

October 14, 2006

Dear Midget Players/Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a new year of hockey. If you are new to the Midget level, you may notice things are different from you used to. There aren't any practices. Past history has indicated that kids at this age aren't interested in practicing; they only want to play games. Booking ice time for practices was a waste because not many showed up. You may be surprised by how short the bench is at times. Lots of midget players have jobs, lots of homework and other sport commitments. Less parents are present at games because a) the kid drives himself to the rink, or b) it's past their bedtime if it's the late Sunday night timeslot.

Our ice times remain fairly constant – we have 2 hours of ice Thursday evenings (7-9 pm) and 3 hours on Sundays (7 – 10 pm). We may get bumped once in a while but Wayne does his best to make sure we make up that extra ice time. The six teams will take turns rotating through that 2 hour Thursday time slot.

After some initial confusion (I apologize for that), the format for league games will be 2 – 15 minute stop time periods followed by a run time period with whatever time is remaining until your 50 minutes is up. That's right – the rink attendant should be blowing the horn at 10 minutes to the hour signaling the end of the 50 minutes. We may get some games where the ice time allotted is longer. Adjust the clock accordingly.

We need parents to run the time clock for games. The way it has been done in the past is the home team finds someone to run the clock. Who is the home team you ask? Well, I have made an executive decision that whatever team is on the left hand side of the schedule is the home team.....ie Coney Island Blues vs Can Tire Red. Coney Island, you win the honour of running the clock.

We will have playoffs this year. I have already spoken to Wayne about this. Look forward to playing off for all the glory at year end.

We have had a terrible time trying to round up enough sweaters for all our teams this year. Thanks to the Equipment Manager, Myke Argue, for keeping his sense of humour throughout that whole ordeal. If by chance you find a sweater in your player's bag from last year, please turn it into one of the coaches or to me. We are hoping to get two new sets of sweaters to replace the Canadian Tire Red and Black ones we currently have.

Pictures are scheduled for October 21st at J & M Arena. We will NOT be doing group pictures for Midget – last year I could count on one hand how many showed up from my son's team for the group shot. The picture was hilarious. There will still be time booked for individual shots of Midget players if they want one. More information will be available shortly regarding picture packages. We are planning on having team shots done during our tournament in February.

Speaking of tournaments....our tournament weekend is Feb 23, 24 and 25th. I will be looking for some help with that. More info closer to the date. Please note that the deadline for travel permits for out of town tournaments is November 15th. Your coaches may be asking you for feedback very shortly regarding which tournament to attend.

I'm sure it won't come as a surprise to many of you that the new rules will apply to minor hockey games as well. Officials will be calling lots of stuff they didn't before. You may not agree with all of their calls, but please be respectful of our referees; they are doing the best they can.

Finally, I hope this will be a fun and successful year for all players. Thanks to our coaches for stepping up and volunteering their time. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns and I will do my best to help out.

Carla
Midget Convenor

Cranston

