

How do I get started?

Inhouse registration is available online at byha.org.

Is my child eligible for Mites and/or Cubs?

To be eligible, players must have been born on July 1, 2007 or later. Those who were born prior to July 1, 2007 must register for the boys or girls traveling program. There is no minimum age, although we have found that children younger than 4 years old may have difficulty focusing while on the ice.

What equipment is needed?

Under USA Hockey rules, players are required to wear an approved helmet with a mask, shoulder pads, mouth guard, hockey gloves, shin guards, athletic cup (boys) or pelvic protector (girls), elbow pads, breezers, skates, and a stick. Hockey tape is used to tape the stick. When attaining equipment, keep in mind that Blaine Bengals colors are Navy Blue, Columbia Blue, and white. A hockey bag will make it convenient and easier to store and carry equipment.

Where can I get equipment?

This season, we are continuing our partnership with Dave's Sport Shop where all new, first-year players (including both Mites and Cubs) will receive a voucher that can be used to purchase a starter kit, which will include all equipment needed (excluding skates, cup/pelvic protector, hockey socks and stick), and also includes a hockey bag. Equipment can also be purchased at many sporting goods retailers in the area, including Dave's Sports Shop, Lettermen Sports, and Hockey Central.

Does my child have to know how to skate to play hockey?

No. There are options for beginner skaters with no skating or hockey experience.

What are the different options for beginners with no experience?

For beginners, we offer 2 options. The first option is to register for our Bengal Cub Program, and the second option is to register for our Mite Program.

What are the differences between the Bengal Cub Program and the Mite Program?

Bengal Cub Program

Our Bengal Cub Program is meant for entry level players and is designed as a "learn to skate" option. The Cub Program is designed give beginners a chance to learn the basics of skating with less of a commitment, both time and financial. The Cub Program meets on Saturdays beginning on November 5th and going until February 18th, with breaks for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Cost for the Bengal Cubs program is \$99.

Mite Program

Our Mite Program is divided into 4 levels. D Mites is for beginners who are just starting out and have very little or no skating experience. C Mites is for those that have had a year or two of skating. B Mites is for the players who have skated for a few years, while A Mites is for the top level Mite players. There is also a U8 level, which is comprised of all girls. To be considered for the U8 team, girls will have to first be at the "C Mite" level of play. Girls are not required to play U8 and are also welcome to play with the boys at any Mite level.

Mites are divided into teams and have a mix of games, practices, and jamborees. They play games against other Mite teams at the same level. The Mite Program provides increased ice time compared to the Cub Program. Cost for the Mite program is dependent on the level. D is \$175 C is \$225 B/U8 is \$350 A is \$400

Where are games/practices held?

Mite practices are at either Fogerty Arena, Schwann's Super Rink, or occasionally at Centennial Arena. There will also be outdoor practices at Happy Acres Park. Roughly half of all games will be held at either Fogerty Arena, Schwann's Super Rink, or Centennial Arena. The other half will be played at arenas throughout our District (District 10), which includes Andover, Anoka, Blaine, Cambridge/Isanti, Centennial, Champlin Park, Chisago Lakes, Coon Rapids, Elk River, Hinkley, Irondale, Mora, North Branch, Pine City, Princeton, Rogers, Spring Lake Park, and St. Francis.

How many days a week will my child have hockey?

Mite teams typically skate on weekends throughout the season, but may occasionally have indoor practice or a game on a weeknight. They will also have 2 nights of "Rink Rat Hockey" at Happy Acres. These practices will be either Tuesday and Thursday OR Monday and Wednesday and will begin when weather allows, typically January. Cubs skate on Saturdays.



When does the season start and end?

The Cub Program will meet on Saturdays beginning Nov 5th and goes through February 18th. The Mite Program will have Initiation Skate sessions, which are used to place skaters at the appropriate level. The Initiation Skate sessions are held on October 15th, 16th, 29th and 30th. A schedule can be found online (homepage of byha.org). Mite seasons usually end at the end of February or early March, depending on Jamborees.

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

You can contact Brian Bunes, BYHA Inhouse Director, at inhousedirector@byha.org with any questions that you may have.