

MVI HOUSE HOCKEY FAQs



Welcome to MVI Youth Hockey!

We're excited to help your family get started in the great sport of hockey. Below are answers to common questions. For more details, visit mvihockey.org.

Getting Started

What age can kids start playing?

- Kids can join the **Mini-Mavs** program if they are **4 years old by October 1st**.

Is my child too old to start hockey?

- **No!** It's never too late. MVI welcomes players of all ages and skill levels.

My child isn't a strong skater. Can they still play?

- Absolutely! Our programs are designed for **all skill levels**.
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Registration & Levels

How do I register?

- Go to the [Registration](#) tab on our website. Registration opens **July 1st**.

What level should I register for?

- Use the "**Rule of 3**" guide on the Registration Guide to determine the right level, if you have any questions, please email us.

Do boys and girls play together?

- Yes, especially at the **Mite levels**. MVI also offers separate boys' and girls' programs.
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Season Details

When does the season start?

- **Mini-Mavericks**: Late October
- **Mite/8U/6U**: Early October
- **Older levels**: Warm-ups and tryouts begin in **early September**

How long is the season?

- From **September/October to late February or early March**

How are teams formed?

- **Mini-Mavericks**: No teams, just development
- **Mite/8U/6U**: Teams formed at the end of October. 8U and Mite 2-4 will have evaluations.

How many players per team?

- Team sizes vary, but MVI aims to keep them **small** for more play time.
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Communication & Coaching

When will I hear from a coach or manager?

- Before the first practice, a coach or manager will contact you via email.

How will I get updates?

- Via **email** or the **Sports Engine App**. Make sure your contact info is accurate.
- You can also follow our emailed **newsletter** or our **social media** online.

I want to coach. What should I do?

- Visit the [Coaches](#) tab on our website and indicate your interest during registration.

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Practice & Games

Where will my child skate?

- Mostly at **Shoreview Arena** or the **Super Rink in Blaine**.
 - Level depending, we will get ice from: Lumberyard , Mariucci, TCO and Minnesota Made.
- Teams may travel for scrimmages and tournaments.

When are practices?

- Times vary from **early mornings (7 AM)** to **evenings (7–8 PM)**.
- Practices are usually **60 minutes**.

Do we have to attend every practice/game?

- No, but regular attendance is encouraged. Missing practices won't affect playing time.

Equipment & Costs

What equipment is needed?

- Skates
- Shin pads
- Protective cup
- Shoulder pads
- Elbow pads
- Hockey gloves
- Breezers
- Mouthguard
- HECC-certified helmet with full face shield
- Neck protection (required)
- Hockey stick
- MVI provides: Jersey and hockey socks

Where can I buy equipment?

- **New gear:** Strauss Skate & Bike, Lettermen Sports, Pure Hockey and Dave's
- **Used gear:** Play It Again Sports, Dave's, and online marketplaces

Is hockey equipment expensive?

- It can be, but used gear is a great option. Prioritize a good helmet and skates.

Is financial assistance available?

- Yes! Visit the [Financial Assistance](#) page on our website.

Age Levels

For exact birthdays, please visit the [Minnesota Hockey Age Chart website](#).

- **Mini-Mavericks:** Age 4+ - Born on or after June 1, 2018
- **Mites/8U/6U:** Ages 5-9 or 3rd grade and younger - Born on or after June 1, 2016
- **Squirts/10U:** Ages 9-11 or 4th–5th grade - June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2016
- **Peewees/12U:** Ages 11-13 or 6th–7th grade - June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2014
- **Bantams/15U:** Ages 13-15 or 8th–9th grade - June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2012

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Other Common Questions

Do I need to volunteer or fundraise?

- Yes, families from **Mite Evals/8U to Bantam/15U** must complete **10 volunteer hours** or assist in other ways like: coaching, managing a team, finding a sponsorship, etc.

Does my child need a curved stick?

- Beginners can use a **flat blade**. A **curved stick** is recommended by Mite Eval/8U.

How often should skates be sharpened?

- Every **6–10 hours** of ice time.

How do I find the locker room?

- Check posted signs or TVs at the rink.

Should my child get dressed at home or the rink?

- Either is fine. Many younger players dress partially at home.

Do boys and girls share locker rooms?

- Sometimes teams at the Mite level are co-ed.

Programs & Involvement

What is Blue Line Buddies?

- A mentorship program pairing **Mite/8U/6U teams** with **traveling teams** for joint practices and game attendance.

How can I get involved?

- **Coach:** No experience needed—training is provided.
- **Team Manager:** Help with communication, scheduling, and events.
- **Reach out to express interest!** We welcome your help in making our program successful.