



Initiation To Hockey

Background

Players:

The focus is on skill development, team concepts, fair play and fun. The program is designed to encourage camaraderie not competition. Each player will receive well balanced and organized practice sessions and will be exposed to the same concepts, skills and instruction appropriate to their level of development.

Coaches:

The structured curriculum develops teaching and coaching skills based on consistent and progressive lesson plans.

Referees:

On-ice officials are introduced at Hockey 3 and 4, as the Initiation Program is also the training ground for new referees.

Policy

1. All four and five (4 and 5) year old players registered with the Association will start in Hockey 1 and continue advancing yearly until they reach Hockey 4 at age eight (8).

Any new player to the Association older than five (5) will be placed in the appropriate age group. To ensure proper and progressive development and to ensure every player has a POSITIVE learning experience some players may not be initially placed into their particular age group. This means that those players that are 'new-to-hockey' and/or have a genuine need to develop their skating further may be placed in an age group below. This, however, does NOT mean that the player will remain there for the balance of the year. Please note that any player placement below the age division will be determined by the Division Manager in direct consultation with the on-ice lead coach(es).

2. A player will not be placed in a level other than his/her appropriate age group – i.e. age four-five (4 and 5) Hockey 1, age six (6) Hockey 2, age seven (7) Hockey 3 and age eight (8) Hockey 4, with the exception of a Hockey 1 aged player of exceptional skill. Any Hockey 1 player movement will be determined by an independent evaluator working in direct consultation with the Division Manager and on-ice lead coaches.

3. If a Hockey 1 player has advanced to Hockey 2 before he/she is six (6) years old, he/she will remain in Hockey 2 until he/she is eligible (at age 7) to advance to Hockey 3.

4. All teams within that level will be equally balanced. If, during the early part of the season, it is determined that teams within a level are not equally balanced, players will be moved so that the teams will be equally balanced.



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5. As players will be advancing together from level to level on a yearly basis, the makeup of the teams on a yearly basis may be such that the same players do not continue playing on the same team each year.
6. Teams must consist of only those players who are included on the team roster as filed with PCAHA. If a team is short players for a game, the coach can draw affiliate players from the division one level below. This should be done very rarely as the purpose of the program is fun not winning. Coaches will follow the call-up procedures when acquiring additional player(s) for a game of tournament. An affiliate player can only play for any other team three (3) times in the season. Coaches must first obtain permission to use an affiliate player from their NDMHA Division Manager.
7. Before an exhibition game or tournament is played, it must be understood that the other Association will reciprocate with an exhibition game or tournament invitation or that our Association can reciprocate with an exhibition game or tournament invitation.
8. All Hockey 2, 3 and 4 teams require a game number before any game is played. Hockey 2 coaches will be on the ice to assist the players during games. As per current practice in Fraser Valley West, normally, there will be 2 on-ice officials for Hockey 3 & 4 for all league, tournament and exhibition games.