

Siouxland Youth Hockey Association (SYHA)

Mites Travel Policy



The SYHA Mites program aligns with ADM principles that prioritize age, appropriate development, fun, and long-term retention, while providing flexible pathways for all skill levels. In aligning with the ADM principles, SYHA offers families multiple paths to participate in Mite hockey including House League, travel, or both. For detailed ADM resources, please visit www.admkids.com or www.usahockey.com.

Program Structure

- **Communication.** During the first month of the season, communication from coaches and coordinators will include travel details such as approximate costs, tournament locations, and the date by which you must sign up.
- **Player Assessment.** Coaches regularly evaluate player progression and will classify players as advanced (A), intermediate (B), and beginner (C).
- **Travel Team Placement.** The head coach and Director of Hockey Operations (DOHO) will oversee the team placement process and communicate a clear timeline to families, ensuring fair and transparent placement. Final approval rests with the SYHA Board of Directors (BOD). There is no appeal. Rosters are finalized by December 31.
- **Travel Cost.** Travel fees include tournament, friendly game, and flex practice ice costs and will be **separate from and in addition to SYHA registration fees**. Fees are assessed evenly to all travel players.
- **Travel Timeline.** Travel tournaments may start around the middle of November, with emphasis remaining on Saturday House League games until January 1.
- **Travel Locations.** Travel may include overnight jamborees/tournaments and friendship games located within an approximate 3-hour radius of Sioux City to support family accessibility and reduce travel burden. Generally, teams travel to the same tournaments.
- **Rostering.** All travel teams require an approved, certified roster submitted through the SYHA registrar for every game and/or tournament.



Game Expectations

- **Game Structure.** Games are played 4 v 4, half ice or cross ice.
- **Approximate Game Totals.** For all Mites travel teams, SYHA aims for 20-24 games per season. This includes approximately 3 away tournaments, friendlies, and our home tournament. These totals align with ADM recommendations for 8U/ Mites, emphasizing quality over quantity with half ice, high puck touches, and fun focused development. Tournaments will count as a maximum of 4 games.
- **Friendlies.** Travel teams under 24 games may schedule nearby scrimmages (non-overnight travel), provided they do not conflict with Saturday House League games. Friendlies help to ensure a similar total game exposure across teams, while prioritizing local/regional play.
- **SYHA Home Tournament.** All SYHA Mites will participate and play in the SYHA Mite home tournament.

Additional Guidelines

- Exceptions to any policy listed above shall be submitted to the SYHA BOD for review and consideration.
- All tournament schedules require BOD approval.
- Any additional costs arising from submitted and approved changes to original schedules will be split evenly between players.
- Fundraising ideas to offset travel costs may be submitted to the Fundraising Committee for approval.
- USA Hockey requires birth certificates for age verification.

Sample Schedules

- 4 away tournaments + 1 home tournament + 4 friendship games
- 3 away tournaments + 1 home tournament + 8 friendship games