



# Alaska All Star Hockey Association

P.O. Box 241805, Anchorage, Alaska 99524

**RE: 8-and-under Mite Program for 2013 – 2014 Hockey Season**

**From Nathan Rocheleau, Alaska All Stars Mite Coordinator**

Hello Parents,

As some of you may know we are entering into a new era of 8-and-under (Mite) hockey for the upcoming 2013 – 2014 hockey season. In accordance with USA Hockey and the Alaska State Hockey Association (ASHA) our U8 players will be broken down into 3 groups, which are red, white and blue. This will be based on players' skill and ability with our highest ability players playing for our red teams, then white, and blue. See link to USA Hockey's information on Red, White, and Blue Hockey ([RedWhiteBlue\\_Brochure.pdf](#)). During our normal evaluation process we will determine how many teams and the numbers of players for those teams we will have at each level. It is my assumption that we will have 2 red teams, 2 white teams, 2-3 blue teams as well as our Learn to Skate Blue Chipper program. Please do not take this to be the exact breakdown as this will be determined by the interest in the organization and our coaches at evaluations. The teams will be smaller in size with somewhere between 9-13 players per team to allow for more ice time and involvement, however multiple teams will typically be sharing ice times. Over this past winter a group was formed from the various hockey organizations within the community to set up guidelines for all of the Anchorage area teams to follow, so we are all doing the same thing.

Games will be played 4 vs. 4 half ice for the red and white groups and 3 vs. 3 cross ice for the blue groups. We will have refs on the ice to facilitate speed of play and to allow the coaches to stay off the ice so they can instruct players for red teams only. The format of games will be in a jamboree style consisting of either 4 or 6 teams on the ice. For example, if we have our 2 red teams playing at Ben Boeke we would invite 2 other red teams from other organizations to play. There would be two half-ice games going on at once. Every 20 – 30 minutes we would rotate to play the other team. During the half-ice games there will be no "changing on the fly". There will be a buzzer every 90 – 120 seconds to change the players.

The concept of this style of play is to allow players to think faster, play on a more appropriate sized ice surface and to increase playing time and puck touches. I encourage all of you to check out the USA Hockey website at [www.usahockey.com/ADMKIds.aspx](http://www.usahockey.com/ADMKIds.aspx).

It is our goal as an association to provide the very best environment and opportunity for your kids to learn and develop a passion for the game of hockey and to follow the guidelines USA Hockey has established in the American Development Model (ADM).

Evaluations are tentatively scheduled for the middle to the end of August. Stay tuned to the association website [www.alaskaallstars.org](http://www.alaskaallstars.org) for more information.

If any of you have questions please feel free to contact me at [nlrocheleau@acsalaska.net](mailto:nlrocheleau@acsalaska.net).

Nathan Rocheleau

Thank you for your continued support and participation with the Alaska All Stars Hockey Association!!!