

August 16, 2006

## **SKATING UP POLICY SUPPLEMENT**

USA Hockey designates the Mite age grouping as “8 & Under”. Most USA Hockey age groupings contain two birth years, such that typical Mites would be 7 or 8 years old. There may be instances, however, when a typical Atom age player (5 or 6 year old) wishes to skate on the ESHA Mite team.

Because USA Hockey designates the Mite age grouping as “8 & Under”, ESHA does not consider an Atom age player who skates as a Mite as “skating up” as such term is used in ESHA’s Skating Up Policy. In other words, an Atom age player who skates on the Mite team does not need to pursue an appeal in order to skate on such team. However, ESHA does not support allowing an Atoms age player to skate as a Mite if the Mite team will impose any cuts which would remove appropriate age Mites from the ESHA travel program.

To facilitate the administration of Atom age players (and their parents) who wish to skate at the Mite level, the following actions must take place:

- The Atoms coach should agree with the player graduation to Mites
- The Mite coach must agree with the placement of such player on his/her team and the coach must be in agreement that no other Mite age player will be cut

It is acknowledged that allowing an Atoms age player to skate on the Mite team may marginally reduce the ice time for existing Mite players. The ESHA board is comfortable with this result so long as any ice time reduction for regular age Mite players is on the margin (i.e., the result must be reasonable). Coaches must explain their ice time philosophy to the parents at the beginning of the season and then make certain their actions support the words.