

Registering your child in the Newmarket Minor Hockey Association (NMHA) for the first time

Welcome to the Newmarket Minor Hockey Association. The NMHA provides an opportunity for children between the ages of 5 and 20 of all skill levels to develop their hockey skills and more importantly, have fun doing it. This document has been created because every year we have many first time registrants into the NMHA and there are usually a number of questions parents have. Please take a few moments to read these two pages and if you have further questions please feel free to contact our hockey office or the Convenor of the division you are registering your child in. For contact information of the Convenor's, please click on the House League drop down menu and then click on Convenor's tab which will provide you with both their email id's and phone numbers.

The Registration Process

Online registration opens early in June of each year. You can get to the online registration form by following the registration link on the NMHA main page. As well, you will see the payment schedules for the coming season when you follow that link.

Player Skill Requirements

One of the common questions asked by parents when considering registering their young children in our program concerns the skill level of their child. The NMHA is a Canadian Hockey Initiation Program (CHIP) certified organization. All of the head Coaches for our divisions of the children 9 and younger have been CHIP certified as well. This means that they have all undergone training to help them properly instruct young players in becoming better hockey players. Obviously, skating skill dramatically improves as the age of the players increase. If you are registering your child as a 5 year old in our Mini Tyke division or a 6 year old in our Minor Tyke division it is not necessary that your child be an accomplished skater. However, if they are going to have a positive first time hockey experience we recommend that they be somewhat comfortable on skates and be able to navigate themselves across the ice with minimal assistance. Our experience has shown that when a first time player feels they have a chance to move with the play then they are more likely to enjoy the experience and hockey is more likely to become a continuing part of their life.

Developmental Path for the NMHA House League

It is important to understand that for all house league games, the NMHA expects all its Coaches to play their players equally, irrespective of level of skill. Fun and skill development are the primary goals of our Association. Our Mini and Minor Tyke divisions practice and play at the NTR, Major Tyke practice and play on one of the town's arenas and all tyke divisions will use the lighter weighted blue pucks. Also, while Mini Tyke is geared towards 5-year old players each year we usually accept a waiting list of a number of 4-year old players interested in getting started playing and learning this great game. The acceptance of the waiting list is predicated solely on numbers. If the division fills, then priority will be afforded to those players who are 5-years of age. Note if accepted as a four year old, as a five year old will repeat the Mini Tyke program.

Mini Tyke (5-years old) – Practices on Saturday and Sunday through to mid-December. Starting at a point designated by the Convenor games will begin to be played on Sunday's as of December. These games will be played in a 'pond' hockey format with a Coach always on the ice and no statistics will be tracked or kept. There is a 3-minute buzzer to indicate shift changes and goalies will be rotated every shift and will not wear goalie equipment.

Minor Tyke (6-years old) – Practices will be held on Saturday's and games will be played on Sunday's. Like in the Mini Tyke division, the games will be played in a 'pond' hockey format with a Coach always on the ice and no statistics will be tracked or kept. There is a 3-minute buzzer to indicate shift changes however, goalies (will play the entire game in the position (typically there is a rotation set by the Coach to give all players an opportunity to play the position) and goalie equipment will be provided by the NMHA.

Major Tyke (7-years old) – Games will now be played on regular sized ice. Practices will be held on Saturday's and games will be played on Sunday's. At this point of our developmental path, games start to take on a more competitive nature. No Coaches will be on the ice during the game and Referee's are used to run the game. Statistics are tracked and kept and the teams will be competing to win a Championship. There is a 3-minute buzzer to indicate shift changes and the Coaches will be expected to provide an equal opportunity to all players to not only have equal ice time but to be afforded the opportunity to experience all the various positions.

Novice (8-years old) – One game and one practice per week (Saturday and Sunday depending on ice availability) and the 3-minute buzzer is still being used.

Minor Atom (9-years old) – One game and one practice per week (Saturday and Sunday depending on ice availability) and the 3-minute buzzer is no longer in use. Goalies are now typically dedicated to the position for the entire season.

Player Equipment

We recommend that you ensure your child's hockey equipment is properly fitted for your child by your preferred retailer. However, two pieces of equipment that are required by the OMHA are often overlooked by parents registering their children for the first time. They are the neck protector to help guard against cuts and the mouth guard to help minimize the possibility of concussions. The mouth guard must be coloured (not clear) and if not fitted by a dentist must be tethered to the players face mask. In addition, your child will require a hockey helmet and cage, shoulder pads, elbow pads, hockey pants, jock/jill, shin guards, skates, stick and hockey gloves. NMHA provides each player with hockey jersey and socks.

Volunteers

The NMHA is a volunteer organization. Here in Newmarket we are already very fortunate to have a great number of dedicated volunteers. But the continued success of the NMHA is very dependent on the strength of our volunteers and we are always looking for new people willing to contribute their time to our various programs. You do not need to be a hockey expert to help us with our programs. We are always in need of good Coaching candidates but we also need people who have good organizational skills and above all a passion to help and work with children. If you are interested in helping us in any of the many roles we need help with please contact our hockey office as well as make the proper indication on your child's registration.