



SHAKER  
HEIGHTS



## [Frequently Asked Questions for Shaker Youth Hockey](#)

### [Mighty Mite \(FAQ's\)](#)

#### [What is a "Mighty Mite"?](#)

This is an age category (4-5) for ice hockey players who are generally just beginning to play the game.

#### [What is the goal or focus of youth Mighty Mite hockey in Shaker?](#)

The goal of youth Mighty Mite hockey is to provide proper hockey instruction in a safe and fun environment. The focus of Mighty Mite hockey is on teaching the basic skills of hockey, including skating forward and backward, stick-handling, passing, puck control, shooting, positioning, teamwork, and good sportsmanship. It is important that each child feels he or she is an integral part of the team, has equal time on the ice, and has a tremendous amount of fun playing hockey.

#### [What equipment will my child need to play hockey?](#)

Athletic supporter	Garter belt	Shin pads	Socks
Hockey Pants	Skates	Shoulder Pads	
Elbow pads	Practice or game jersey	Gloves	
Mouth guard	Helmet	Stick	

Many families borrow or purchase used equipment at first until their son or daughter makes a commitment. A full set of new equipment for a Mighty Mite can cost in the range of \$125-\$200 depending on where you buy it. The helmet and gloves are the most important protective items. Good quality, properly-sized skates make learning to skate easier. "Play It Again" sports stores usually have a good selection of used skates and equipment. Shaker Youth Hockey Association has a storage room with some used equipment. Please ask the help of Shaker Youth Hockey Coordinator Caleb Wyse.

### *Is the sport of hockey safe for my child?*

Youth hockey is a relatively safe sport, especially at younger ages such as Mighty Mite where no checking (intentional collisions or hitting) is allowed although incidental contact does occur. Each skater must wear protective equipment. Coaches, referees and parents make safety a top priority on the ice and in the locker rooms. While injuries in any sport can and do occur studies have shown that at the youngest age groups hockey is safe for children.

### *Is the Mighty Mite hockey program open to girls?*

Yes. Both boys and girls are encouraged to play. At the Mighty Mite level, the boys and girls play together. Beyond the Mite program, there are youth teams (Squirt, Peewee or Bantam made up of mostly boys) or girls' only teams which include Spring Sugar and Spice and Ohio Flames.

### *At what age can my child start to skate in a hockey program?*

There is no minimum age at which your child can participate. However, it is highly recommended that your child be at least four years old. A skater's birth date should be on or after July 1, 2004, in order to participate in the Mighty Mite program in 2008-2009.

### *What will it cost for my child to play hockey?*

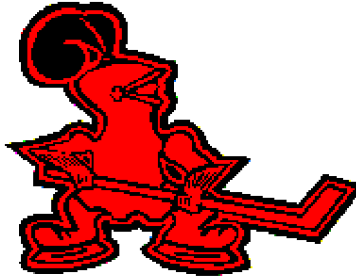
Ice hockey can be expensive - but the costs are much lower for Mighty Mites than for the older groups. Each local youth hockey association has its own fee structure for its players. Fees for Mighty Mite skaters generally range from \$125 to \$250. Please check with City of Shaker Heights and Shaker Youth Hockey Coordinator to obtain exact fee amounts and whether monthly payments may be arranged. The City of Shaker Heights and Shaker Youth Hockey Association want your family to play with us and we'll do everything we can to make it possible!

### *What happens if my child changes his or her mind after the first couple of months?*

It is understood that some children may begin to play hockey and decide they don't like it and want to quit. The City of Shaker Heights has a policy that a child may drop from the program at any time during the season. Fees will need to be paid up to the time the child leaves the program. If fees have been paid in advance, a refund for unused fees may be made.

### *What is the commitment level that will be required for my child to play hockey?*

Mighty Mites will skate on Saturdays from 10am-10:45am during the fall / winter hockey season. Skills sessions are provided through out the season and spring. Each player also receives a skating pass to attend public sessions.



### *Is there a volunteer time commitment for the parents/guardians?*

A commitment is necessary to bring your skater to practices and scrimmages throughout the season. Allow an extra 15-30 minutes before practice to help your skater into the equipment and lace up the skates (other parents and coaches will show you how.) As the Shaker Youth Hockey Association is a volunteer organization, parents and guardians are always encouraged to participate. Participation may take the form of a Board position, coordinating a level of play, managing a team, coaching, helping with fundraising efforts, or simply helping with a year-end banquet. Additional fundraising commitments may exist. You should check with Shaker Youth Hockey Association to find out whether they have a specific volunteer time requirements.

### *Who will be coaching my child?*

The Shaker Mighty Mites are coached by Shaker High School Varsity Head Coach Mike Bartley. Coach Bartley has coached the high school team and been involved in the youth hockey program for over 30 years. All coaches must undergo a standard background check as required by USA Hockey and City of Shaker Heights. Coaches must be certified by USA Hockey. If you are interested in becoming a coach, please talk to the Shaker Youth Hockey Coordinator.

### *What levels of play are available, and how are teams selected?*

Generally, beginning skaters will participate in the instructional Mighty-Mite program. There are also C, B and A levels of Mite play, depending on the skill level of each skater. Skaters are placed at the appropriate level of play by the coaches.

### *Where will my child play?*

Most of the practices are held at Shaker Heights Thornton Park. There are times when practices can be held at another rink. Shaker Youth Hockey Association buys ice time from other arenas to give their players more practice time.

### *How will my child get to and from practices and scrimmages?*

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to transport his or her child to practices and scrimmages. Often time's skaters will car pool with other skaters who are on the same team.

### *What is the ratio of practices to scrimmages?*

Generally, our mighty mites play games closer to the end of the season to ensure players are developed enough to compete with other teams.

*How long is the hockey season?*

The season generally runs from late August through early March.

*Can I come to a practice and check things out?*

Yes. Watching a practice will give you an idea of the skills necessary to play at that level, how Coach Bartley conducts the practice, and generally what youth hockey is all about. Coaches and parents are always willing to talk with new parents and skaters or call Caleb Wyse, Shaker Youth Hockey Coordinator at 216-491-2581.

If you any other questions about our Mighty Mite program feel free to call the Shaker Youth Hockey Coordinator, Caleb Wyse @ 216491-2581

