not limited to Team Midwest, Team South Dakota, Team Nebraska, and MWSHL Showcase teams, will be permitted to participate with those programs and SYHA. Participation with other USA Hockey registered associations or teams is strictly prohibited.

Rosters are initially prepared by the SYHA Registrar. Upon roster completion and approval, the roster will be emailed to the head coach as a live link. You must provide the Registrar with your assistant coaches. When you receive your team's roster, you will need to obtain the signature of each player and coach on the roster and return to the SYHA Registrar. The signed rosters are then sent to the MWAHA Registrar for validation and returned. *Please allow a minimum of 7-14 business days from the time your roster is sent to get back your validated roster.* **APPROVED ROSTERS WILL ONLY COME FROM THE SYHA REGISTRAR.**

The SYHA Registrar will need to collect a copy of a birth certificate for new travel players ONLY.

Changes to a team's roster can be made after the initial roster is verified. This is done through a supplemental roster, which allows additions or deletions. Teams that intend on participating in the National Tournament must freeze their roster by December 31st. Also, there are specific rules about player eligibility in Midwest Hockey League games. See Midwest Hockey League Rules and Regulations.

Do not play any games until you have a validated roster.

Ice Scheduling

Ice time must be booked through the SYHA Ice Scheduler and not directly with the City of Sioux City or CCAT officials. Travel team ice time is open for scheduling on a first-come, first serve basis, but not prior to the official start of SYHA, which is typically the first full week of October. SYHA recognizes that, once the season begins, available ice is a precious commodity. The Board of Directors expects the various travel teams to cooperate in balancing ice usage among different age groups throughout the year.

Ice time, once booked, must be used. SYHA is charged by the City if scheduled ice time is not used. A seven- day cancellation notice is required for us to avoid this charge under our contract with the City if the cancellation is not weather-related. The criteria used for this exception is that for regular activity; i.e., no school, no hockey. If your team has and are unable to use it, please contact the SYHA Ice Scheduler to cancel or trade with another team.

Travel teams are to utilize ice at either the IBP Ice Center or the Tyson Event Center for conducting team practices. No team shall utilize out of town ice for conducting practice without prior authorization from the Board of Directors. SYHA contracts with the City of Sioux City to purchase a minimum number of hours and a team going elsewhere exposes SYHA to pay any minimum ice guaranty not otherwise purchased.

Flex ice - each travel team ~~has 5~~ hours of flexible ice. This flexible ice is intended to be used towards practice and SHOULD NOT be used towards friendship games. This flexible ice can be used any time after the start of the regular season. Ice time booked prior to the October start date is charge directly to the individual player in attendance and will not be billed to the travel team. If at the end of the season a team has unused flex ice it may be applied towards friendship game ice only with SYHA Board approval. All flex ice, regardless of when used, is to be booked through the SYHA Ice Scheduler. The ice scheduler's email and applicable phone number can be found on the SYHA Website.

SYHA Ice Rates

Practice ice: \$150 per hour plus tax (Early morning travel ice is at a rate of \$65 per hour plus tax. This rate is good 6:00am - 8:00am.)

Game ice: \$165 per hour plus tax

Referee

Referee Expense: Varies by Level of Official. Assume \$140 or higher per game for budget purposes (games longer than 1.25 hours are subject to additional charges)

***The above expense amounts are subject to change.

Tournament Booking

The coordinator will work with the coach to select tournament weekends for the team. SYHA encourages

participation in all Midwest Hockey League tournaments scheduled in the age and skill groups for which we sponsor teams, dependent upon the format and location.

Travel teams shall not participate in tournaments nor schedule any friendship games that conflict with the year-end House League championship tournament weekend when there are players on their roster participating in House League activities (i.e. Mite House League).

Pancake Day is an essential fundraiser for SYHA, and is our best opportunity to highlight our House League, Girls, Tyke and Mite activities. We encourage all Travel Teams to schedule friendship games in Sioux City in order to participate in the Pancake Day events. In addition, the Association needs a large number of volunteers on Pancake Day, both skaters and parents, to make the event run smoothly. Please communicate with the SYHA Coaching Director and the SYHA Board if a Travel Team plans to attend another event on this weekend.

Tournament information is available from a variety of sources. The most common resource is Let's Play Hockey, a Twin Cities publication with a comprehensive listing of activity in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. In scheduling tournaments, it is important to begin early. The better tournaments tend to fill by early fall.

Tournament registration costs are paid out of the general SYHA account and NOT the travel team accounts. Tournament requests are made to the ACE, SYHA President and Treasurer. The SYHA president will facilitate the process of tournament approval and collection of tournament checks to the appropriate division. Sample request forms are attached as well as can be found on www.siouxcityhockey.com under the "documents" folder.

Travel activity can be expensive. One of the responsibilities of the coordinator is to facilitate a consensus among the parents and coaches as to the number of and distance to tournaments chosen. It is important to balance the needs of all parties in scheduling the year's activity.

Tournament Request Information Needed

Requesting Team: Squirt Gold

Amount: \$750

Payable To: Mankato Youth Hockey Tournament Location: Mankato

Level of Play: A

Number of Games Played:

Tournament Dates: 11/10/2014-11/12/2014

Hotel Reservations

The coordinator is responsible for reserving hotel rooms as early as possible. Most tournaments supply room and rate information, and local coordinators may be of assistance in suggesting appropriate facilities. Discuss with your coach whether a motel with a pool is appropriate.

Many hotels require a credit card to hold rooms. If you are uncomfortable in using your personal card to guarantee rooms (and SYHA suggests you avoid doing so), ask the hotel to hold the rooms under the team's name (Sioux City Squirt Gold, for example) for a certain number of days to allow team parents to call with their own credit card number. Ensure that this information and deadlines are communicated to

the parents in writing on a timely basis. Some tournaments require teams to use a booking company for hotel reservations. Examples of these companies are Pack Your Boots (PYB) or PSE.

Monthly Schedule

Each family should receive a monthly schedule showing travel games and practices. Please prepare as far as possible in advance. In addition to paper copies, an email delivery is encouraged. Travel team schedules are also on the SYHA online calendar and via SYHA's NGIN Team application or Team Snap.

Travel Jerseys & Travel Jersey Numbers

The coordinator is responsible for initial distribution of all travel jerseys and socks. Any jerseys or socks not handed out shall be returned to SYHA. If not, your team travel account will be billed. Jerseys are to be worn for games only and not for practice or everyday apparel. Players born in even years are to be assigned an even numbered jersey; players born in odd numbered years should be assigned an odd numbered jersey. Jerseys will be kept for two years. Do not permit number swapping, as this may cause a conflict in the following year. Players are to wear a white helmet, black gloves and black breezers during travel games.

Apparel, Novelties

ALL TEAMS must contact the SYHA Novelty Coordinator, please refer to the website for the current contacts, to purchase all novelty items i.e. caps, stocking hats, warm ups, etc. and provide to them a right of first refusal before you may purchase from any other vendor and the application of the Jr. Musketeer logo must be done through a novelty approved vendor. This practice allows group purchasing and volume discounts. The official SYHA apparel provider is I-29 Sports.

There will be an online apparel store link distributed to all SYHA members for tournament novelty ordering and throughout the season for all apparel and novelties.

Team Pictures

Travel team pictures will be scheduled by the coordinator as soon as possible after the season starts. Genelli Studio is the official SYHA photographer and must be used for any team photography needs.

Miscellaneous

Each team should keep a supply of official score sheets.

Fundraisers

Pancake Day: SYHA requires all members to participate in our Pancake Day Community Fundraising Event. A sign-up will be emailed for Coordinators to ensure all of our families support this event. If you cannot participate due to a conflict, you may buyout of your responsibility to work this event. An online sign-up link will be sent to all SYHA members to assist in organizing and ensuring we have enough volunteers to make this community hockey tradition successful. Tickets are distributed at registration or via your team Coordinator. If you choose to buy-out of this fundraiser the fee to buy-out is \$75.00.

Greens: A youth hockey tradition, all players are required to sell or buyout the Sherwood Forrest Farms greens fundraisers. Information is handed out to all members during registration or please refer to the SYHA website. Greens turn-in dates will be announced on all literature, via email reminders and on our website.

Flex Tickets: Musketeer Flex tickets are distributed at registration or via your team Coordinator.

***Travel teams may choose to do additional fundraisers. SYHA requires all team fundraisers to be approved by the SYHA board of Directors.

TRAVEL TEAM TREASURERS:

TRAVEL TEAM TREASURERS

Travel team treasures will be responsible for collecting travel fees by the dates listed for travel team fees. Treasurer will also notify, team coordinator, team coach, division liaison and registrar of any skater delinquent on payment for more than 30 days. Any skater over 30 days delinquent on payment will not be able to take ice.

Delinquency Reporting

It is important to understand the commitment made to the team and its associated expenses. The Board wishes to avoid financial problems for any team player that may affect the team itself.

The Board expects travel team player accounts to be current within 30 days. Upon receipt of your team statement from SYHA, prepare individual billings as soon as possible. Set a deadline of two weeks for payment. When expenses can be anticipated in advance, do so. You are strongly encouraged to keep billings as prompt as you can – there is nothing more difficult than collecting after the season ends. Any delinquency of 30 days or more must be reported the SYHA Treasurer. If not resolved to the satisfaction of the SYHA Treasurer, the skater may be restricted from practice or travel activity.

Coaching Expenses

While our coaches are not paid, nonparent coaches are eligible for reimbursement for their basic travel expenses they include: hotel, gas (.35 per mile) and \$25 per day food stipend. This is a team expense the treasurer should plan for a monthly amount in addition to the monthly travel tournament expense.

While coaches are not paid for their services, they are eligible for reimbursement for expenses associated with travel activity. The SYHA reimbursement policy allows for the following (High School not included): “travel kit” (extra chin straps, helmet screws, water bottles, a small first aid kit, etc.). These items are eligible for reimbursement. The coach and team treasurer should agree upon the items to be purchased and a price range before purchase. Use the SYHA Travel Reimbursement Form found on our website.

Tournament Reimbursement Request Info

Requesting Team: Squirt Gold

Amount: \$750

Payable To: Mankato Youth Hockey Tournament Location: Mankato

Level of Play: A

Number of Games Played:

Tournament Dates: 11/10/2014-11/12/2014

Website

The SYHA website should be updated for key events for your team. If you choose to post your teams information of the SYHA website, please contact the SYHA webmaster for information.

HOME TOURNAMENTS:

SYHA encourages all divisions Mite, Squirt, PeeWee and Bantams to host a home tournament.

- 1 Registration: All SYHA teams must register for the SYHA home tournament
- 2 Marketing: SYHA will provide limited marketing material. If you choose to assist with your teams marketing material, please let the SYHA tournament Director know asap.
- 3 Dates: Will be approved by the SYHA Board at the beginning of the hockey season.
- 4 Format: Depending on registration a 3- 4 game guarantee
- 5 All teams must secure referees for all tournaments, please secure referees well in advance.
- 6 Trophies: Each team is responsible for trophies for 1st, 2nd and third place. We utilize Don's Pro Shop. Please keep trophies costs within the approved tournament budget.
- 7 Apparel & Novelties: Please refer to the SYHA policy-a link for tournament apparel will be sent to coordinators
- 8 Bracket: The bracket will be provided via the Ice scheduler and coaching committee
- 9 Ice: The SYHA Ice scheduler will schedule ice time
- 10 Rules: Tournament rules are provided for each division and will be displayed on the SYHA website;
- 11 Sanctioning: All tournaments need to be sanctioned and sanctioning number displayed on the SYHA website
- 12 Tournament baskets, raffle and fundraising are the responsibility of the division
- 13 Tournament bags, if given, are the responsibility of the division
- 14 Hotels, sponsorship hotels will be provided to each division to be shared with attending teams

Code of Conduct

SYHA follows USA Hockey's Code of Conduct. Please refer to our Code of Conduct Director via our website.

Grievance Procedure

If you, as a parent in SYHA, have a problem or a concern regarding a coach, we encourage you to act promptly and resolve the issue as soon as possible. You must first talk to your team manager who will in turn discuss the matter with the coach. If your problem or concern is still unresolved, you must follow the flowchart as shown below.

Parent >> Team Manager >> Coach >> Level Liaison >> Board of Directors

The following acts are considered inappropriate behavior towards a coach:

- Violence towards a coach, coordinator or other parent
- Any form of intimidation or abusive language
- Continual harassment of a coach, coordinator, treasurer, parent or Board Member, whether direct or indirect, via any type of media

SafeSport

The safety of its participants is of paramount importance to USA Hockey. This includes not only on-ice safety, but also off-ice safety in any part of USA Hockey's programs.

USA Hockey has long had systems in place to protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of abuse and misconduct that can be harmful to youth hockey players. These include without limitation Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Screening, Locker Room Supervision and Hazing Policies, in addition to Codes of Conduct applicable to administrators, coaches, officials, parents, players and spectators. The USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook is intended to update and collect USA Hockey's various policies to protect its youth participants from all types of misconduct and abuse. The online link to the USA Hockey Safesport Policy is <http://www.usahockey.com/SafeSport.aspx>.

USA Hockey has ZERO TOLERANCE for abuse and misconduct.

This SafeSport Handbook includes the various Policies that apply to all USA Hockey Member Programs.

Those Policies address:

- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Bullying, Threats and Harassment
- Hazing

The Policies also address areas where misconduct can occur and are intended to reduce the risk of potential abuse, including:

- Locker Room Policy
- Social Media, Mobile and Electronic Communications Policy
- Travel Policy
- Billeting Policy

In addition to Policies, the Safe Sport Handbook includes the available and required Training of USA Hockey's and its Member Programs' employees, volunteers, administrators, coaches, parents and players on recognizing and reducing circumstances for potential abuse to occur; information on USA Hockey's Screening and Background Check Program; the availability and procedures for any person to Report suspected abuse or misconduct (including protections from any retaliation or repercussions for such reporting); the procedures and means by which USA Hockey and its Member Programs should Respond to allegations of abuse and misconduct; and how USA Hockey and its Member Programs will Monitor and Supervise the SafeSport Program to help ensure its effectiveness.

By combining all of these elements into a comprehensive SafeSport Program, USA Hockey intends to create the safest possible environment for participation in hockey.

Locker Rooms

USA Hockey is concerned with locker room activities between minor players, locker room activities between minor players and adult players, adults being alone with individual minor players in locker rooms, and non-official or non-related adults having unsupervised access to minor participants at sanctioned team events.

It is the policy of USA Hockey and USA Hockey In-Line that all affiliates, districts, leagues and local hockey programs have at least one responsible adult directly monitoring the locker room during all team events to ensure that only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room. Any individual meetings between a minor participant and a coach in a locker room shall require a responsible adult be with the coach.

Further, responsible adults must personally monitor the locker room environment at all times while participants are present and also make sure the locker room is appropriately secured during times when minor participants are on the ice.

All responsible adults serving as locker room monitors should be gender correct and the co-ed locker room policy must be followed as described in the current USA Hockey Annual Guide. Monitors must be screened and meet all USA Hockey screening standards. One coach or two parent representatives are required to be in each locker room while the players are getting dressed. This is a USA Hockey risk management policy put in place to control accidents and hazing incidents. This is required for all age groups associated with Siouxland Youth Hockey. Coordinators are to set up a schedule to insure this takes place.

Parents of Mites and Squirts are routinely in the locker rooms before and after practices and games to assist their sons and daughters with their equipment. Implementing the new rule would simply involve having one or more of them come early, remain in the room until the players take the ice, be present when they return, and stay until all players leave the locker room. Older players, of course, do not require such assistance, so the parent would have to come early and stay late on his or her scheduled duty days.

In addition to hazing, rough-housing and verbal abuse, coaches and the supervising parents need to be reminded that many players bring cell phones to hockey practices and games. Sometimes the phone is needed to call for a ride home. Most cell phones, however, include a digital camera and Go Pro devices. The opportunity for inappropriate locker room photos exists, and our players may not realize the harm such pictures cause when published on the internet. This can be prevented by establishing a team (or association) rule banning cell phones in the locker rooms. The rule can be implemented by having the supervising parent collect the phones when the players enter the locker room and return them when they leave. This team or association rule is another reason for each team to establish a group of parental locker room supervisor.

SYHA Locker Room Rules

1. No dressing in the lobby –**NO EXCEPTIONS**
2. Dressing will take place in one of two areas
 - a. One of the four locker rooms
 - b. On the north end of the rink where the public ice chairs are
 - i. The Rink will provide a curtain blocking off views of that area
3. All locker rooms will be locked upon arrival
4. The team representative (coach, coordinator, approved monitor) will retrieve the proper key from the rink managers office.
5. Once the locker room is open players may then enter to change
6. Per SYHA locker room policy, monitors will remain in place until the last player has left the locker room.
7. Once the last player has finished dressing the team representative (coach, coordinator, approved monitor) will “police” the room so as to be acceptable for the next usage.
8. **ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONE USEAGE IN THE LOCKER ROOMS**

SYHA Tyke/6U Program

- Each SYHA division is assigned a Coordinator that can answer any questions you may have about the season. The Tyke Coordinator for this season is TBD.
- A registration packet at the start of the season will provide details on SYHA's three fundraisers: Pancake Days, Christmas Greens, and Musketeer Flex Tickets. More details about fundraising can be found at www.siouxcityhockey.com.
- SYHA will implement the USA Hockey American Development Model (ADM) Red, White and Blue program for Tyke activities. At its core, Red, White, and Blue Hockey is high-performance training at U6. It consists of playing cross-ice games, small area games, and conducting station-based practices and is designed to get the best out of each player. In this environment, a player's activity level skyrockets because their engagement level increases, which leads to an increased skill set and love of the game. Drills and games are designed to focus on multiple skills and situations, increasing time with the puck, and situational repetition. It's been proven that kids who begin their hockey training in this environment develop a better foundation of hockey skills and instincts and enjoy the game more.
- At the start of the SYHA season, we will perform skills assessments to determine player placement for practices after which we will separate the players into groups. This process will allow us to match our development curriculum with the appropriate skill level of our players. During practices and games players will be grouped within their appropriate skill level. Periodically during the season, players may be re-evaluated and regrouped according to their skill level.
- The SYHA Tykes have been invited to skate with the Musketeers. There will be a couple of dates this upcoming season where the Tykes have been asked to play during intermission of a Sioux City Musketeers game. More details will be provided in the future regarding which dates.
- The SYHA Tykes will have the opportunity to participate in one travel tournament after January 1st. This event is optional and is open to returning second and third year Tykes. More information about this event will be available as the date approaches.

It is essential to the development of our players, parents and coaches to create a positive environment for all players. Children that play in a fun learning environment will strive to get better and continue to play the game. Playing in a positive environment is an essential part of a child's development. With the flexibility of USA Hockey's Red, White, and Blue program, this will allow each player to be fostered and enhanced at an individual level. EVERY PLAYER IS UNIQUE UNTO THEMSELVES. Allowing to accommodate for the changed grouping of players on any given day is an important part of implementation. Players, Parents, and Coaches need to be flexible to keep kids engaged and increase activity.

The Tyke program is the foundation of many fun and successful years in the Siouxland Youth Hockey Association. We are really excited about the initiatives for this season and are committed to making this a great year.

SYHA Mite/8U Program

SYHA incorporates the USA Hockey ADM guidelines, while emphasizing individual coaching concepts for the Mite program. Please visit www.admkids.com or www.usahockey.com for more information. Players skate three 1 hour sessions each week. Skaters will be assigned to house league teams and cross ice games will be played

- During the first month of the season, players will be assessed by coaches and placed on teams. Coaches will announce a timeline that provides adequate player assessment.
- Games are played Cross-Ice
- Player classification will include A, B and C (House League)

PRACTICES

- Practices are stationed based, allowing for more pucks touches and small area games
- 2-3 on-ice sessions per week includes practices and small area games
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HOUSE LEAGUE

- Players will be drafted on HL teams by HL coaches
- House League games will follow the ADM guidelines, these games will be played on Saturdays at the IBP Ice Center

TRAVEL HOCKEY

- Travel begins after January 1st; this includes friendship games, tournaments and jamborees
- You DO NOT have to travel. Travel is for A & B teams
- Travel hockey will involve tournaments/jamborees (3) and friendship games (4). These are played half-ice or cross-ice.
- Mites are allowed up to 4 friendship games that do not interfere with HL games
- Mites are allowed 3 travel tournaments that will SYHA Board approved. SYHA allows 3 overnight tournaments per season within a 3-hour radius of Sioux City.
- Travel tournament fees will be separate from registration fees
- Tournament fees will be divided per number of players per team
- All travel teams must have an approved-certified roster provided by the SYHA registrar.

HOME TOURNAMENT

- SYHA hosts a Mite tournament after January 1st
- All players in A, B & C (HL) are allowed to participate in the home tournament