What is Travel Hockey? Travel programs are typically designed to attract the best players from the Skokie Park District house league and other outside hockey programs for their respective age groups to compete at a AA or A competitive level. Teams are selected from a tryout. Coaches are hired to coach their respective teams. Most local Travel Hockey teams play as members of the Northern Illinois Hockey league (NIHL) which features other competitive teams from nearby neighboring rinks, as well as teams from other demographic areas of the Chicago area hockey market. The season, which begins with try-outs in late August and carries through early March, consists of approximately 24 regular season league NIHL games, plus playoffs. In addition each team may schedule a few practice games, as well as enter a tournament or two to complete a productive season of approximately 40-45 games. Routinely each team also gets two practices per week, plus a weekly skills clinic. Main Rink home ice slots can occur weekday evenings, as well as Saturday and Sunday mornings or early evenings. Studio rink practices are also scheduled three or four times per month on a weekday evening, depending on the team.

What is House League? The Skokie Park District offers a house league program where players who have completed a minimum of two Future Flyers learn-to-skate, learn-to- play hockey classes, can compete on a team. House League is the lowest of the competitive levels and is really geared toward beginner and recreational players. Registration is accepted on a first come, first serve basis and teams are then formed by draft and balanced. Coaches are volunteers, usually fathers of players on the team. Our Flyers House League teams play as a member of the North Shore Youth Hockey League. Opponents are from neighboring rinks. The season begins with player evaluations the first weekend after Labor Day and carries through mid-March. The season consists of 14 regular season NSYHL games, plus playoffs. Each team may pursue a tournament during the season. Routinely each team will play a game or practice each week. Main rink home ice slots would occur mostly on a Saturday and/or a Sunday afternoons or early evenings, with studio rink practices occurring once or twice per month on a weekday evening.

	Competition & Travel	***Ice Time & Schedule***	***Games***	***Practices***	***Tournaments & Skills Clinics***	***Coaching***	***Philosophy***	***Fees (2021-22)***
Mite Travel	AA & A Tier 2 All-Star selected teams by tryout. Play in NIHL against teams from other surrounding Chicago area rinks. Pilots Mites play in a CUHL All-Star Travel Division and will play 22 regular season Full-Ice games, plus playoffs against nearby Chicago area teams.	Usually three home slots per week for games scheduling and practices, plus a skills clinic each week. Additionally an away game per week as well. Home Ice slots occur weekday evenings and weekends.	Approx. 40-45 Typically 30 league games , 1-4 league playoff games, 4 tournament games and 4-6 practice games. Pilots Mites play in the CUHL and will play 24 regular season Full-Ice games, plus playoffs.	Approx. 40-45 Mostly Full-Ice.	1 local tournament 1 out-of-state tournament 18 weekly player skills clinics 18 weekly goalie clinics	One hired Head Coach most with vast experience as a player and a coach. Two hired Assistant Coaches also with strong playing and coaching backgrounds. Coaches must reach or attain Level 3 USA Hockey Certification Level.	To be the best competitive hockey player that you can possibly be by getting on the ice most often with outstanding coaching and playing with and against the best competition. Commitment and dedication levels, as well as off-ice training approaches are expected greatly as a player works to take his hockey experience to the highest level.	FLYERS: 10U Squirts: $3950/$3050 (G) 12U Pee Wees: $4350/$3450 (G) 14U Bantams: $4750/$3850 (G) 16U & 18U Midgets: $4950/$4050 (G) *8U PILOTS:* $1550/$550 (G)
Mite House	House League level of competition. Players register on a first come, first serve basis and teams are formed and balanced through a draft. Teams play in the NSYHL Pilots Mites play in the CUHL House Division and will play 16 regular season Full-Ice games, plus playoffs against nearby Chicago area teams.	Usually one or two home slots per week for either games or practices. Usually an away game every other week in place of a home slot. Most home ice slots occur on the weekends.	Approx. 20-25 Typically 14 league games , 1-4 league playoff games, 4 tournament games. Pilots Major Mites play in the CUHL and will play 14 regular season Full-Ice games, plus playoffs. Pilots Minor Mites play exclusively on our studio rink against in-house competition.	Approx. 15-20 Mostly split-ice.	1 local tournament No skills clinics	One appointed volunteer Head Coach some with vast experience as a player and a coach. One or two appointed Assistant Coaches some with strong playing and coaching backgrounds. Coaches must reach or attain Level 1 working their way up to Level 3 USA Hockey Certification Level.	A recreational approach to the game. Although all the qualities of commitment, dedication and team work is of importance to the functionality of a team, the house league level is a more recreational, less dedicated approach where your commitment level would be less than half the schedule and time commitment that you need if playing SAHA.	FLYERS: 10U Squirts: $900/$700 (G) 12U Pee Wees: $925/$725 (G) 14U Bantams: $950/$750 (G) 18U Midgets: $1175/$975 (G) *PILOTS:* 6U Minor Mites: $525/$325(G) 8U Major Mites:

THE LEGENDS

(Just to name a few)

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MIKE BROWN ***SAHA 1994-1998***

Mike Brown's family were residents in Skokie back in 1993 when Mike was eight years old and his mother brought him and his older brother Danny to the Skatium to try out skating and hockey for the first time. From that point on they were hooked on the sport and Mike began playing on a Skokie Flyers Mite team in 1994. He progressed through Pee Wee level in the Skokie Flyers house league program before his family relocated to Northbrook in 1998. Mike also was a regular participant in the outdoor Skokie Scorch Roller Hockey program that the park district ran every summer.

Mike eventually moved through the hockey ranks playing travel hockey in Northbrook, AAA hockey and then was selected on the US National Team where he enjoyed a successful season and accepted a hockey scholarship to the University of Michigan. After his freshman year at Michigan the Vancouver Canucks selected Mike in the 5th Round of the 2004 NHL Draft. He left Michigan after his sophomore year to pursue his dream of playing professional hockey. He had impressed the Canucks with two strong seasons with Vancouver's top farm club - the Manitoba Moose of the AHL. One of Mike's biggest strengths is as a penalty killer. His first season with Manitoba he tied the AHL record for shorthanded goals with six. Mike made his NHL debut on November 21, 2007 in St. Paul, Minnesota for the Canucks against the Minnesota Wild. Mike has since played for the Anaheim Ducks, Toronto Maple Leafs, Edmonton Oilers, San Jose Sharks and finished his career in 2015-16 with the Montreal Canadiens.

RICK DIPIETRO ***SAHA 1987-1990***

Rick DiPietro moved to Skokie in 1984 from Winthrop, Massachusetts when he was three years old. He started in hockey in the Skokie Flyers "Mighty Mites" Learn-to-Skate program in 1985 and eventually made the Skokie Flyers Mite A-2 team in 1987 as a six year old goaltender. His first coach was Skokie Park District's first ever Hockey Supervisor Sue Varon-Spector. He played three years of Skokie All-Star hockey as a Mite and Squirt before moving back to Winthrop in 1990.

Rick eventually progressed as a top level collegiate goaltender at Boston University and was the first player selected in the 2000 NHL Draft by the New York Islanders. It was the highest selection for a goaltender in the history of the NHL Draft. In 2006 the Islanders showed how much they thought of Rick by signing him to a very lucrative 15 year contract.

DOV GRUMET-MORRIS ***SAHA 1989-1993***

Dov Grumet-Morris began skating as a five year old at the Skatium in a Mighty Mites class in the summer of 1987. Both he and his older sister Aviva were participants in the class and his father Ken, who played goaltender in leagues in New York helped out with coaching. Although Dov's first team experience was not exclusively as a goaltender in the Skatium's Minor Mite house league, he eventually followed the footsteps of his father and became a goaltender soon after that playing for the Skokie Flyers All-Stars as their number one goaltender in Mite AA and Squirt AA, 1989-1993. The Grumet-Morris family members were regular fixtures around the Skatium through the 1990's. In addition to Aviva, Dov has three younger brothers, Ariel, Amit and Zev as well as a younger sister Yardana, all who have been through the Skokie Flyers hockey program.

In 1994 Dov left the Skokie program to move on to AAA hockey and eventually made a junior hockey team in the USHL. After that season in Danville, Illinois he accepted an opportunity to play at Harvard. His collegiate career at Harvard was exceptional. He currently holds 13 records in the Harvard hockey record book. The Philadelphia Flyers were impressed enough with Dov and his accomplishments at Harvard to select him in the 5th Round of the 2002 NHL Draft. When the Flyers drafted him Dov had said to his friends of Skokie "Once a Flyer, Always a Flyer."