



Mite Evaluation Process & Governance

What to do:

Before

During

After



BEFORE

- Evaluation Schedule
- Evaluation Process
- Evaluation Exceptions

DURING

- Evaluations
- Team Selection & Structure

AFTER

- Team Communication
- Questions / Concerns

APPENDIX

Who's Ready for Hockey?

Welcome to Mite Evaluations. It is almost time to begin a new hockey season, hang out with old and new teammates, make that tape-to-tape pass, score some goals (or block them) and have some fun!

We know that evaluations can be an uncertain and anxious time for you, as players, and families. You can eliminate some of that by knowing what to expect.

In this document, you will find information on what to do before evaluation sessions, what the association is looking for during evaluations and what to expect when they are complete.

Beyond that, remember to have fun. That is probably the only way to guarantee you will put your best skate forward this fall.

See you at the rink!

HIGHLIGHTS!

There are some changes to this season – based on your feedback and identified best practices. The mites will be divided into skill-based teams.

More communication. We have created this document as a separate document solely for evaluations. The intent is to provide all information for mite evaluations, in one easy to read document. There will be Parent Meetings. Players will also attend a meeting to walk them through the mite evaluation process.

Levels of play. Mites will be divided up into Mite 3 & 4, 6U and Mite 1 & 2, 8U levels for both Boys and Girls. If there are enough players to support multiple teams at Mite 1 & 2, 8U, players will be divided up into upper and lower teams to put players with like ability together. This is done to ensure all players have an enjoyable experience and maximize player development.

Evaluation Process. Mite 1 & 2, 8U players will have a skills and internal scrimmage sessions as part of their evaluation process. Mite 3 & 4, 6U will not have formal evaluations this year. At their young age the focus will be on having fun, learning the game, and of course developing them as players.

PURPOSE

WHA will perform skill evaluations at the beginning of each session to ensure players are placed at the appropriate Mite 1, 2, and 8U level. This process is being conducted to group players by skill rather than by age/grade. The skills evaluation will be conducted in a fun and low stress environment.



BEFORE MITE EVALUATIONS



BEFORE

- Evaluation Schedule
- **Session Types**
- Evaluation Process
- Evaluation Exceptions

DURING

- Evaluations
- Team Selection & Structure

AFTER

- Team Communication
- Questions / Concerns

APPENDIX

Mite Evaluation Schedule

What should you expect for mite evaluations?

Evaluations will consist of two evaluation sessions for Mite 1 & 2, 8U players. Mite 1 & 2, 8U will have a skills session and an in-house scrimmage to paint a complete picture of each player.

Evaluation Sessions:

- Skill Based Drills – Minimum of 1 Hour for Mite 1 & 2, 8U's
- In-house Scrimmage – Minimum of 1 Hour for Mite 1 & 2, 8U's

Players will not be allowed to sit out during an evaluation session unless approved with an excused absence.

Pre-Evaluation	0%	Ice Time: 1 hour
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Pre-Skills will include sets of drills to focus on specific skills and tactics. The Pre-Evaluation session will include the drills that will be part of the evaluation process.

Skills	35%	Ice Time: Min 1 hour
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Your first day of evaluations will consist of skills assessment sessions for skaters. Your overall skill proficiency will be evaluated based on this session. The Mite & ACE Director will determine the skills and drills evaluated.

In House Scrimmage	65%	Ice Time: Min 1 hour
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Evaluations will include one internal scrimmage session for the Mite 1 & 2, and 8U's only that is either 3v3 or 4v4. Teams will be assigned, and line charts created by the Mite Director, ACE Director and Evaluation Coordinators so that players move around and play with all players on his/her scrimmage team. Skaters and goalies will be assigned based on the number of players registered with the intent to keep teams at 15 skaters or less per team.

*The evaluation process is based on registration numbers; therefore, this process may change if the actual number of players changes.



BEFORE

- Evaluation Schedule
- **Session Schedule**
- Evaluation Process
- Evaluation Exceptions

DURING

- Evaluations
- Team Selection & Structure

AFTER

- Team Communication
- Questions / Concerns

APPENDIX

Mite Evaluation Schedule

What are the Pre-Evaluation sessions?

They are free, on-ice hockey sessions for all skaters intended to prepare you for evaluations. Drills similar to those during evaluations will be reviewed and practiced. You **MUST** be registered with USA Hockey and WHA to participate in these sessions.

We highly recommend that you attend these optional Pre-Evaluation sessions so you know what to expect. However, your participation is not used in your evaluation in any way.

Player and Parent Meetings

There will be a player meeting that occurs prior to evaluations. This meeting may be informal and could occur on the ice.

A parent meeting will occur the day of the Pre-Evaluation session. The Mite Director, ACE Director, President and Operations Director will lead this. Parents should plan to attend when their skater takes the ice for practice.

Parents

Parents should be supportive of their skaters during this time. They are also expected to abide by the Parent Code of Conduct as outlined in the WHA guidebook. Please attend the Parent Meeting for updates from previous years and to receive a description of the drills.

Skills & In-House Scrimmage

After the Pre-Evaluation session, there will be separate skills evaluation sessions for Mite 1 & 2, 8U players. These sessions will be a minimum of 1 hour.

The in-house scrimmage session will be 1 hour in length, with 60-second shifts for the Mite 1 & 2, 8U players only.



BEFORE

- Evaluation Schedule
- Evaluation Process
- **Equipment**
- Evaluation Exceptions

DURING

- Evaluations
- Team Selection & Structure

AFTER

- Team Communication
- Questions / Concerns

APPENDIX

Mite Evaluation Process

What do I need to know from day 1?

The following equipment is required:

- Helmet & cage
- Mouth guard
- Neck guard
- Shoulder pads
- Elbow pads
- Breezers (hockey pants)
- Shin guards
- Skates
- Protective cup/Pelvic Protector
- Socks
- Jersey

To the best of the parents' ability and judgment, all skaters should wear Waconia colors for every session of the evaluation process. All players should wear a jersey with solid colored sleeves, a black helmet, black colored breezers and Waconia colored black, purple or gold team socks. All non-Waconia stickers should be removed from all gear before evaluations.

The skaters will receive a pinnie with evaluation numbers when you check in for the internal scrimmage only. The pinnie must be turned in immediately after the internal scrimmage.

You should arrive 30-45 minutes prior to your session and must be ready to get on the ice 15 minutes prior to the start time. Parents are responsible for getting their player ready including tying skates.

You must be on the ice for all assigned sessions unless previously excused by the Mite or ACE Director. Any unexcused absence could impact your overall evaluation.

Water bottles are highly encouraged for all sessions.



BEFORE

- Evaluation Schedule
- Evaluation Process
- **Governance**
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DURING

- Evaluations
- Team Selection & Structure

AFTER

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- Questions / Concerns

APPENDIX

Mite Evaluation Process

Mite Evaluation GOVERNANCE

WHA Executive Board

The WHA Executive Board (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) will audit the mite evaluation process. They are responsible to ensure that evaluations and team selections follow the guidelines set within this document. Executive Board members are not allowed to govern the level of their son/daughter.

WHA Board

The WHA Board members, not included in the Executive Board, may be used to audit mite evaluations, as necessary.

SUPPORTING ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Mite and ACE Director

The Mite and Ace Director will be responsible for executing the evaluation sessions and managing the volunteers. S/He is also responsible for overseeing team selection and will approve all rosters. The more transparent we are the less confusion and issues we have.

Hockey Development Committee (HDC)

The HDC will assist the Mite and ACE Director in executing the mite evaluations.

Volunteers

Mite evaluation volunteers will be assigned duties by the ACE Director and those marked with an asterisk must be approved by the WHA Board of Directors. These hours will count toward the family's DIBS hours

- Mite Evaluation Coordinator*
- Greeter/Pinnie Assignments
- Locker Room Monitor
- Bench Volunteer
- Time Clock Volunteer



BEFORE

- Evaluation Schedule
- Evaluation Process
- **Level Placement & Move Up Policy**
- Evaluation Exceptions

DURING

- Evaluations
- Team Selection & Structure

AFTER

- Team Communication
- Questions / Concerns

APPENDIX

Mite Evaluation Process

Level Placement

Initial player placements (level) will be done by birth date. WHA uses the Minnesota Hockey Age Charts, located on Minnesota Hockey’s website.

Level Definitions

Boys & Girls

- Mite 4 - Is a beginner level U6 player that does not possess all the necessary skills of a Mite 3 level player.
- Mite 3 - Team(s) will consist of the most advanced U6 players.
- Mite 2 - Is an intermediate level U8 player that does not possess all the necessary skills of a Mite 1 level player.
- Mite 1 - Team(s) will consist of the most advanced U8 players.

Mite Level	Grade
Mite 4 (6U Intermediate)	1st Grade & Younger
Mite 3 (6U Advanced)	1 st Grade & Younger
Mite 2 (8U Intermediate)	3 rd & 2 nd Grade
Mite 1 (8U Advanced)	3 rd & 2 nd Grade

All players will be evaluated. This allows measurement of player development from beginning of the season until the end. These evaluations are meant to be fun, engaging, and without pressure.

Competitive Level Move-Up Policy

Mite players will be allowed to tryout and move up to the competitive level, per the move-up policy in the Competitive Level Tryout Governance.

In situations where the number of players registered for a particular level does not have enough players to fill a team, the WHA has the option of moving up kids from a lower level to complete the minimum team roster size. This policy will only be used as a LAST RESORT and will not be a normal course of practice. This policy will be consistent from year-to-year.

Only the WHA Board will initiate this process.



BEFORE

- Evaluation Schedule
- Evaluation Process
- Evaluation Exceptions
- **Excused Absences**

DURING

- Evaluations
- Team Selection & Structure

AFTER

- Team Communication
- Questions / Concerns

APPENDIX

Mite Evaluation Process

What if I can't participate?

All evaluation sessions are mandatory. In fairness to all players being evaluated, the only excused absences are: severe illness, injury, or family emergency, or reasons PRE-APPROVED by HDC, at least 7 days in advance of the absence.

What do I do if I cannot participate?

If you are unable to participate in evaluations due to illness, injury or family emergency, or other reasons, you are responsible for contacting the Mite Director BEFORE evaluations begin. The HDC shall make the final determination.

Written information from your physician detailing why you cannot participate and player history detailing past team assignments must be provided to Mite Director as early as possible BEFORE EVALUATIONS BEGIN. You will not be evaluated and placed on appropriate team if this information is not provided.

What if I get sick or injured in evaluations?

If this is the case, your parent is responsible for getting you to a medical examination within 24 hours after the onset of illness/injury. The examining physician should provide written information detailing why you cannot continue. The parents must give his information to the Mite Director within 24 hours after the medical exam. A doctor note stating that the player has been cleared to participate is required before a player can go back on the ice.

How will I be scored for missed evaluation session?

Unexcused absences will result in a 0 score for that session. Excused absence will result in the player receiving a score for that session based on the average of the attended sessions.

If a player is unable to participate in any evaluations due to an excused absence, s/he will be evaluated based on prior year's performance and coaches' limited discretion to determine team selection. New members, who join after evaluations, will be placed at the lowest level team for that level.



DURING MITE EVALUATIONS



BEFORE

- Evaluation Schedule
- Evaluation Process
- Evaluation Exceptions

DURING

- Evaluations
- **Evaluators**
- Team Selection & Structure

AFTER

- Team Communication
- Questions / Concerns

APPENDIX

Mite Evaluations

Who evaluates the players?

During each Mite 1 & 2, 8U evaluation session, a panel of independent evaluators will score players on a scale following a common scoring structure.

1. Minimum of three evaluators at each internal scrimmage session for players.
2. To the best of our ability, we will find outside evaluators. At least two evaluators must be independent of the WHA (paid or volunteer).

Evaluators are chosen for their hockey knowledge, do not have a player participating at this level and are instructed in the process to consistently evaluate the participants.

It is not permissible for parents, in any situation, to perform as an evaluator at the level in which their child is competing.

PARENT COACHES

Parent coaches cannot perform as evaluators at any level.

EVALUATION SHEETS

Evaluators will provide a score on each participant which will then be turned into the Mite Director, ACE Director, and Executive Committee members immediately following the evaluation session.

Players and parents can request to see their evaluation scores upon completion of the mite evaluations. Parents do not have the right to argue with evaluators' assessments. No information will be shared with any player or parent regarding another player's evaluation sheet.



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- Evaluation Schedule
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DURING

- Evaluations
- **Complete Player**
- Team Selection & Structure

AFTER

- Team Communication
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APPENDIX

Mite Evaluations

How will I be evaluated? BY YOUR PLAY.

During Internal Scrimmage Evaluators look for complete players, with strengths balanced across:

- Skating Forward/Backward
- Stopping
- Crossovers
- Passing
- Stick handling

Scores from each evaluator are recorded, averaged and used for subsequent tier assignment and final team selection.

You are evaluated for negative contributions to play as well. Inappropriate conduct or penalty situations may result in a decrease of your scores. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Penalties
- Use of foul language on or off the ice
- Play intended to injure, illegal checks

Players will not be evaluated on:

- Evaluations sheets from previous years
- Evaluations from summer camps
- Non-evaluator opinions
- Parental input

Keep in mind that scores from each session are added together to create a final score for final team selection. **Each and every session matters.**

Ace/Mite Coordinator, along with HDC will determine drills and scoring.



BEFORE

- Evaluation Schedule
- Evaluation Process
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DURING

- Evaluations
- Scoring
- Team Selection & Structure

AFTER

- Team Communication
- Questions / Concerns

APPENDIX

Mite Evaluations

How are evaluation teams selected?

After the skills session, skaters will be divided into two groups for scrimmages. Grouped by jersey color.

Player Evaluation Process

1st Session: Skilled Based Drills - 35% of overall score

Each player will perform all the drills min. once. If an evaluator feels a player did not understand or the drill to a point they could not properly evaluate the player, that player will be allowed to go a second time.

Mite Goalie Policy

The goalie needs to be one of the most agile skaters on the team; therefore, in line with the USA Hockey Long Term Development Model, we do not allow full-time goalies at the Mite Level. Playing only goalie does not help the child develop the necessary agility, balance, and coordination skills, which are necessary for a strong skating foundation.

At registration a player can express interest in playing goalie, however it's up to the coach's discretion to schedule a rotation between all players who have expressed interest, for both games and practices.

There are no goalie registration fee discounts at the Mite Level of play.



BEFORE

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AFTER

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APPENDIX

Mite Evaluations

Conclusion of Session #1 – After Skills Session

Upon conclusion of session #1 each player will be ranked based on his or her skills session scores. Players will then be tiered into groups based on their ranking and will be divided up into teams with a snake draft method. The snake draft method will be used to balance teams as evenly as possible. A visual graphic of this method is listed as followed:

Snake Draft Method to determine teams:

Team #1	Team #2
1	2
4	3
5	6
8	7
9	10
12	11
13	14

Mite 1 & 2, 8U players will be informed which sessions and time they will be attend for Internal Scrimmage (Session #2)

2nd Session: Scrimmage - Accounts for 65% of overall score

Scrimmage Format

- The scrimmage will be controlled by a horn sounding every 60 seconds to indicate a line change.
- The scrimmage will be played ½ ice or cross-ice 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 with a goalie (4 on 4 or 5 on 5 including a goalie).

Scrimmage Scoring Scale: Total of 10.0 points – Players will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Hockey IQ
- Competitiveness
- Play making ability
- Skating Ability
- Passing/Receiving Ability
- Stickhandling Ability
- Shooting Ability
- Positioning

Session #2 will conclude the evaluation for the Mite 1 & 2, 8U level.



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- Evaluation Schedule
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AFTER

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Appendix

Mite Evaluation Team Selection

How are Teams Selected?

Teams will be selected based on players' evaluation overall score. Rosters will be filled based on performance in evaluations. Scores will be calculated and players will be assigned teams ranked on their final standings after all sessions have concluded. Rosters will be reviewed and approved by the Mite Director, ACE Director and one executive board member.

In the event that there are multiple teams at any level, for example two Mite 1 teams, a serpentine method, based on evaluation rankings, will be used in an attempt to create 2 equal teams (see chart). Additional consideration will be given to ensure proper coaching is provided to both teams.

Team #1	Team #2
1	2
4	3
5	6
8	7
9	10
12	11
13	14

Team Structures

What will the final teams be?

Numbers could change based on the number of players registered at any level. WHA does not limit the maximum number of players for each mite level.

- At Mite 1 & 2, 8U levels, there will be a minimum of 9 players per team. If there are 18 players or more, the organization will make 2 separate teams.
- At the Mite 3 & 4, 6U levels there will be a minimum of 7 players per team. If there are 14 players or more, the organization will make 2 separate teams. No evaluations for the Mite 3 & 4, 6U levels.



AFTER MITE EVALUATIONS



BEFORE

- Evaluation Schedule
- Evaluation Process
- Evaluation Exceptions

DURING

- Evaluations
- Team Selection & Structure

AFTER

- **Team Communication**
- Questions / Concerns

APPENDIX

Team Communication

Player Placement

Teams will be determined and communicated within 48 hours after the last session.

After team selections are complete, team rosters will be posted to the WHA website and an email will be sent out to notify families that the team rosters have been posted.

In the event that results cannot be posted as described above, an email will be sent to notify parents of when the results will be posted. Team rosters will not be posted within normal school hours.

All conversations regarding player placements will be kept confidential among coaches, evaluators and the HDC.



BEFORE

- Evaluation Schedule
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- Evaluations
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AFTER

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APPENDIX

Questions or Concerns

What if I have questions about the process?

Questions/concerns about the evaluation process must go through the ACE or Mite Director. Do not bring those questions directly to coaches or evaluators.

What if I believe there was a mistake that took place during the process?

We understand that the outcome of evaluations might not always be what you had hoped for. However, team selections are final.

In the end, everyone will be on a team, and will have the chance to develop and enjoy playing this great sport.

If you would like to share your concerns and get a better understanding for why you ended up on your team, please contact the ACE and/or Mite Director.

Parents have the right to see their own child's evaluation scores and how they compare to the average score at their child's level. No information will be shared regarding another player.

Grievances will not be discussed on the phone. All contact regarding grievances will not be accepted until one week (7 days) after the completion of your level's final evaluation session. Every player/parent who wishes to have a meeting to communicate concerns will have one, as we value your feedback.

In any case, you should plan on attending your team practices as scheduled.