

Hello Parents of Mustang Hockey Association,

As some of you may know we are entering into a new era of U8 (mite) hockey for the upcoming 2013-14 season. Our U8 players will be broken into 3 groups which are red, white, and blue. Basically the red team will be our highest ability players then white and blue. During our normal evaluation process we will determine how many teams we will have at each level. It is my assumption that we would have 1 red team and 2 teams each at the white and blue levels. Please do not take this to be the exact breakdown. The teams will be smaller in size with somewhere between 8-12 players per team to allow for more ice time and involvement. Over the winter a group was formed 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. The format for games will be in a jamboree style. For example, if we have our red team playing at the MAC Center we would invite 3 other red teams from other organizations to play. There would be 2 games going on at once. Every 20 minutes we would rotate to play another team to allow all the teams to play each other. During the games there will not be "changing on the fly". There will be a buzzer every 90 seconds to change the players. This is similar to mini-mite hockey which most of you are familiar with.

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. I encourage all of you to check out the USA Hockey website at http://www.usahockey.com/ADMKids_CoachesRWB.aspx

There are more details to come on this exciting time for U8 hockey. We will be having a rather large parent meeting during the evaluations to discuss the future of this program. It is our goal as an association to follow the guidelines USA Hockey has established in the American Development Model (ADM).

If any of you have questions please feel free to contact me at bl_swanson@hotmail.com or 727-1197.

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