

8U (Mite) Program & Evaluation Process

8U (Mite) Evaluation Process:

The process of evaluating 8U (Mites) and placing them on a team is slightly different than our tryout process for the 10U (Squirt), 12U (Peewee) and 14U (Bantam) levels.

- We start by splitting our group of 8U (Mites) (which can be a large group) approximately in half alphabetically by last name for the first couple of sessions, generally A-K and L-Z or by birth year.
- These alphabetical sessions are used for warm up sessions as well as skills sessions and are essentially practices for the players. These sessions are strictly used to help separate the kids for further evaluation so they can practice with like skilled players.
- All alphabetical sessions will be evaluated by current 8U (Mite), 6U (Learn to Play), 10U (Squirt) level coaches, HDC or non-affiliated evaluators to get the kids aligned by skill level to properly evaluate them further.
- After these first sessions by alphabetic last name are complete, the evaluation results are used to divide the kids in half, based on their skill level – Group 1 Advanced/Intermediate and Group 2 Intermediate/Beginner.
- Parents will receive an email and/or will be posted on the website which group to attend for the next ‘like skilled’ sessions. Players will remain in these like skilled groups through October.
- In mid-October, a meeting is then held with all potential 8U (Mite) coaches and the 8U (Mite) Level Coordinator from the Hockey Development Committee (HDC) as well as other members of the HDC. At this meeting, based on the results, the decision of how many teams is made and who will coach those teams. The HDC reserves the right to make final decisions, pending approval of the OYHA Committee. Team placements will be announced at the beginning of November.
- If more than one team exists at a particular skill level (Red, White, or Blue) the players will be split equally between the teams based on the evaluation process. With the white teams we decided not to split evenly but instead to have a W1 and W2 with the 9 - 18 (for example assuming teams of 9-10) on W1 and 19 - 26 on White 2.

- We try to accommodate parent requests for their players, but cannot guarantee that these requests can be fulfilled. Should a player desire to play with a friend who is not of 'like skill' level (example: 1 is a Red and 1 is a White level player) that player on upper level (in this example Red) must move down to the lower level (in this example White).
- Families will be notified of the results via an email or website by the beginning of November.
- The Learn to Play Director and 8U (Mite) coaches will work together to evaluate players and make determinations if players should move up to 8U (Mites) based on their skill level. These moves will be based on space, careful consideration, and the approval from the HDC. See the 6U (Learn to Play (LTP)) Play Up Policy for full details on policy.