

Welcome to the Sauk Rapids Youth Hockey Association.

This handout will help answer some initial questions regarding Sauk Rapids Youth Hockey Association (SRYHA). The association uses its website – www.saukrapidshockey.org – as the primary means of communication. Check the website for updates, schedule changes and any other SRYHA related information.

Our objectives at the Intro to Hockey and MiniMites levels are:

1. Enjoyable introduction and experience in hockey and our Association
2. Provide a healthy environment for fun and learning
3. Teach the basic fundamental skills
4. Stress participation, fun, and skill development
5. Development of communication at the players' level of learning
6. Introduction to games

What is the difference between “Intro to Hockey” and MiniMite/Mite?

Intro to Hockey is the program designed for first-year skaters in our Association. This program is the start. Whether your player – girl or boy – has never put on skates or has only messed around on the ice for a few years, all skaters are welcome. An emphasis is placed on basic hockey skating fundamentals and having fun. The Intro to Hockey program runs from early October until the end of the calendar year. At the end of December, Intro to Hockey players can elect to end their skating for the season or continue on. If they elect to continue on, they will be placed on a MiniMite or Mite team. The teams are formed based on ability and your skater will start playing like skilled teams from other Associations. Coaches for our programs focus on introduction to:

- Hockey fundamentals
- Skating skills
- Puck handling
- Passing and receiving
- Shooting

The use of multiple coaches, fun games, and cross ice/small game activities in these programs ensure an active, varied learning environment for your young skater.

When will my player skate?

It is our Association's goal to have a consistent set schedule for Intro to Hockey and MiniMite programs. Intro to Hockey and MiniMite players practice on Monday nights (5:30 pm) and Saturday mornings (9:15 am). The practices, once scheduled, are set and do not often vary. Starting in January, MiniMite games are typically scheduled on Sunday afternoons. Minor scheduling variations may occur. All practices take place at the Sports Arena East (SAE).

What equipment does my player need?

Skates, shin pads, protective/pelvic cup, shoulder pads, elbow pads, gloves, breezers, mouth guard, helmet with full face shield, socks and hockey stick. Area equipment resellers, such as, (1) Hockeyzone; (2) Scheels; (3) Centennial Sports; and (4) Play it Again Sports may help you determine the correct size equipment for your player. Your player will receive one practice jersey at the beginning of the season, which is theirs to keep. If your player continues on for the second half of the season, they will also be issued one game jersey that is to be returned at the end of the season. Game jerseys are only to be worn during games, not practices.

What does it cost to play hockey?

In addition to your initial registration fee, the Intro to Hockey program is \$50.00 per month from October through December. Players pay for ice time in advance. If your player decides to continue on to MiniMites, the monthly fees are based on actual MiniMites ice time. The cost of the ice time is divided among all team

members, thereby determining monthly cost per skater. Last year's MiniMite fees were between \$35.00 to \$50.00 per month; costs vary.

Will I have to sell items to raise funds for the Association?

Yes. There are two fundraisers scheduled for the hockey season. The first is the sale of Herberger discount coupons. This fundraiser is required for Intro to Hockey and MiniMite skaters. There is a second, larger fundraiser later in the season. It is a required fundraiser only for those who elect to continue on in the MiniMite program starting in January. In each fundraiser, players are expected to sell a minimum number of items.

Will I have to volunteer my time to the Association?

Yes. SRYHA operates the concession stand at Sports Arena East as a means of fundraising for the Association. Staffing the concession stand is the responsibility of each parent and is considered mandatory volunteer hours by SRYHA. More information is available on the website. Your MiniMite Program Coordinator or the concession stand scheduler can give you an orientation. Concession stand volunteering basically consists of selling soda, coffee, and other concession stand items to spectators at the arena. Volunteering is also a great way to get involved and meet other parents in the Association.

If you plan to have your player continue to play hockey past their first season, there are also summer volunteering opportunities available that can reduce your required volunteer concession stand hours for the next season.

MiniMites and Mites host and participate in a tournament or "Jamboree" at the end of the season. This tournament brings together 20+ teams throughout Minnesota. The tournament proceeds are used to offset a portion of the following year's MiniMite and Mite ice time. All MiniMite and Mite families need to work a set number of hours during this tournament.

How can my opinion be heard in the association?

This is YOUR Association. Please take the time to get involved. The General Association Meeting is open to ALL parents. Past minutes for the SRYHA Executive Board and the SRYHA General meetings are available by clicking on the "Board Mtg Minutes" tab on the left navigation panel of the website.

How can I be more involved in the association?

1. Coach - SRYHA is always looking for assistant coaches at all levels. All coaches are volunteers. What better way to be involved with your children than to be out on the ice with them. **NO EXPERIENCE** necessary! Even if you cannot skate we can always use help on the bench during games. Certification is easy and informative.
2. Be a team manager – Help with communications and team/game/tourney preparation.
3. Contact the executive board for currently open positions in the association. Please see the website for information on any of these opportunities.

Thank you. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me.

Let's play hockey!

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