

OAHE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

MITE TEAM SPLIT POLICY

RECREATIONAL - The backbone of youth hockey, recreational hockey encourages internal or “house league” play. This program is designed to provide opportunities to play for enjoyment, fitness, relaxation, and fellowship. Skill development and team concepts are stressed, rather than winning. The Mite and Squirt programs are in this category. In following American Development Model (ADM) guidelines, at this level the goal is to get players familiar with hockey and to have fun. Emphasize fun practices more than games and focus on individual skills. Attempt to achieve total equal play to the extent that if you end a period with 1st line, the 2nd line should start the next period. No special teams should be formed, such as penalty kill or power play. In most instances, players should not have established positions, but should experience playing at both defense and offense. Especially at the Mite level, coaches should consider asking all players to take a turn playing a game as goalie.

Policy: Following OHA Mite registration, the OHA Director of League Play, OHA Coaching Director, and Mite Head Coach, in collaboration with the other Mite coaches, will settle on the number of teams to register and establish rosters per the selection process described herein. USA Hockey and SDAHA rules specify 20 players as the maximum number to roster per team. Team roster size may vary depending on the overall number of players.

Teams for “house league” shall be comprised of a mix of abilities (beginner, intermediate, advanced) on each team so equally talented teams can effectively scrimmage and play “house league” games. Players of similar abilities rotate through stations together during practice and rotate on-ice with teammates and opponents of similar ability during “house league” games.

Teams for tournaments may be formed from interested players/families and split into “Gold” (advanced) and “Black” (beginner/intermediate) teams. When player splits result in multiple teams at a given level, all teams at that level shall be divided into equally talented teams.

“Gold” team players should, when practicable, be second year Mites, with preference given to players having the greatest number of years as registered USA Hockey members. “Black” team players should, when practicable, consist primarily of first year Mites.

In addition to these criteria and prior to the establishment of a final roster, modifications to “Gold” and “Black” team assignments may be made in consultation with a player’s parents based on the player’s age, maturity, attitude, or hockey skills. All modifications must be approved by the Mite Head Coach, OHA Coaching Director, and OHA Director of League Play. Modifications to team assignments should be infrequent and limited as development during this phase occurs quickly. When organizing teams, player development as well as short-term and long-term retention in the program shall also be considered.

OHA Board Amended: April 28, 2015