

Patriots Hockey

Beginning with the 2009-2010 Season the Patriots Hockey Association will implement an in-house program at the Mite level using the following guidelines.

- The Mite level will be divided into the following groups: Level 1 (3-5 year olds), Level 2 (5-7 year olds), Level 3 (6-8 year olds), Level 4 Travel Mite.
- All Mites interested in being on the travel team would attend a 4 day tryout session in early October with evaluators confirmed by the ACE Coordinator and On Ice Committee.
- After the mite tryout all players not making the Level 4 travel team will be placed in the Mite level according to their skill level.

Level 4 Mites

- A Level 4 Mite travel team would be established at the beginning of the season. Team Placement would be after October 1st.
- The Mite travel team would follow the guidelines of the Patriots Hockey player development guide and play 1 or 2 games on a weekend unless in a tournament. No games will be played before November 1st.
- The Level 4 Mite travel team will practice 2-3 times per week.
- Suggested number of ice touches is 75. 55 practices and 20 games.
- Number of tournaments for the Level 4 Mite travel team is outlined in the player development guide.

Level 3 Mites

- Level 3 Mites will practice 1-2 times during the week and once every weekend (Saturday or Sunday) after November 1st and will emphasize skill development.
- 4-6 stations will be used at practices and skaters rotate through each.
- The On Ice Committee will work with the coaches to develop standard practice plans.
- Level 3 Mites will be divided into equal teams consisting of 6 to 9 players and play one cross ice or half ice game per weekend beginning after December 1st. 1 or 2 full ice games will be used at the end of the season.
- Suggested number of ice touches is 65. 50 practices and 15 games.
- Games with teams of similar skill level from other organizations will be scheduled if possible. Including participation in the West Side League.
- An end of the year Level 3 Mite tournament will be scheduled for the last weekend of the season.

Level 2 Mites

- Level 2 Mites will practice 1 time during the week and once every weekend after November 1st and will emphasize basic fundamentals.

- Level 2 Mites would incorporate one cross ice or half ice game in place of the weekend practice beginning after January 1st until March 15th.
- Suggested number of ice touches is 45. 35 practices and 10 games.
- Games with teams of similar skill level from other organizations will be scheduled if possible. Including participation in the West Side League.

Level 1 Mites

- Level 1 Mites will practice one time each weekend, introducing first time skaters to the basics of skating and hockey.
- Suggested number of ice touches is 18. 18 practices and 0 games

Benefits

- With practices being structured and having an emphasis on skill development players will become more complete players.
- In-house will increase retention of players as parents will have a set schedule and all games will be played at Hartmeyer or other Madison area rinks.
- Cross ice games will develop skills at a faster pace as players will touch the puck more often and be forced to react to situations quicker
- Better practice to game ratio (2 to 1) therefore increased skill development.
- Standardized coaching practices at the Mite level as all coaches will be working on skill development and not so worried about game situations.
- Program can be used as a recruiting tool.
- Reduce cost of participation for the in-house players
- Reduced travel time
- Increased emphasis on fun