

WYHA First Year Squirt and U10 parents Frequently Asked Questions

Making the change from Mite to Travel hockey is a very exciting event. If you talk to players about their greatest memories from hockey, experiences from their first year of Squirts/U10 will frequently be at the top of the list.

To help ease your transition into your first year of travel hockey, Wayzata Hockey wants to share the following Frequently Asked Questions. This list should provide you insights into the commitments and expectations at the Squirt/U10 level and to make your season a positive experience for you and your player:

1. **Time Commitment** - Squirt teams will typically average 3-5 events per week including: practices, scrimmages and games. Additionally, events will run at a higher level of intensity requiring greater level of focus, attention and effort from players compared to what they have experienced at the Mite level.
2. **Attendance** - The Squirt level is the first year of Travel hockey. While set by individual head coaches, players are expected to attend a high percentage of all scheduled games and events.
3. **Estimated Costs** - The total cost for Squirt/U10 is higher compared to the fees you encountered at the Mite Level. These increased fees are related to the increased amount of ice time, tournament fees, travel, apparel and other team related costs. A typical Squirt season will cost between \$1,500 and \$2,500, but actual costs will vary depending on the events your team participates in.
4. **Tryouts** - Unlike your last year of Mites, Squirt/U10 team tryouts consist of a multi-day tryout that focuses on skills and scrimmages to identify level and team placement. This can be more stressful for parents and players compared to what you experienced in your last year of Mites. Wayzata Hockey provides a complete set of guides under our Tryout Section of the web site, which provide an overview of our tryout process and what to expect during tryouts.
5. **Playing Positions** - Skaters at the Squirt/U10 level will get the opportunity to experience different playing positions during games. Player rotations and positions are assigned by the head coach, but expect your player to play center, winger and defense through the season.
6. **Games** - Squirts/U10 teams play a maximum of 35 games per year including district, scrimmages, tournament and the end of season district tournament. Each game of a tournament counts towards this limit.
7. **Out of town tournaments** - Each Squirt/U10 travel team is scheduled for one out of town tournament during the season. These are great team bonding experiences for parents and players. Travel tournaments involve overnight accommodations as games are scheduled on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in a typical tournament format. Depending on the start day and time of the first game, there is a possibility to be at conflict with school hours.

8. **Local tournaments** - Each Squirt/10U travel team will have two local/in town tournaments and compete in a end of season District tournament. Local tournaments are similar to the Friday, Saturday and Sunday format of out of town tournaments and may have possible conflicts with school hours. The end of season District tournament can span a longer amount of time, as this tournament is double elimination event!
9. **Parent volunteer duties** - As a parent on a travel team, you will be expected to volunteer your time to help with a range of duties. This may include: event planning, running a time clock / scoresheet, running the penalty box, coordinating travel, or other identified team needs. This time is vital to supporting your team and players, but does not count towards your annual Wayzata Hockey volunteer commitments.

From all of us at the Wayzata Hockey Association, we hope this FAQ provides you insights into what to expect as you enter the first year of travel hockey, and we hope you have a successful hockey season!

For questions or additional information please feel free to reach out to your head coach or squirt level coordinator.