SBLA Mite Program

Program Overview:

Beginning with the 2018-2019 season, SBLA has chosen to restructure our instructional program in an effort to establish a skill-based progression program, and increase engagement for our youngest skaters. One of the changes which will be implemented is the consolidation of our Mitey Mite and Mite programs. There are 3 main goals for this consolidation:

1. Create a streamlined, progression based skill development program at the 6U & 8U levels
2. Increase the ice utilization and practice quality for all 6U and 8U skaters
3. Increase the ‘coaching pool’ available for the 6U & 8U programs

SBLA will utilize the USA Hockey ADM (American Development Model) of ‘Red, White, and Blue’ for our Mite program. To facilitate this, players will be evaluated by coaches during the first few sessions and initially sorted into the 3 levels (with multiple ‘teams’ at each level). As with many things, players will develop skills at different rates throughout the season; for this reason, these ‘levels’ are fluid and players can be moved to a different level throughout the year. The intent of this flexibility is to ensure that players can develop at a pace that continually challenges them throughout the year and allows them to practice with players of a comparable skill level. It is understood that there are draw-backs to this as well, however the benefits of having these flexible teams outweighs the draw backs and it is in the best interest of the development of all the players.

Team classifications & guidelines

Mite Blue: Mite Blue teams will be comprised of first year Mites and skaters requiring the most development. While all Mite teams will have a focus on skill development, this will be especially true of the Mite Blue teams. These teams will largely be ‘house’ teams with no more than 3 ‘away’ competition sessions permitted during the year (jamborees, games, etc). All games will be restricted to taking place after 12/1 ensuring the first part of the season is focused on skill development. The intent of this restriction is to minimize the travel burden on young players/families as well as ensure there is a heavy focus on skill development.

Mite White: Mite White teams will be comprised of second/third year Mites or first year Mites who demonstrate a high degree of proficiency in fundamental skating ability. As with all Mite levels there will be heavy focus on skill development throughout the year, however the Mite White teams will be permitted to have up to 15 competition sessions during the year (jamborees, tournaments, games, etc).

Mite Red: Mite Red teams will be comprised of second/third year Mites or highly skilled first year Mites. The intent of the Mite Red team is to prepare skaters for a transition to Squirt hockey. As with all Mite levels, there will be a heavy focus on skill development throughout the year; however, there will also be a focus of basic hockey concepts at the Mite Red level. The Mite Red teams will be permitted to have up to 20 competition sessions throughout the year (jamborees, tournaments, games, etc).
Mite Program F.A.Q

**Q:** What level should I register my skater at?

**A:** Please consult the “Instructional Registration Guidelines” document posted on the Sheboygan Lakers Website.

**Q:** Will the change in structure for the Instructional Program increase fees to the association members?

**A:** No. Fee structures are remaining the same. During registration all first year Mite families, as well as all 6U skaters registering for Mites will pay the registration fee historically assigned to Mitey Mites ($190). 2nd or 3rd year Mite families with skaters 7 years and older will pay the normal Mite fee of $360.

**Q:** Why is there a price difference between 1st year/6U Mites and 8U Mites?

**A:** This price difference accounts for the incremental ice time the 8U players are allowed in the form of Home games. Because the focus of the 6U program is skill development, home games are typically limited to an end of year jamboree (formally Mitey Mite fest).

**Q:** My skater is signing up after the start of the season, do I still need to pay the full registration fee?

**A:** If your skater is registering after the start of the season, please contact the rink office to see if you qualify for a pro-rated registration fee. As a general guideline, the season is split into 4 quarters – likewise discounts will typically be bucketed as 25%, 50%, 75%.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to the Youth Hockey Committee via email at sheblakersyhc@gmail.com or contact the rink office if you require immediate assistance.