



Date: August 2010

To: Gold and Silver Mite Parents and Players

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Welcome to the 2010-2011 hockey season!!!! I want to welcome returning parents and players. I also want to welcome everyone who is new to the Sabre program. Enclosed is information about the upcoming season. This information is not all inclusive, but should provide you the direction we are taking for this season. Please frequently look at the Sabre website, www.sabrehockey.com, for updates and any changes that might develop. Should anyone have any questions about this information or anything else, do not hesitate to contact me.

Preseason:

Evaluations for the house programs are the week of Sept 5th. For these evaluations, your child will be evaluated by our coaching staff, and placed within the appropriate program. A couple of goals for our house programs are to promote skill development with each player and to have balanced teams. At this level, we try to ensure that no team is “stacked” with the best players.

We are currently in the process of selecting head and assistant coaches. If you have interest in becoming a coach, please contact me so we can discuss what options are available. All coaches will need to be registered for a USA Hockey Coach’s Class in order to assist with any on-ice instruction.

Each team will be looking for a team manager. For more information on the role of the team manager, please look at the last page of this handout. For those of you who wish to get more involved with the Sabre organization in a different manner, I encourage you to talk to myself or Tim Monroe. We are always looking for good people to get involved and take the Sabre program to the next level.

The Gold Mite Program plays their games through the Northwest Hockey League (NWHL). If your child is playing Gold Mite, I would encourage you to visit their website. This can be viewed through the Sabre website and click on the “links” icon.

The philosophy of the NWHL is balanced ice time for all skaters with an emphasis on skill development. Gold Mite practices will be twice per week (1 split and 1 full). One practice will consistently be on

Thursday nights at All Seasons while the other practice day will vary. Home games will be at All Seasons or the Rocket in Bolingbrook. Game days and times will vary and be determined at the NWHL coach's scheduling meeting. The day and time of this meeting to be determined.

The **Gold** Mite season is divided into three tiering rounds. The first tiering round consists of six games. Depending on your team's record after these six games, you may be re-tiered for your 12 regular season games. Teams can also be re-tiered for the play-offs. The goal of each tiering round is to attempt to have as close to even parity in each division. More information on this will be in the upcoming weeks.

The **Silver** Mite Program is the Sabre's in-house hockey program. Our season is structured with split-ice practice times at All Seasons or the Rocket. Games will be played between the silver mite teams.

For both Gold and Silver Mites, skills sessions will occur every other week. More information will be coming on this, but always feel free to check the Sabre website or call/email me with any questions.

For Gold Mites, goalie clinics will be every other Monday at the Rocket. We will also be doing a special monthly goalie clinic for SM starting in October. Once the teams have been selected, each coach will contact you and let you know their upcoming practice schedule.

For Silver Mites Only – tentative ice schedule looks as follows:

All Season Teams

Monday skills***

Wed or Fri practice slot

Sat afternoon or early evening home game slot

*** - occurs every other week.

Rocket Teams

Monday skills***

Tuesday practice slot

Sunday morning home game slot

1st Period (September - October 2010)

Gold Mites:

- All games follow USA Hockey and NWHL rules.
- **Remember:** neck guards **must** be worn for all games!!!!

Silver Mites:

- We encourage one coach to be on the ice to assist players with positioning for all games.
- Games are one hour in length. Depending on the flow of the game, the third period length maybe longer or shorter than the first two periods.
- Each line will play two-minute running clock shifts. The goal being equal ice time for all players.
- Games will start the weekend of October 9th. For Oct. 9 – 23rd, all games will be cross ice. On October 30th, the players will be having a full ice game. Off sides and icing will be called immediately although the rule interpretation maybe “loose” as many of the players have not been exposed to the rule beforehand.
- Officials are on the ice for each game and they will conduct all face-offs.
- Penalties will be called at this time. If there is a penalty, that player will be replaced on the ice by another player on his team. .

Other items:

- Friday, October 22, 2010 - Annual Sabre Dinner/Auction and Casino Night Fundraiser. Mark this date on your calendars as I would love to see everyone there. For the fundraiser, we are encouraging each team to provide an item(s) to be auctioned. Talk to your head coach for further details.
- Information on team pictures will be forthcoming.

2nd Period (November - December 2010)

Silver Mites:

- As the season progresses, we will look to incorporate more full ice games. November 6th and 13th will incorporate cross ice games while the 20th and 27th will be full ice.
- December game schedule will be one cross ice game on December 4th and two full ice games on the 11th and 18th. During December, we will no longer be using the two minute, continuous shift as players will line up with stoppages in play as well as “on the fly.” Coaches will no longer be on the ice.
- During the holidays, we will be looking to do a Mite Jamboree. More information will come on this in the upcoming months.

3rd Period (January 2011 – March)

Silver Mites:

- All games will be full ice with USA Hockey rules. .

Other items:

- This year we will be doing a Gold and Silver Mite Skills Competition. More details to follow in the upcoming months.
- Season ending banquet. More info to follow.

Overtime (March and beyond)

The fall and winter season may be over, but for those of you who eat, sleep, and drink hockey, the Sabres offer several other opportunities for your child to continue to develop their skills and stay involved with hockey. To name a few:

- Spring League Travel hockey
- Mega and Mighty Mites at All Seasons
- 3-on-3 in the summer at All Seasons
- Private lessons with Coach Chelios and Coach Green

Team Manager Responsibilities:

Gold Mite:

- Attending the scheduling meeting and arranging the game schedule.
- Reporting and sending in team score sheets to NWHL.
- Distributing uniforms and maintaining goalie equipment.
- Maintaining team information on Sabre Website.
- Coordinating team activities, for example: pizza parties, tournaments.
- Checking team communication folder at The Rocket.
- Encourage families to get involved in the organization: put together a raffle item for the auction, go to the golf outing.

Silver Mite:

- Turning in game sheets to Mite Coordinator folder at All Seasons.
- Distributing uniforms and maintaining goalie equipment.
- Maintaining team information on Sabre Website.
- Coordinating team activities ie: pizza parties, tournaments.
- Checking team communication folder at All Seasons.
- Encourage families to get involved in the organization: put together a raffle item for the auction, go to the golf outing.