



**Acadia Minor Hockey Association
Coach / Manager Manual**

2025/26

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About Acadia Minor Hockey Association

Acadia Minor Hockey Association aims to provide a hockey program in a positive environment that promotes and instills the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership, respect, and community involvement. These life skills go far beyond the hockey rink to help enrich the lives of participants and ultimately our communities.

[ACADIA MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION REVISED BY-LAWS 2014](#) - (work is underway to update this document)

[COMPETITIVE TRYOUT POLICY](#)

[CODE OF CONDUCT](#)

[DRESSING ROOM POLICY](#)

[VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS](#)

[JERSEY POLICY](#)

[SAMPLE TEAM BUDGET](#)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
Board Chair	Nick Levy	nicklevy.olf@gmail.com
Board Vice Chairperson / Conflict Resolution	Murray Turner	Murrayturner61@gmail.com
Chair of Finance	Stacey Schofield	slschofield_5@hotmail.com
Chair of Communication	Sherri Pineo	amhachairofcommunications@gmail.com
Chair of Competitive / Tryouts	Keving Andrews	kevin_andrews@hotmail.com
Chair of Recreation / Female	Chelsea Uhlman	Chelseauhlman86@gmail.com
Chair of Development	Chris Flaherty	flaherty.cd@gmail.com
Chair of Risk Management	Jill Sanford	Jill.sanford@outlook.com
Chair of Physical Assets	Derek Hale	Thesepticdoc@gmail.com
Chair of Fundraising	Lacey Hiltz	laceyhiltz@outlook.com
Chair of Coach Selection	Peter Morse	Petermorse2021@gmail.com
Association Safety Rep	Julie Sutherland – Jotcham	julieamha@gmail.com
Chair of Ice Scheduling	Mark McKenzie	Markmckenzie07@gmail.com

NON-BOARD MEMBERS		
Registrar	Jill Sanford	jill.sanford@outlook.com
Timekeeper Bookings	Ben McCulley	amhatimekeepers@gmail.com
Officials Scheduler	Peter Morse	Petermorse2021@gmail.com
Technical Director	Kris MacDonald	technicaldirector@acadiaminorhockey.com

Important Dates (2025/26 Season)

Centennial Areana, 120 Webster Street, Kenville NS, 902-679-2542

Blackout Dates / No AMHA ice

- October 30 – November 2 (ALL DAY)
- February 5 (6:15 – 10:00pm)
- February 6 – 7 (ALL DAY)
- February 8 (10:00–5:00)

Andrew H. McCain Areana (Acadia), 550 Main Street, Wolfville NS

Acadia Arena alternative ice times NOT available:

- October 11 (3:20-4:50)
- October 15 – 28 (ALL DAY)
- November 1 (3:20-4:50)
- November 8 (3:20-4:50)
- November 21 – 23 (ALL DAY)
- January 10 (3:20-4:50)
- January 17 (3:20-4:50)
- January 31 (3:20-4:50)
- February 14 (3:20-4:50)

AMHA Team Structure

Minor Hockey Bench Staff shall be defined as one (1) head coach, one (1) trainer and assistant coaches up to a maximum number of bench staff (5) permitted on the bench. A minimum of two (2) certified bench staff must be on the bench to start any game.

Teams may request permission for extra bench staff with all costs of the additional member(s) to be covered by the team.

Each team shall be entitled to a maximum of 20 players, at least two of whom must be goaltenders (HNS Regulation 2:15).

A minimum of twelve (11 skaters + 1 goalie) players in uniform shall be necessary for the start of any regular season league game. Teams with less than 11 + 1 can play but have permission to reschedule league games if they need to (not including tournaments). In Provincial playoff games, any team dressing less than 11 + 1 will forfeit the game.

Volunteer Requirements

Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Managers, Trainers, and Room Monitors must meet the required Hockey Nova Scotia certifications.

[Coaching Requirements | Hockey Nova Scotia](#)

Important Note: Any team staff that does not have their required certifications completed by **December 1st** will automatically be suspended by Hockey Nova Scotia. This means that you cannot be on the ice or fulfill your duties until ALL certifications are completed.

If you were removed from the ice last season and did not complete your certifications, you are not permitted to return to the ice this current season until ALL certifications are completed.

Bench Staff refers to Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or Trainer. Members of the bench staff must be at least 16 years of age.

On-ice Helper refers to currently registered players of HNS or Hockey Canada that help with younger age groups on the ice. These players are not required to be on the team list; however, they are not permitted on the bench during games. [On-ice helper policy](#)

***U13 and below on-ice helpers MUST wear full-gear. All other helpers above U13 are to wear a CSA-certified helmet (with chinstrap fastened and appropriate facial protection for the player's level of play) and a neck guard.

Trainers are not permitted on the ice for practice other than to attend to an injured player. Teams may list more than one (1) trainer although only one (1) trainer is permitted on the bench in any game.

Dressing Room Monitor: someone who is listed on the official team roster and is used for assistance with the Rule of Two in the dressing room before and after games.

QuickStart / IP / U9

Team	Head Coach	Assistant Coach	Manager	Room Supervisor
Coach 1	*	*		
Hockey Canada Safety (Q3Y)	At least one on-ice volunteer			
CRC/VSC (Q3Y)	*	*	*	*
The Shift Forward	*	*	*	*
Emergency First Aid	At least one on-ice volunteer			
CPR Level C & AED	At least one on-ice volunteer			

U11 / U13 / U15 / U18 Teams (see exceptions below)

	Head Coach	Assistant Coach	Trainer	Manager	Room Supervisor
Coach 2	*	*			
Hockey Canada Safety (Q3Y)	*	*	*	*	
CRC/VSC (Q3Y)	*	*	*	*	*
The Shift Forward	*	*	*	*	*
Emergency First Aid	At least one approved bench staff				
CPR Level C & AED	At least one approved bench staff				

U13AAA / U15AA

	Head Coach	Assistant Coach	Trainer	Manager	Room Supervisor
Development 1	*				
Coach 2		*			
Hockey Canada Safety (Q3Y)	*	*	*	*	
CRC/VSC (Q3Y)	*	*	*	*	*
The Shift Forward	*	*	*	*	*
Emergency First Aid	At least one approved bench staff				
CPR Level C & AED	At least one approved bench staff				

How to get certified:

- **Coaching Courses (Coach 1, Coach 2, Development 1)**

To register for either of these courses you must first be rostered with an Acadia Minor Hockey team. These courses do not expire.

In alignment with Hockey Canada's coaching standards, U13AAA and U15AA Head Coaches require Development 1.

<https://register.hockeycanada.ca/clinics>

- **Hockey Canada Safety**

This course is valid for three seasons.

<https://register.hockeycanada.ca/clinics>

- **Criminal Record Check / Vulnerable Sector Check (CRC/VSC)**

Valid for 3 years. Please check your Hockey Canada account or contact Risk Management Chair to confirm checks are up to date.

Please print letter and submit to your local detachment. Once you have your CRC/VSC completed, please email a copy to Risk Management Chair at jill.sanford@outlook.com

Submitted CRC/VSC must be dated no later than May 1 of current year to be approved/accepted by HNS.

- **The Shift Forward**

Replacing Respect in Sport, effective June 25, 2025.

Players, coaches, rostered staff, parents/guardians, and officials will have different mandatory courses required from The Shift Forward: Evolving Hockey Culture. As the next phase of the program is being developed, more information will be shared at a later date.

In an effort to support a successful transition to The Shift Forward, Hockey Canada will continue to recognize existing training as an equivalent as part of a multi-year phase before all participants engaging with hockey will be required to participate in the national education and training courses.

<https://register.hockeycanada.ca/clinics>

- **Emergency First Aid / CPR Level C / AED Training**

Emergency First Aid, CPR Level C, and AED certification remains effective with HNS until the conclusion of the hockey year coinciding with its expiration. For example, if your certification expires in 2026 it will be honored until the end of the 2025/26 season.

Certification must be sent to info@hockeynovascotia.ca. Please include your full name, hockey association, and date of birth in your email.

FEES

Only **approved** rostered coaches, assistant coaches, managers, and trainers will be reimbursed following the December 1st deadline.

Must complete reimbursement google form on AMHA website.

- Coach 1 - \$75
- Coach 2 - \$75
- Development 1 \$125
- Hockey Canada Safety - \$50
- The Shift Forward - \$25, paid directly to Hockey Nova Scotia. *Does not qualify for reimbursement.*

Protective Equipment / Insurance / Safety

All players will wear protective equipment (including a neck guard) at any time in the field of play during practice, pre-game, and games. Any injured player that chooses to sit on the bench during a game must wear a CSA certified helmet and neck guard.

All coaches and assistant coaches must wear a CSA certified helmet, properly fastened, while on the ice conducting practice. All players below Junior A will be required to wear full facial protection.

Hockey NS is a full participant in the Hockey Canada insurance program, which includes liability, death and dismemberment, and major medical insurance. It is mandatory for all registered teams and leagues to participate in the program.

The STOP crest is mandatory on all jerseys for all Minor Hockey players participating within HNS. The STOP crest is to be worn on the back of the jersey, in the center directly above the number and below the name of the player.

Quick-Guide Checklist

This quick-guide checklist was designed to get your season off to a great start. It is important to get your volunteers in place as early as possible so tasks can be delegated and completed efficiently.

- Send team information to AMHA Registrar and Risk Management Chair. Please include Head Coach and Manager email as well as the names of all assistant coaches, trainer(s), and room monitors.
- Obtain access to your team's page on [Acadia Minor Hockey Association](#) website.
- Obtain bank letter from AMHA secretary.
- Distribute and collect Medical Forms for all players – [Medical Form](#)
- Book/organize parent meeting with coaches and team staff
- Login to HCR 3.0 and navigate/find where to apply for travel permits.
- Obtain team jerseys, pucks, first aid kit, game sheets
- Enter games, practices, events on team webpage
- Book tournaments, hotels

Parent Meeting

As soon as the team has been finalized and the team staff is decided a parent meeting should be held to introduce the team staff, discuss potential budget, guidelines, and expectations for the team. The manager and/or head coach should host the meeting.

Things to discuss at meeting:

- Introduction of coaches, team staff, and parents
- Overview of coach philosophy and outlook for the hockey season
- Coach expectations of players/parents on and off the ice, and dress-code for players
- Fundraising activities/suggestions
- Establish team contact list, email addresses, phone numbers, etc.
- Questions from parents
- Tournaments – discuss how many and where

Suggested parent-support roles:

- Treasurer
- Fundraising coordinator
- Team banner (responsible for bringing to and displaying at games)

Communication

Good communication is the key to the success of your hockey season. It is best to choose the method of communication(s) that will work best for you and your team and stick with those. These could be weekly emails, team website, Facebook group, TeamSnap, etc. The team calendar on the

AMHA website will always be updated with all your league games. You can subscribe to this calendar and have it imported into your personal calendar.

It is the responsibility of the manager to ensure that you have contact information for all players and that communication is made in a timely manner, especially with time sensitive information.

It is recommended to carry a folder with you at all times to hold player medical forms, blank game sheets, team roster, contact list, blank injury reports, rules and guidelines for tournaments, etc. All of this information needs to be readily available as the manager could need any of these at any time.

Managers are encouraged to be accessible to families and monitor the email/messages on a regular basis for questions from families and for updates from AMHA, as this is how game reschedules and other important and time sensitive information will be communicated.

Budget and Fundraising Guidelines

The manager and/or designated team treasurer will be responsible for creating, managing, and communicating regular updates associated with the team budget.

There are a number of expenses early in the season (tournament fees, extra ice, etc.) that you will not have money in your account to cover until team fundraising is started. It is suggested that teams collect "start up" money from families at the beginning of the season (amount to be determined based on anticipated expenses but often between \$150-\$300/player). This can be paid with EMT, cash or cheque. If an individual fundraises the total amount of their fees throughout the season, the "start-up" money will be returned to the player/family. One can only be refunded for payments made and not any money that was brought into the team through fundraising.

It is essential that the manager/treasurer provide updates throughout the season regarding the status/update of fundraising and overall/individual budget status as AMHA will request installments from teams for balances owed (December 15th, January 15th).

Keep track of home and away games, cancelled/exchanged ice times, etc. to ensure proper reconciliation of fees at the end of the season.

At the end of the season, please ensure team bank accounts are reconciled and closed out.

Player Medical Information Sheet

Each team/manager is responsible to ensure that each player/family has completed a copy of the Player Medical Form ([Medical Form](#)) indicating any health concerns, allergies, emergency contact info, etc. A copy of the forms should be with the team at all times.

Player Affiliation

The purpose of using affiliated players is to replace regular team players who are absent from the team and not to be used to fill a roster. Affiliated players are to replace rostered team players who are sick, injured, suspended, or away from the team and are not to be used to increase a roster size.

AMHA shall operate under the “club” system of affiliation for all teams. Higher division/category teams must attain consent from the lower division/category team prior to using an affiliate player. Failure to comply may result in suspension of the offending team’s Head Coach. Only players registered on a team registration form, and approved by the Regional Director, may advance to a team of a higher division or category for the purpose of affiliation.

A player of a team of a lower division or category of the same club, or of an affiliated team, or a specially affiliated player, may affiliate to a team or teams of higher divisions and categories at any time, to a maximum of ten (10) games per season. However, if the player’s registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before the player’s affiliated team or teams, the player may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times. For goaltender exceptions, see Hockey Canada Regulations.

Exhibition and/or tournament games, which are not part of regular league games or play-off games, are excluded from the number of games referred to in Hockey Canada Regulations.

Movement is restricted as follows:

DIVISION	AFFILIATES TO
U18 AA	U18 A, B, C
U18 A	U18 B, C
U18 B	U18 C
U18 C	As approved by HNSMC
U15 AA	U15 A, B, C
U15 A	U15 B, C
U15 B	U15 C, U13 A, B
U15 C	As approved by HNSMC
U13 AAA	U13 AA, A, B, U11 AA
U13 AA	U13 A, B, U11 A, B
U13 A	U13 B, C, U11 A, B
U13 B	U13 C, U11 A, B
U13 C	As approved by HNSMC
U11 AA	U11 A, B, C
U11 A	U11 B, C
U11 B	U11 C
U11 C	As approved by HNSMC

Affiliation from all C levels to checking teams will require approval from HNSMC

At no time may a player skip a Division for the purpose of affiliation (example: U13 player cannot affiliate to U18).

A maximum of three affiliated may be used by one team within one game.

Minor teams may use players from any combination of teams allowed within their club system affiliation.

For Minor Hockey Associations with 35 or fewer registered U18 players, the lowest affected team may, with approval of the Regional Director, affiliate to players in the U15 Division who are in their last year of U15 eligibility, in accordance with the club system.

All players above U13 must have taken the Approved 2014 HNS checking clinic before being eligible as an affiliate player at a checking level. This does not apply to goaltenders.

For the purpose of affiliation, both U7 and U9 players are typically not to be affiliated to any team/division for any purpose. However, in certain situations, this can be reviewed and approved by both the Regional Director and Conference Coordinator.

Jerseys/Name Bars

The team manager will distribute the jerseys at the start of the season and document the information on the jersey sign-out form. A copy of this form is to be sent to: AMHAASSETS@OUTLOOK.COM

Jersey Care

- Jerseys are not to be left in hockey bags
- Launder jerseys in cold water, inside-out, and hang to dry
- Blue name bars on blue jerseys, red name bars on red jerseys
- Name bars are to be stitched on, and removed, by a professional tailor/seamstress
- NO ADHESIVE is to be used on any AMHA jersey
- Name bars must match the name on the team roster, and be attached to the top of the jersey

At the end of the season, after the name bars have been removed, jerseys must be washed and returned to the team's head coach and/or manager. The manager/head coach is to return both sets of jerseys to the Chair of Physical Assets no later than April 15th of the current season. Jerseys that are not returned or are damaged will be charged \$60 per jersey and will be required to be paid prior to registration for the following year. If a jersey is damaged or cut during a game the head coach must notify the Chair of Physical Assets asap to arrangement for repair/replacement. Families will not be responsible for replacement costs under these circumstances.

Injury Reports

Injury reports are to be completed anytime there is an injury sustained by a player, spectator, or any other person at a sanctioned hockey activity. This form ([click here](#)) must be completed in full and submitted to Hockey NS within 90 days of injury.

For players with a serious injury/concussion (that have required medical attention) all return to play protocols must be strictly followed. The return to play strategy is gradual and begins after a doctor has given the player clearance to return to activity. If any symptoms/signs return during this process, the player must be re-evaluated by a physician. No return to play if any symptoms or signs persist (including later that day or the next). [6 Steps to Return to Play](#)

Suspensions

Suspension notices will be forwarded to AMHA and will include the following directions that are to be provided to the suspended player or coach:

- The suspended member will not be permitted to participate in any capacity whatsoever in exhibition, jamboree, tournament, league, or play-off games until midnight on the date of expiry or for the number of games listed, whichever expires first.
- The suspended member may not act in any capacity within the confines of our association or affiliated organizations until midnight on the date of expiry or for the number of games listed, whichever expires first.
- Meaningful and approved games are regularly scheduled, sanctioned tournament games, and pre-approved exhibition games verified on HCR by the Regional Director or their designate. Any games that are added to the schedule after a suspension has occurred will not count as meaningful games. A game must take place in order to count towards a suspension.

Types of suspensions

- Game Specified: the offender is removed from specified games and shall not participate in any games, including exhibition games, as a player on or off the ice until the suspension is served in full
- Suspension: the offender is removed for a specified number of games and from all hockey

Regular Season Schedules / Sanctioned Leagues

[Annapolis Valley Minor Hockey League \(link\)](#)

Recreation (C) and U9 teams are part of the Annapolis Valley Minor Hockey League (AVMHL)

- Please see website for more information on the regulations and rules of this league

[Scotia Minor Hockey League \(link\)](#)

Competitive A, B teams are part of the Scotia Minor Hockey League (SMHL)

- Please see website for more information on the regulations and rules of this league

[Central Minor Hockey League \(link\)](#)

Competitive AA teams are part of the Central Minor Hockey League (CMHL) - **new this season**

- Please see website for more information on the regulations and rules of this league

League divisions can be found under each category, following the links provided. Schedules should be reviewed regularly with any game/practice conflicts to be reported to your AVMHL or SMHL Representative.

Tournaments

Tournaments are a big part of the hockey season for both players and families. Teams usually choose to register in 3 to 4 tournaments during the season. It is recommended that teams register early for tournaments to avoid disappointment as they fill up quickly and there are a limited number of tournaments available.

Accommodations should be booked early. It is a good idea to call a hotel and book a block of rooms for your team (you will be sent a contract including team information and number of rooms secured with a deadline to book). Once the team is informed of the hotel choice they can call or book online with link/code provided.

It is also a nice idea to organize a team dinner while you are away at a tournament. Team managers should provide complete weekend details to the parents in advance, which should include directions, tournament schedule, itinerary, contact lists, etc. U9 teams must stay in Nova Scotia for tournaments and U11 teams are restricted to two out-of-province travel permits for tournaments per season.

Tournament Listings:

Nova Scotia

[Minor Hockey Tournaments | Hockey Nova Scotia](#)

New Brunswick -

[Hockey New Brunswick - Tournaments](#)

Prince Edward Island (home)

[Hockey PEI](#)

****Please notify your minor hockey league rep as soon as you book and confirm a tournament to allow them time to reschedule any games that may be scheduled during the time you are away ****

Game/Travel Permits

Permits are required by all teams (competitive, recreational, and U9) for all exhibition games and tournaments whether home or away. Where U9 does not belong to a league, all games require game/travel permits.

To obtain a permit, please use HCR 3.0

- Log into HCR 3.0
- Click “My Account” (top right corner)
- Click “Members”
- Click your own HCR# profile
- Select “Travel Permit” tab (this only shows up if you are listed as Head Coach or Manager of a team and have been added to that team’s HCR roster)

Travel permits are pre-approved, you are not required to wait for the travel permit to say “approved”

Teams at the U9 level shall not be permitted to travel outside of Nova Scotia

Teams at the U11 level shall only be permitted to travel outside of Nova Scotia twice per season

The permit number must be recorded on the game sheet of every game covered by the permit (U9 excluded, game sheets not required). Officials will check the game sheet for this information and could refuse to allow the game to be played without the appropriate information (permit).

Please be advised that officials can be very strict about teams having the proper game/travel permit documentation, this is for your protection. Teams playing without the proper approved numbers and documents will not be covered by insurance. There may be situations where you will be required to provide the hosting tournament a copy of your travel permit PRIOR to arrive to participate. Regardless of the situation, you should always carry a copy of your travel permit with you.

Tournament Permits

Please indicate dates and place(s) of the tournament. Permits are obtained from the Regional Director. There is no fee for these permits but at least two weeks notice is required.

All tournament hosts are required to submit a post-tournament summary to Minor Council within 30 days of the completion of the tournament. This summary should include teams that participated, scores of games and a detailed financial statement of income and distributions.

Tournaments for the U9 level may not include the retention and posting of statistics, the selection of all-star teams or awards, the selection of MVPs or awards, and shall not include Championship games or any other format that declares a winner.

All tournament game sheets shall be kept by the host association and made available to the Regional Director upon request. Failure to comply with HNS Regulation 7 (Permits) will result in refusal of future tournament sanction permits.

Booking Officials and Timekeepers

Officiating is handled by the Referee-in-Chief (RiC) and Timekeeper Coordinator (TC). All AMHA games must be entered into the AMHA website as this will be used to schedule the referees and timekeepers.

If you have a complaint about an official you can contact the RiC.

Game Sheets (excluding U9)

Game sheets are now being processed electronically. These game sheets must be prepared prior to each game. In some situations, due to connectivity, paper sheets will need to be utilized so all teams should have these on hand just in case.

If an electronic sheet cannot be completed, it is the responsibility of the team manager to ensure game sheets are filled out completely and correctly – including the division and level of play, date, home and visiting teams, location (name of arena), game number, and rosters. If applicable, be sure to include the travel permit or exhibition game number on the sheet.

All players dressed, coaches on the bench, and team manager MUST be clearly indicated on the sheet. Captain and Assistant Captain(s) must be identified. If affiliate players are playing, please identify them by marking (AP) by their name. Team stickers are a great timesaver when completing game sheets, however, please ensure changes are made on all three copies (scratch out missing / suspended players). Late players should be discussed with the referee and opposing coach and noted on the game sheet with the abbreviation LA for late arrival.

Please ensure game sheet is passed to the visiting team with adequate time to complete their information. The timekeeper will provide each team (1st copy – home, 2nd copy – visitor) with a copy of the game sheet upon completion of the game.

Game Caps

The maximum number of games to be played by divisions shall be as follows:

- U9 (all divisions) - maximum 36 games and may include max (12) full-ice scrimmages or games after February 1st
- U11 – maximum 45 games
- U13 – maximum 60 games
- U15 – maximum 65 games
- U18 – maximum 65 games

Games noted above are defined as all exhibition, league, and tournament games. A tournament would count as three games. The above cap would include all hockey games except for Conference, Day of Champions, and Provincial and League Playoff games.

Ice Scheduling

AMHA ice allocation is handled by the ice scheduler. Each team is given their season practice ice and game ice allotment in October. Each Rep/Competitive team will be given two full ice practices and one game time weekly. Each Rec/House team will be given one practice and one game time weekly. It is the responsibility of each team to be aware of their scheduled ice times and to use their ice appropriately.

** all teams are required to use their team scheduling calendar on the AMHA website to ensure the Master Ice Schedule is up to date.

At different points throughout the season teams look to secure extra ice for additional practices and/or exhibition games. The manager/coach would be responsible for securing additional ice. For any additional ice that is not processed through AMHA, the team will be required to pay the arena directly.

[AMHA Rink Schedules 2025/26](#)

Ice Rescheduling Protocol

Competitive teams

It is sometimes necessary to alter game times to accommodate league schedules and team travel. If it becomes necessary to change a game time, the team wishing sell an ice time will utilize the [Sell Ice Time](#) google form to establish ice availability.

Recreation teams

If alterations to game times are required, please contact the Ice Scheduler

** under no circumstances should any ice be left vacant. If you are unable to find someone to use the ice, please contact the ice scheduler

[Buy Ice Times](#) – please make payment arrangements with team selling

[Vacant Ice Times to Purchase](#)

Cancellations

If the arenas are open, then Minor Hockey is still on. It will be the parents and coaches call with safety in the forefront. AMHA is charged for the ice rental, therefore the team is charged for the ice rental and no make-up ice will be provided.

Coaches/managers should develop a procedure/process for how/when they would cancel a game, practice, etc.

U9 Program

The objective of the Hockey Nova Scotia U9 Program is to foster respect, sportsmanship and a fun atmosphere. The U9 Program shall strive to continue to develop the participants in the basic skills areas of skating, shooting, and puck handling while introducing them to competitive opportunities within an environment based on skill and ability. The intent is to continue to place a high emphasis on skill development while introducing participants to competition, playing rules, and the “team” concept.

Players within the U9 Program shall be assigned to levels based on their skill and ability. Minor Hockey Associations shall assign participants to an appropriate learning environment based on an evaluation at the start of the season and continue to provide ongoing evaluation throughout the season to ensure each participant continues to be assigned to the appropriate skill level and most appropriate learning environment. The levels for use within the U9 Program include Level 1 (Developmental), Level 2 (Intermediate), and Level 3 (Advancing).

Half-ice / Cross-ice Season begins December 1st

Full-ice Season begins February 1st with a maximum of twelve (12) controlled scrimmages or games between associations or within an association to be used for the purpose of full-ice playing education/instruction in preparation for moving into the U11 division. Officials can be used. All scrimmages and games shall be approved by the local Regional Director.

Any tournament in which a U9 team participates must be within Nova Scotia and no U9 team shall be permitted to compete in any activity outside of Hockey Nova Scotia’s jurisdiction or Nova Scotia. Tournaments for the U9 level may not include the retention and posting of statistics, the selection of all-star teams or awards, the selection of MVPs or awards, and shall not include Championship games or any other format that declares a winner.

Minor Hockey Associations: [Hockey NS Association List](#)

Player Age Advancement

As specified per HNS Regulation 3.9, at the discretion of the Minor Hockey Association and with approval of Hockey Nova Scotia Minor Council, a highly skilled player within the U9 Program may be placed in the U11 division with the consent of their parent(s) or guardians. For any movement of players from the U9 Program to the U11 level, the following process must be followed:

1. Parents of the player to be considered for advancement must apply in writing to their respective Minor Hockey Association, by November 15th, to request that the player be considered for advancement.
2. Only players that are eight years of age and who have been competing in Level 3 – 68 Hockey Nova Scotia Regulations hockeynovascotia.ca REGULATION NINETEEN: U9 PROGRAM Advancing, or as approved by the regional director, are eligible to be moved to the higher level and this player must make the U11 team at the highest level offered in that Minor Hockey Association. If the player does not make this team, he/she must play in the U9 Program in their home association for that year.
3. If the Member Minor Hockey Association decides to consider such a request, it must form an evaluation committee of not less than four members. Committee members must be fully certified to coach as per “Hockey Nova Scotia Regulation 8, Certification Requirements”, and who have at least three years’ experience in coaching. Committee members, being unbiased, shall not be associated in any way to the associations’ U7 Program. One member shall be the coach of the U11 team to whom this player may advance. The committee and its members shall be approved by the Hockey Nova Scotia Minor Council upon formation and prior to any evaluations is conducted.
4. The approved committee shall evaluate the player in question to determine if the player possesses the skill and ability to compete at the higher level with a high probability of success. The committee shall also consider the social, physical and skill development impact upon the player before making such a decision. The committee shall submit its findings and recommendation in writing to the Minor Hockey Association President. If the Minor Hockey Association finds
5. that the circumstances of such a request are warranted, the Minor Hockey Association President shall submit the findings and recommendation to the Regional Director for written approval.
6. Minor Hockey Associations must ensure that once the player is advanced so that they are not released back to a lower category U11 team. However, the player may be returned to the U9 division.

Travel

AMHA teams wishing to travel outside of the region for the purposes of playing exhibition games or attending tournaments/ jamborees, must have the prior approval of their Regional Director.