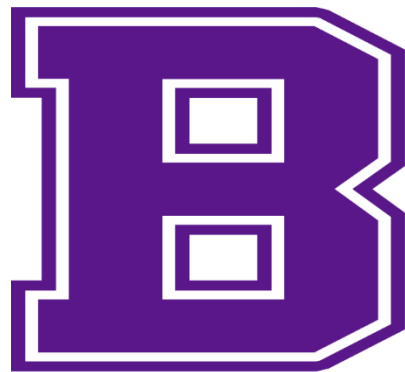


Buffalo Youth Hockey Association



HOCKEY

Parent Meeting Information Packet

Mini Mite/Mite/8U
2020-2021



Buffalo Youth Hockey Association Overview:

The Buffalo Youth Hockey Association provides hockey education and development programs for students in School District 877 (Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose) and 876 (Annandale). Check out our website to familiarize yourself with the programs, teams, fundraising, board, and so much more! Welcome to the BYHA Hockey Family and we hope you enjoy your experience and share your love of Hockey! Below will be all the information you will need to know to get your season started!

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Youth Program Overview

- Mini-Mites/Mite/8U
- Traveling Levels:
 - Squirts/10U
 - PeeWees/12U
 - Bantams/15U
 - Jr. Gold/High School

Cost of Hockey 2020-2021 Season:

New Skater: 1st Year Free

Returning Mini Mite

- \$46 USA Hockey Registration fee
- \$10 MN Hockey
- Mite/8U: \$256 Ice Fees
- Mini Mite: \$150 Ice Fees
- \$50 Team Fund

Expectations of Parents:

- **Be Present/On Time** – Please arrive 15 min before practice time to make sure your child has ample time to get ready and on the ice. Coaches plan practices/drill based on how many kids they have, if you are not able to make it, please reach out to your coach/manager every time! This really helps make it a successful year!
- **Communicate:** In order for us to succeed, we want to hear your feedback in a constructive way. We love positive feedback and hearing what we are doing well and where things can improve. We encourage parents to communicate with the coaches and managers, if they are not able to handle it, please bring it to the Mite Co-Coordinator. We are all adults and ask for respectful dialogue. The association is run by volunteers and we know that not everyone communicates the same or understands how things are run, and that can cause conflict. Conflict usually stems from a lack of understanding or questioning. Please, address conflict directly or with a neutral party present vs. taking it to social media or other avenues. **Together we can achieve more!**
- **Be their biggest cheerleader/supporter:** Encourage your child, cheer for your child, help them elevate themselves and have confidence in their abilities! The more fun they have, the more success they will have.

Expectations of Program:

- **Consistent schedule:** We will have your schedule posted and you will be communicated with any last minute changes by your team manager, coach or coordinators.
- **Well-prepared coaches:** Coaches will be prepared with practice plans and ideas ahead of time so we can have a well organized and efficient/effective time on the ice!
- **Skill development:** This part is so fun to see! Your child will be evaluated at the beginning of the season and will be evaluated at the end of the season along with notes from the coach! It is so cool to see how much your skater will improve year to year!
- **Communication from coaches and managers:** You will receive weekly/bi-weekly communication if not more from your coaches, managers, or coordinators on what is happening!
- **FUN!!!** This is the most important aspect of the program and needed to develop a love of the game and for the kids to want to continue to show up!



Volunteer Hours:

- Families with one skater must contribute 14 hours of volunteer time. Families with two or more skaters must contribute 17 hours of volunteer time. **Of these, a minimum of 11 hours must be completed during a BYHA- hosted tournament.**
- Families must meet their total hour requirement and their tournament hour requirement before the end of the regular season.
- All volunteer hours may be completed as tournament hours; however, this is not recommended as there is a limited number available for all families.
- There is no maximum number of hours a family can contribute in a given year. There is no roll-over of volunteer hours from year to year.
- We are utilizing the DIBS system to manage our volunteer opportunities.
- Click on the **DIBS** tab on the far right of the navigation bar (just below the Buffalo Hockey banner).
- Login with the same USER ID and password used to register your player(s).
- Click either Dib Session for the appropriate year, either Standard Hours or Tournament Hours to view available sessions.
- Search for Dibs with "unclaimed" status. Click on the name of the Dib, then "Claim this Dib Item."
- Verify that the box with athlete name is correct, and the fulfiller's first and last name is correct to ensure credit is applied appropriately. Enter phone number and/or email for person fulfilling Dib (parent or guardian). Click "Claim Dib Item."
- You will receive an email confirmation, if email address is on file and claim is successful.
- You will receive a reminder email 3-4 days prior to your claimed dib. ****Any dib MUST be cancelled PRIOR to 72 hours to avoid a late penalty fee. (refer to policy for more details).

SafeSport:

- The safety of its participants is of paramount importance Buffalo Hockey/USA Hockey. USA Hockey SafeSport is the organization's program related to off-ice safety. USA Hockey has long had systems in place to protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of abuse and misconduct that can be harmful to youth hockey players and other participants. These include without limitation Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Screening, Locker Room Supervision and Hazing Policies, in addition to Codes of Conduct applicable to administrators, coaches, officials, parents, players and spectators. The USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook is intended to update and collect USA Hockey's various policies to protect its participants from all types of misconduct and abuse.
- For more information visit the Buffalo Website: <https://buffalo.pucksystems2.com/page/show/1050848-safe-sport-team-before-ice> or contact **SafeSport Co-Coordinator: Kelly Hinnenkamp 612-207-4623**



Covid-19

- We have a Covid-19 [webpage on the BYHA website](#) (please familiarize yourself with the documents on this page). It is currently updated with the latest Covid-19 policies and procedures. As things continue to change, we will continue to update you via email and this webpage. The BYHA requires each of its members to follow the guidelines that are in our BYHA Preparedness Plan. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

- **Covid Highlights:**

- Players or Coaches with any **Covid-19** symptoms should not participate in any on-ice or off-ice activities. Please stay home.
- **All Skaters, Goalies, and Coaches must be registered with USA Hockey and the BYHA before they are allowed to attend any on-ice or off-ice activities.**
- **All Players and Coaches must wear masks when entering the facility, while in the locker room, and while exiting the facility.**
- **All Spectators must wear a mask at all times when entering, exiting, or inside of the facility.**
- **For any BYHA activity, prior to you or your skater going into the rink, a BYHA Covid-19 Questionnaire must be completed. This questionnaire can be accessed the following places:**
 - The following link: <https://forms.gle/Rh5f66c9nQ55H7xD7>
 - The bulletin board in the arena: Link or QR Code
 - The BYHA Covid-19 webpage: Link or QR Code
- **It is recommended that the players arrive dressed with the exception of skates, gloves and helmet. (Additional exceptions are made for goalies.) We are trying to limit the amount of time that players are in the locker rooms.**
- **Please arrive NO earlier than 15 minutes before your scheduled ice time. And leave the arena within 10 minutes after your ice time is finished.**
- **Players need to provide their own water bottles and they need to be clearly labeled with the player's name.**
- **Practices/Clinics Spectator Guidelines:**
 - Please maintain social distancing.
 - While it is important to limit the number of people in the facility as much as possible, there may be circumstances in which a parent or guardian must also bring in young siblings. This will be allowed, but should be limited as much as possible.
 - Young children should not be left unaccompanied inside the building at any time.
- **Scrimmages/Games Spectator Guidelines:**
 - A maximum of two spectators per skater are allowed in the building for games/scrimmages.
 - Spectators should be physically distanced at all times.
 - Cloth face coverings are required at all times inside the facility.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out at any time.

Lena Gawtry (BYHA President) | 612-386-1104 | acgawtry@gmail.com



Mite Program Information

Program Objectives:

- Deliver a high number of players with the appropriate skills to Squirts/U10
 - FUN for the Players
 - Develop a love for the game
 - Enjoyable for parents
 - Communication and information
 - Age-Appropriate skill development
 - Similar ability, season skill goals, measured improvements

Contact Information:

Mini/Mite/U8 Co-Coordinator

- Ryan Huddy – Co-Coordinator
 - rhuddy@christensengroup.com – (763) 219-9049
- Tiffany Dixon – Co-Coordinator
 - Tiffany@myvisionco.com – (612) 600-0784

Manager Coordinator

- Leota Bemis – Mini Mites/Mite Team Manager Coordinator
 - Leota.bemis@gmail.com

If you are looking for a way to fulfill all your volunteer hours consider Coaching or Managing!

Coaches

- **Roles:** Group Lead, Team Head Coach, Team Assistant Coach(s)
- We encourage you to get involved now! If you have never coached before, The Mini Mite, Mite/8U level is the BEST level to start to gain your confidence!
- If you are interested in coaching, reach out to **Ryan Huddy**.
- **Once teams are formed your coach and manager will be reaching out!**

Team Managers:

- **Role:** Team Managers are responsible for communicating information to parents and coaches throughout the entirety of the season. Team Managers also assist with organizing details related to jerseys, team photos, and special projects.
- If you are organized and a good communicator, you have what it takes to be a great Team Manager!
- Being a Team Manager fulfills all your volunteer hours for the season!
- If you have a skater in Mini Mites/Mites this season, and are interested in being a Team Manager, please contact **Leota Bemis**
- **Once teams are formed your coach and manager will be reaching out!**



Level Structure:

- **Mini Mite/Mite/8U**
 - Girls and Boys will play separate from each other when there are enough of each group to make a team, otherwise they will be mixed teams. Level structure will be similar.
 - We have 4 levels of play within the Mini/Mite/8U programs and try to keep kids with their age group as much as possible, but will make adjustments in order to best place players with others at a similar skill level.
 - **Mite Black/8U** – Typically 4th year skaters/last year mite/most advanced skill level before entering into traveling (there are age requirements that need to be met before moving to traveling)
 - **Mite Grey/8U** – Typically 3rd year skaters
 - **Mini Mites Purple** – Typically 2nd year skaters
 - **Mini Mites White** – Typically 1st year skaters
 - **Goalies:** We encourage those skaters interested in goalie to continue to skate out and develop their skills. Goalies are introduced at the Mite/8U level and occasionally are brought in at mini mite for introduction to the position.

Evaluations: November 14th and 15th

- Skaters will be evaluated on a series of drills and scrimmages – these evaluations help place skaters according to their current abilities so there can be more of a focused approach in their development, they are not meant to be scary or intimidating! If skaters range significantly, it can be hard to get appropriate development for all levels and we want advanced skaters and new skaters to develop a love for the game and continue to get better!
- Following the evaluations, skaters will be placed in their skill level group for the season. All teams within those groups are equal teams and are not tiered. (Example: In the Purple group, there will not be an A team, the 3 teams will be equal based on scores and coach availability).
- Teams will be posted on the BYHA website and communicated via email from the Mite Coordinators.
- The number of teams at each level will be based on the player registration numbers
- Registration Numbers (as of 10/14/2020):
 - Mini Mite: 84 skaters
 - Mite/8U: 91 skaters

Ice Schedule:

- The season will start October 21st 2020 and go through mid March 2021
- The Mite/8U season schedule is typically 3 hours of ice each week, typically Wednesday, Saturdays and Sundays.
- Mini Mite season schedule is typically 2-3 hours of ice each week, Sat/Sun and an occasional Wednesday.
- Mini/Mite/8U will not be scheduled for practices between December 24th and Jan 1st.
- Mite/8U will have skills practices on some Wednesday nights with the Varsity coach, Coach Johnson and his teams. There will be no goalies at these practices, they will skate out.
- All teams on each level will skate together at each practice.



On Ice Structure:

- Early in the season the on ice focus for all levels will be solely on skill development through practice. As it progresses, we will move to 1 hour per weekend of practice and one our of scrimmage ice.
- Practices will follow the USA Hockey Age Specific Practice Plans and guidelines: ADM Model + BYHA 'Enhancements'www.admkids.com
- Typically (3) to (6) rotating stations – Focus on skills and small area games
- Increase touches, involvement and skill development
- Decrease down time

Games/Jamboree:

- **Mini Mite:**
 - **Games** will be played typically on Saturdays against each other and will be labeled accordingly on the Sports Engine App and your teams website on BYHA. Games will be starting mid-end of December. All in-house, cross-ice, small nets, no goalies (except Group 3 late-season)
- **Mite/8U**
 - Games:
 - Group 2: Most In-house/half-ice games w/ goalies and Jr. size nets
 - Group 1: Half-ice games before 12/31/19, some full-ice games and D5 scrimmages after 1/1/20, goalies, full-size nets (max 6 full-ice games)
 - 8U: Sunday-Funday League (STMA, Rogers, & Surrounding Area) & Misc. intramural opportunities w/in BYHA
- **Jamboree/Tournament –**
 - As of right now there will be our annual Sauk Rapids Jamboree which is tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in March. This is a great event for the kids and they get to play other association teams. Your manager will give you more information on hotel bookings, schedules etc. closer to the date. **Pro Tip: book your hotel early as they sell out quickly.**
 - 8U May also have another tournament within the district

Other Info:

- **Jersey's and hockey socks:** will be handed out by team managers end of November/Early December. Specific times will be communicated by your team manager
- **Team Pictures:** Will be scheduled for early/mid-December. Specific times will be communicated by your team manager
- **Rink Rat Program:**
 - Mini-Mites/6U: 10 hours outside ice
 - Mites/8U: 15 hours outside ice
 - Award: Hat or T-Shirt
 - Reporting: Team manager, honor system
- **5000 Puck Club:**
 - This is optional. It includes shooting 5000 pucks during the season outside of the rink!
 - Forms available on BYHA website
- **Mites/8U: Bison Buddies** (Skate during intermission at a Buffalo High School game)
POSTPONED DUE TO COVID
- **Fundraising:** There are several fundraising opportunities to help support the BYHA which will help keep costs down! Check out the website for details!
- **More Hockey!:** Check out our website or ask your coach/manager/coordinators about other skating opportunities within the association or outside of the association to keep your child skills sharp!



Season Timeline/Key Dates:

- October: Practices
- November: Evaluations, Teams and Practices
- December: Pictures, Practices, Games
- January: Practices and Games
- February: Practices, Games & Team Parties
- March: Jamboree and Year-End Party

I have read this all....now what?

- Download the Sports Engine App on your phone and find your team! That will show you your practice times so you can be prepared for the season.
- Check out the website and familiarize yourself with the DIBS/Volunteer program
- Make sure you are listed on the email list for info on BYHA and your team
- Save the COVID website link in your web browser and remember to sign in at each practice
- Don't be afraid to communicate to your coach/manager or the Mite Co-Coordinator.

