

I-275 Mite and Mini-Mite Hockey League Rules and Regulations

League Structure

A League structure of games shall be conducted for the 8U (Mite) and 6U (Mini-Mite) classifications as defined by the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA). The League will be referred to as the I-275 Hockey League for the purpose of this writing. A copy of the I-275 Rules and Regulations are to be filed annually with the MAHA President by October 01 of each year with a copy to the District 4 Chairperson. For the remainder of this document 8U and Mite will be used interchangeably as well as 6U and Mini-Mite.

League Intent

The intent of the I-275 League is to give Mite and Mini-Mite age players an opportunity to play within their own age group and skill level in an environment that stresses fun, learning, sportsmanship, and team play with minimum emphasis on wins and losses. The League recognizes that some associations may have a limited number of teams and this is an opportunity for those players to engage in game play with minimal drive time and expense. The I-275 League is established to enhance these objectives and give greater game variety.

League Administration

An Executive Committee (EC) consisting of one member from the Novi Youth Hockey Association, **Plymouth Hockey Association**, and Compuware Youth Hockey Association along with the Mite and Mini-Mite League Governors/Directors and House Program Directors from each association will administer the operation of the League. Decisions of the Executive Committee, in all areas of the League operation, shall be binding and final. To be eligible for the EC, associations must have all their teams eligible for this League in this League. EC member associations must not have any teams playing solely in house or elsewhere. The Executive Committee shall meet as required, prior to the start of League play to review policies, determine schedules, and conduct a meeting with the coaches to review League rules. The EC shall meet periodically as needed throughout the period of League play to review all matters of concern regarding the efficient, fair, and sportsmanlike conduct of the League. Only the EC can change the Rules and Regulations governing the League.

All coaches are held responsible for the actions of their players during practices, games, and while in the locker rooms. Players leaving the ice surface and locker rooms should enter and exit the ice surface at the nearest door to their said bench. Both teams should not use the same door to enter or leave the ice surface. (This may not be feasible in all half/cross ice game arrangements.)

The League will be made up of Mite and Mini-Mite teams from the member associations. Each team will be formed based on the draft requirements in place at each participating association. Players added to teams after the draft will be added based on existing association criteria. The maximum number of players per team shall be managed by each association, with the goal of having at least 18 players per team to allow two simultaneous 4-on-4 games including goalies.

All teams, their players, and team officials shall be registered and in good standing with the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association and USA Hockey prior to the start of League play. Roster changes shall be made in accordance with the rules of the MAHA and USA Hockey. Failure to do so may prohibit continuance of League play for the subject team.

All players are to be given equal and fair ice time and the opportunity to play various positions against equally skilled players.

League Admission Process

Any association along the I-275 corridor may petition to join the I-275 League. The Executive Committee will interview the petitioning association and determine if the association should be added to the League. The League shall use as admission criteria the I-275 League intent. Other criteria that may be considered, but not limited to, are team competitiveness (too high, too low); whether the applicant is entering only one age group; whether the applicant is not entering all teams from within an age group. Should entry be denied, the applicant may appeal to all associations with teams in the League for entry; a 75% majority vote will be required to over-ride the Executive Committee denial.

All girl teams may be allowed to compete within the League only with the full approval of the Executive Committee.

Any petitioning association that is added to the I-275 League will be under a probationary period for one year and will not have Executive Committee privileges. At the end of the probationary period, the Executive Committee shall meet to determine if an invitation will be extended to the petitioning association with full membership into the League.

League Games

The I-275 League will play a maximum of 20 games per team, beginning the first weekend of October and ending the last weekend of February; subject to ice availability. If all associations are in agreement and ice is available, the teams may start earlier than the first weekend in October and play into March and exceed the 20 game maximum. There will be no League games scheduled Thanksgiving weekend or the weekend between Christmas and New Year's Day. League play will resume the first weekend of January (after January 01). It is recognized that there may be instances where these norms may not be feasibly followed, but deviations from these norms should be avoided. The schedule shall be determined to play each team in a specific division the same number of times, where practical. Game schedules shall be completed a minimum of two weeks prior to the first game. Home teams are to be scheduled at their home arena. The Executive Committee will determine a master scheduler.

Schedule: All teams must play half-ice League games in compliance with MAHA rules. All games will be played on Sundays (unless ice is not available).

Play Rules: All League games will be played in a 4-on-4 format with required ice dividers placed across the center red line. All skaters should play an equal amount. No Red/White/Blue line designation will be used. Mini-Mites will play a cross-ice format and Mites will play a half-ice format. Games will commence with a faceoff. **Shifts are 1.5 minutes (90 seconds)** in length. The clock will be running time. Teams are required to change players on the buzzer. When the buzzer sounds, all players are required to immediately leave the puck and move to the bench for replacements. Players leaving the bench can do so in a manner similar to changing on the fly during conventional hockey. Goalies may play the puck during the buzzer changes. When a goalie covers a puck, the referee will instruct the opposing team to move back a “reasonable” distance to allow the defending team to move the puck; no whistle and the clock continues to run. If both coaches are in agreement, they may elect to play 3-on-3, but all games must be half-ice. Each team will be divided into two teams based on experience/talent level. Coaches should arrange their team into most skilled and least skilled players and arrange with the opposing coach to have the most skilled play each other and the least skilled play each other. These line ups may change depending on game-day circumstances and throughout the season as players’ progress. There shall be no double shifting unless a team has players missing. There shall be no slap shots and no checking. No empty net situations. If a stick comes above the knee in a slap shot motion it will be deemed a slap shot and a minor penalty and the referee will give puck possession to the other team; the clock will not stop. There will be no off sides or icing. If the puck goes out of play, the referee will determine who sent the puck out and will give possession to the non-offending team at the point the puck went out. The defending team must provide two stick lengths to their opponent upon re-entry and play must start immediately on the referee’s command (whistle). When one team scores, the referee will take a new puck and throw it into an empty corner at the opposite end and play will restart from that point. No face-offs; just lots of puck touches and play time. Referees are used to facilitate the game. For Mite games, USA Hockey referees should be scheduled (one for each half-ice game). Any minor penalty such as tripping or slashing will result in a goal for the non-offending team plus puck possession. Following any play stoppage (i.e.: a goaltender freezes the puck), there shall be a whistle from the referee/coach-referee and all players must cease play; the referee/coach-referee will call all players together and then throw the puck to the far end in order to re-start play of the game. No game score will be kept at 6U. **At 8U, game scores will be displayed during the game.** Each team is required to dress two goalies in goalie gear – one for each game. Mite goalies are to use a chest protector, catcher, blocker, goalie pads and a goalie stick. Although Mini-Mite goalies are encouraged to wear a complete set of equipment, similar to Mites, they can wear goalie pads only and use a goalie stick; and use their player gloves and player shoulder pads.

Team Responsibility: An adult coach and/or manager shall accompany each team at all League games. For Mini-Mite League games, each team will require four (4) MAHA rostered coaches - one coach on the ice (acting as a coach-referee) and one coach on the bench for each cross-ice game. For Mite games, it is recommended that there be at least two (2) rostered coaches on each bench. Coaches are not allowed on the ice during Mite half-ice games.

Conduct: Team officials (coaches and managers) shall be responsible for the conduct of their teams before, during, and after League games; particularly in regard to the use of the dressing rooms. Incidents of damage or other conduct prohibited by these Rules and Regulations, the Rules and Regulations of MAHA or USA Hockey, or by law, should be brought to the attention of the I-275 League EC. Team officials shall be held responsible for damages or other loss caused by their teams. All teams must be USA Hockey SafeSport compliant.

Spectators: Each team's representative shall take action to ensure that spectators are not abusive to officials, players, team officials, or other spectators. Failure to do so could result in team suspension.

Home Team: The home team shall furnish official game pucks (must be blue), a timer, and at least 50 minutes of ice. Timers are to remain neutral officials throughout the game. Timers must be at least 18 years old. When possible, the home teams wear the light colored jerseys. In the event that both teams have the same color jersey, it is the home team's responsibility to wear pullovers (available at the front desk of each arena).

Referees: For Mini-Mites, the coaches will referee all League games. For Mite games, the home team shall provide USA Hockey certified officials for all games per the requirements of their respective association; one referee for each half-ice game. The League encourages this as an opportunity to give younger officials an opportunity to gain experience. The home team is to pay the referees. Referees in Mite games who are immediate relatives to players shall not officiate in games in which their relative plays. Teams securing referees must insure no relationship exists in advance of teams traveling to games. Exceptions may only be granted when the opposing team agrees in writing prior to the game start. Immediate relative is defined as: brothers, fathers, sisters, or mothers of home team members or staff.

Game Rules: League games shall be played according to the rules as set forth by U.S.A. Hockey as amended by the MAHA except as modified herein.

Game Start/Warm-up: The time listed in the I-275 League schedule shall be the time that both teams are to take the ice. A reasonable warm-up period shall be allowed both teams (whether or not they are on the ice), commencing at the designated starting time, or at the time the ice becomes available, whichever is later. The warm up shall be **two** (2) minutes commencing when the Zamboni doors are closed. Teams will shake hands before each game at center ice. The home team shall notify the referees that this will occur.

Equipment/Procedures: All teams' players, playing in the I-275 League must wear neck guards and mouth guards. Players without a neck guard or mouth guard will be asked to leave the ice surface until compliant. Teams failing to follow this rule will face disciplinary actions as determined by the EC.

Players are required to have full regulation ice hockey equipment as defined by USA Hockey.

It is recommended that all players have their first names labeled on the front of their helmets.

For all half-ice games, one goal net shall be placed in standard full ice position and the other goal net 3-4 feet from the mini boards running along the center red line.

Intermediate nets will be used in all cross/half ice games.

For all cross-ice games, the goal nets shall be placed along the side line approximately 3-4 feet from the permanent boards/glass.

All League teams must use the 36 inch high divider boards for all cross/half ice games. (High-density foam pads covered with tear-resistant and puncture-resistant vinyl are not acceptable.) These boards will be placed along the center ice red line.

When playing cross/half ice games, coaches should arrange the players before the game to make best use of the benches and 'doors'. For cross/half ice games, one half of the team's players should enter the ice surface from the door closest to the bench they will occupy during the game.

Confirmation/Make-ups: Failure to appear as scheduled because of adverse traffic and/or weather conditions necessitates that the game be rescheduled within 14 days and played prior to the end of the League play. Any schedule change that impacts a game that is to be played in 48 hours (or less) requires a telephone call to both coaches to confirm the change (no voice mail or e mail), and in the instance a coach cannot be reached, a telephone call to the association representative must be made. All teams are strongly encouraged to play all League games as scheduled. If a game must be rescheduled, at least 2 weeks notice must be provided as well as providing a make-up opportunity on your own practice ice. In the event that the game cannot be rescheduled, and is a result of a team attending a tournament, the scheduled game ice shall belong to the team not attending the tournament. All efforts shall be made to reschedule the game.

Refusal to Compete: Refusal to compete in any League game as scheduled without prior approval is considered to be an immediate resignation from the League. Said team will be dropped from all subsequent League activities. Teams refusing to compete will result in disciplinary actions as determined by the EC

Executive Committee Members

Compuware Youth Hockey Association Novi Youth Hockey Association
Plymouth-Canton Hockey Association

Member Associations

Canton Victory Honda Hockey Association Lakeland Hockey Association
Little Caesars Farmington Hills Hockey Association Livonia Hockey Association
Orchard Lake United Hockey Association

[Editorial: changes from the prior version shown in red]