



8U (Mite Tryouts)

MLHA tryout dates are still to be determined as a result of the guidance we are following from USA Hockey and designated health care authorities. We are continuing to provide information on the organization's various age groups for interested families in anticipation of those dates being announced in the future.

The 8U level tryout is designed to assess the talent of the kids participating to form initial team units. The goal of tryouts at this age level is to allow every kid the opportunity to develop against peers of the same skill level throughout the season. The main tenant of this skill division is to ensure players develop through increased puck touches, passes and shots on goal. The result of the tryout process is to place kids on a team where they can have success and develop a passion for the great game of hockey.

At the conclusion of the 2-day tryout we will post teams on our website (MLHAHornets.com) by jersey number. These team units will be divided across 3 levels, Red, White, and Blue. USA Hockey, The Mt. Lebanon Hockey Association, and the Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League (PAHL) encourage movement between these levels as kids progress throughout the year, so although the team postings will serve as initial team units, movement between teams can happen as the year progress. A couple of things to note as families prepare:

- 8U registration is open now - link to register is <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/225708>
- We do not cut players in this process, but will cap registration at 110 participants - so please register quickly to secure asap
- Although we had 9 teams this past season, we expect to again have 10 teams at 8U for 2020-21 – this has been the norm for the past few seasons. The number of Red, White, and Blue teams will be determined by the tryout evaluators, the MLHA ADM Coordinator, and the MLHA VP of Hockey Operations.
- Each player will be graded on 4 main skills: skating, puck handling, shooting, and game play
- We will have 5 evaluators present at each session assessing the players skills, as well as on-ice coaches helping demonstrate the drills the kids are to complete
- After the first session (which is divided by the alphabet), we will post jersey numbers on the website to let families know which call back session each player should attend
- If your player wants to be a full-time goalie – please send a note to me at David.klasnick@gmail.com. We might ask a full-time goalie to participate in multiple sessions

The 8U (Mite) level is a ton of fun and we are excited to welcome our youngest kids into our program.

Dave Klasnick

MLHA VP of Hockey Operations

Jeremy Church

American Development Model Coordinator