

## **Minor Hockey FAQ U9 and older**

### **What equipment does my player need?**

All players will require the following equipment:

- Skates
- Helmet with cage
- Neck guard
- Shin pads
- Shoulder pads/chest protector
- Jock/Jill
- Elbow pads
- Hockey gloves
- Hockey pants
- Hockey socks (home and away colours)
- Practice jersey
- Water bottle

Please refer to this video from Hockey Canada to ensure the equipment is properly fitting:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtzUxPebp2k>

If your child is interested in playing in net, SMMHA provides goalie equipment for U9.

### **My child has special needs and wants to play hockey. What should they register for?**

SMMHA believes that everyone should have the opportunity to play hockey. Please reach out to the OMHA Registrar for more information: registrar@smmha.ca

### **What is the difference between U7 and the older divisions?**

- Teams are divided between Rep/Travel hockey and Houseleague/Local League. New for 2022-23, U9 will no longer have Rep/Travel hockey
- Hockey is divided into OWHA (girls) and OMHA (boys). Please use RAMP to register for OWHA and Spordle to register for OMHA. Links can be found on the Registration page of the SMMA website.
- Parents are expected to take on the role of running clock and doing the game sheet for all home games. Typically, this is done by the families who do not have someone on the bench staff. If you do not know how to run the clock or the game sheet, ask your child's coach or manager for opportunities to learn.

### **What is Houseleague/Local League Hockey?**

Houseleague/Local League hockey typically has 2-3 ice times per week (one practice and 1-2 games).

OMHA Local League teams are part of the Lambton Middlesex Local League which may include travel to Port Stanley, Alvinston and Forest as well as other centres closer in proximity.

OWHA Houseleague teams are part of the WOGHL league which may include travel to centres as far away as 2 hours.

Houseleague/Local League teams will take part in tournaments (local and/or away) at an additional cost to families. Teams may also be required to pay a Ref fee at the beginning of the season to cover the cost of the referees. This fee can range from \$75 - \$100 per player.

A player does not need to take part in the tryout process to be on a Houseleague/Local League team.

\*Please note that in a division that only has enough registered players for one team, the team will typically be a Rep/Travel team.

### **What is Rep/Travel Hockey?**

Rep/Travel hockey typically has 3-4 ice times per week (1-2 practices and 1-2 games). Due to the additional hour of practice time, there is an additional cost of \$265 to be on a Rep/Travel team for the 2022-23 season.

OMHA teams are part of the Shamrock hockey league which may include travel to centres as far away as 1.5 - 2 hours.

OWHA teams are part of the WOGHL league which may include travel to centres as far away as 2 hours.

Rep/Travel teams will take part in tournaments (local and/or away) throughout the season (at an additional cost to families). Teams may also be required to pay a Ref fee at the beginning of the season to cover the cost of the referees. This fee can range from \$75 - \$100 per player.

At the end of the season, all **OMHA** teams will take part in a round robin format playdown series. Winning teams will move on to a semi-final series with the hopes of taking part in a Championship tournament at the end of March/beginning of April (this will likely require travel). If a team does not move on to the semi-final series, it will take part in the Shamrock league playoffs concluding the end of March.

At the end of the season, **OWHA** teams will take part in both a playoff and playdown series. Winning teams of the playdown series will go on to compete at the OWHA Provincials tournament in the GTA at the beginning of April.

All players interested in playing Rep/Travel Hockey are required to start the tryout process with the top team of their division. There is a fee for try-outs, to cover the cost of the ice time. For the 2021-22 season, this fee was \$60.

**What will my child's schedule look like?**

The schedule will not be finalised until after Fall tryouts.

**What can I do if I have missed the registration deadline?**

Registration for the waitlist will open May 24, 2022. When a space becomes available, you will receive notification that you can move forward with registration and payment. Please refer to the Registration page on the SMMHA website for the appropriate links.

**What if my child decides they no longer want to play hockey?**

Please refer to the SMMHA refund policy found [here](#)