



## NorthStar Youth Hockey League 2017-18 Mite Divisions

### USA Hockey Rule

USA Hockey approved a by-law that changed the age appropriate standard playing surface at Mite 8 & under level to cross-ice or half ice. Effective for the 2017-18 playing season, all 8 & under Mite level games offered by the NYHL will be played in this restricted space format. The NorthStar Youth Hockey League will offer a compliant format for the Mite Divisions next season.



### *2017-18 Mite Split Season*

#### **General Structure – Half Ice**

- All games will be played in a half-ice format for the first half of the season (September – March).
- (24) “Half Ice” game schedule (28 weeks). Minimum of (1) Playoff game for all teams.
- Playoffs for these divisions start in early March. Single game elimination format will used for all playoff games.
- Weekly games played on Saturday mornings on Rink A
- Two half ice games will run simultaneously on the same sheet. One Game per side.
- Games will be played 4 vs. 4 plus one goalie per team. All teams must have a minimum of 6 skaters plus a goalie to play an official league game. Regulation nets and blue pucks will be used.
- All games will be (2) 25 minute running time periods. Teams will not switch ends at the end of the first half.
- 2 Referees will be present on the ice. One referee will be in charge of each half-ice game in each end.
- Scores will be recorded for league standings & parity purposes. Win (2) points, Tie (1) point, Loss (0) points.
- Game scores will not be displayed on scoreboard. Scores will be kept with flip-cards and verified by both coaches at the conclusion of the game. The scoreboard will only be used as a game clock to signal the end of the periods.
- The score keeper will keep track of the game clock and the horn.
- There will be three Mite Divisions (Atlantic, Pacific, Central) based on team skill level. (subject to parity adjustment)
- Hard Dividers will be placed along the red line with goals placed in the creases and two more goals near the red line.
- Benches will be utilized by both teams. Each team will have its own door to operate for line changes.
- Goalies are required for each team playing in the game. All players should be encouraged to try the position.
- Apart from face-offs, play will be continuous. Face offs will only occur at the start of a period, when a puck goes out of play, for an injured player, after the whistle if a penalty is called or after a goal is scored. The dots will be used for these face offs (two near the blue line and two in zone). Beginning face offs will be held in the middle of the ice.
- The whistle will blow if a goalie covers puck. At that time the offensive players must immediately clear the zone/area and allow the defensive players to take the puck out so play can resume. No face off will occur.
- Only major infraction will be called for the purpose of learning the game. Penalties will not be served. No power plays, no penalty kills. Play will continue during a penalty call. Immediately after the whistle has blown, the referee will alert the penalized player and coach of the infraction and the player will substituted for another player.
- Coaches will be allowed on the bench only – no coaches will be allowed on the ice.
- All players and coaches must be registered with USA Hockey



## ***2017-18 Mite Development***

### **General Structure – Half Ice**

- Developed using guidelines set forth by the USA Hockey American Development Model
- Recommended for children with 2009 or later birthdates as well as the beginner players.
- All games will be played in a half-ice format for the entire season (September – March).
- (20) Week “Half Ice” schedule (24 weeks). NO PLAYOFFS. Weekly games played on Sunday mornings on Rink A.
- Two Mite X-Ice Divisions based on team skill level (Mite X-Ice D1 & D2) (subject to parity adjustment)
- Two half ice games will run simultaneously on the same sheet. One Game per side.
- Games will be played 4 vs. 4 plus one goalie per team. All teams must have a minimum of 6 skaters plus a goalie to play an official league game. Regulation nets and blue pucks will be used.
- All games will be (1) 25 minute running time period. Away Teams (far end of the bench) will switch ends at the conclusion of the first game and play the Home Team from the opposite end for the second game.
- Game scores will be recorded for parity purposes ONLY.
- Game scores will not be displayed on scoreboard. Scores will be kept with flip-cards and verified by both coaches at the conclusion of the game. There are no standings kept for this division. Game scores are recorded kept by the league office for Parity purposes ONLY.
- The scoreboard will only be used as a game clock to signal the end of the periods.
- The score keeper will keep track of the game clock and the horn.
- The horn will be used to signal line changes every two minutes. (this may be amended to 1:30 minutes)
- Hard Dividers will be placed along the red line with goals placed in the creases and two more goals near the red line.
- Benches will be utilized by both teams. Each team will have its own door to operate for line changes.
- Goalies are required for each team playing in the game. All players should be encouraged to try the position.
- Full-time goalies are not required. All players should be encouraged to try the position.
- There will be no referees on the ice. Coaches from each team will moderate/control the game.
- Each team **must** have at least one (1) coach on the ice per game session. Coaches must wear skates and a helmet.
- Apart from face-offs, play will be continuous. Face offs will only occur at the start of a period, when a puck goes out of play or for an injured player. The dots will be used for these face offs (two near the blue line and two in zone).
- Beginning face offs will be held in the middle of the ice.
- The whistle will blow if a goalie covers puck. At that time the offensive players must immediately clear the zone/area and allow the defensive players to take the puck out so play can resume. No face off will occur.
- All players must be in full equipment
- All teams must be ready to take the ice 15 minutes before the start of their games
- All players and coaches must be registered with USA Hockey