

NEWTON YOUTH HOCKEY

RETURN TO PLAY INFORMATION SESSION

MITES

AUGUST 26, 2020



WWW.NEWTONYOUTHOCKEY.COM



INSTRUCTIONS

- Mute your microphone
- Enter any questions you have in the chat
- Be aware that this session is being recorded



AGENDA

- Mite Welcome and Overview
- Return to Play Guidelines
 - Rink Rules
 - Modifications to Practices & Games
 - Additional COVID Policies & Procedures
- Expectations for Players & Families
- Q & A



NYH GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Creating a safe, positive, welcoming, and encouraging atmosphere for all participants and families
- Providing a pathway for the development of skills, teamwork, and positive values
- Giving all players an opportunity to compete



MITE HOCKEY

- Follows USA Hockey's ADM model, focusing on skill development and age-appropriate small area (cross ice) games
- All Mites practice together, moving from station to station
- Games are 4v4 plus a goalie; shift changes every 2 minutes on a buzzer; rosters kept intentionally small
- All kids play all positions (2 week goalie rotation)
- League adjusts divisions to create parity during season



MITE HOCKEY

- Still need coaching volunteers at the Mite level – please send me an email if you're willing to help out
- Will also need team managers / volunteers to help with COVID rink protocols (more on that later)
- Withdrawals, survey results, and lack of coaches necessitate adjustment from 4 to 3 teams
 - Still assessing best way to cut group in half for practices while building connections within teams



RINKS

- Maximum one spectator allowed per child (doesn't include coach) – Fessenden is starting the season with no spectators for games or practices
- Players should arrive as ready to go as possible, generally no more than 10-15 minutes ahead of session
- Fessenden – parents of younger kids can come in to drop off / tie skates
- Rinks will have one-way entrance/exit paths
- Sign-in will be required at rinks to enable contact tracing



RINKS (CONTINUED)

- Coaches, refs, and spectators require masks at all times
- Players may remove masks during play, but must wear them on the bench and when taking face-offs
- Locker rooms – max 50% capacity, Fessenden's are closed
- Player benches – modified for 6 ft distancing or dividers
- Frequent cleaning between use – bench area, locker rooms if in use, all public areas



PRACTICES

- Capacity limits of 25 at each end of the ice - NYH will be substantially below this
- Two groups on ice will keep at least 14 feet between them
- No shared water bottles (same applies to games)
- Mite practices focus on skill development and fun!



GAME MODIFICATIONS - MITES

- Quick whistles to avoid scrums
- Modified face-offs with masks
- Distancing and masks required on bench
- Coaches and refs require masks
- Recommend no more than 2 Mite coaches on bench



POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- League and rinks will be logging players for contact tracing
- Stay-at-home guidelines similar to school (& please tell us)
- If someone is sick:
 - Individual is to notify us immediately, alert the board of health, and follow MA guidelines to isolate for 10 days
 - NYH will the notify team of a positive test (but won't identify the individual)
 - The team may continue play unless told by board of health to quarantine (NYH may assess the situation and take a more conservative approach)
 - Player cannot return until symptoms gone AND they test negative
- NYH encourages everyone to err on the side of caution



SCHEDULING

- Mite games begin the weekend of Sept 26
- Preliminary weekday practice schedule complete - plan to keep as consistent as possible
- Coach-led practices Tuesdays @ 5pm
- High-school coaches lead skills sessions Thursdays @ 5pm
- Weekend practices get filled in around game schedules
- Limitations at rinks may require flexibility/movement to ensure adequate ice for all teams



EXPECTATIONS

- Follow the rules put in place
- Never feel obligated to attend
- Let hockey be a positive presence in your child's life
- Be flexible
- Please help out if possible!



PREPARING FOR THE SEASON

- USA Hockey registration – confirmation # in NYH profile
- Tuition payments up to date (\$700 to date)
- Shopping list:
 - Make sure skates & equipment fit
 - Walkable skate guards
 - Comfortable face covering / gaiter + a backup
 - Extra water bottle
 - Strapless mouth guard (not required for Mites)



ADDITIONAL INFO

- USA Hockey - Hockey is Back Safety Protocols

[https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/30f9-2233903/Hockey is Back - Safety Protocols FINAL.pdf](https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/30f9-2233903/Hockey%20is%20Back%20-%20Safety%20Protocols%20FINAL.pdf)

- USA Hockey – Player Safety Resources

<https://www.usahockey.com/playersafety>

- Mass Hockey Return to Rinks slides

[https://cdn3.sportngin.com/attachments/document/80bb-2233925/Mass Hockey Gameplay RRM.pdf](https://cdn3.sportngin.com/attachments/document/80bb-2233925/Mass%20Hockey%20Gameplay%20RRM.pdf)

- Mass Hockey COVID Resources

<https://www.mahockey.org/hockeyresources>