



NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

110 LAKESHORE DRIVE
NORTH BAY, ONTARIO P1A 2A8
PHONE: (705) 474-8851 • FAX: (705) 474-6019
www.noha.on.ca



Date: August 29, 2018

To: NOHA Associations

From: Claudette Myre

Re: Initiation Program Policies

The NOHA Board of Directors fully supports the Initiation Program; it is the best program of its kind and is copied by other hockey governing bodies worldwide. To assist Associations in the implementation of the Program, and to ensure consistency throughout Northern Ontario, the NOHA Board of Directors has approved the policies below for the upcoming season.

About the Hockey Canada Initiation Program

The main goal is to make the beginner's first impression of hockey a good one! When players get started on a positive note, they automatically enjoy the game and usually go on to have fun playing hockey for many years.

Hockey Canada developed the Initiation Program to make the first contact with hockey a safe and positive experience. It is a structured, learn-to-play hockey program designed to introduce beginners to the game's basic skills. It enables participants to become contributing members of a team effort, develop self-confidence, and experience a sense of personal achievement. These goals are achieved in an atmosphere of fun and fair play.

The Hockey Canada Initiation Program is designed for players five and six years old, but is suitable for any entry-level hockey player and clearly lays out how to get them started in hockey so they will have fun, learn skills and develop confidence.

Recognizing the necessity to provide a positive experience for the beginner hockey player, the Initiation Program builds upon a number of values providing a qualitative experience, which include:

- Providing a safe environment in which to be introduced to hockey's fundamental skills.
- Developing an understanding of basic teamwork through participation in structured activities and adapted game-like situations.
- Introducing participants to the concepts of fair and co-operative play.
- Refining basic motor patterns and building self-confidence.
- Providing an environment that challenges individuals positively and rewards the participants for their efforts.
- Provides opportunities to experience a number of activities related to the building of a lifestyle of fitness and activity.



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Approved Policies

The NOHA Board of Directors has supported the following policies;

- Mandatory use of lightweight puck: All Initiation teams shall use a lightweight (4 oz.) puck.
- No assigned goaltenders: Players may dress as goaltenders but are to be rotated.
- No league standings: There shall be no scores kept for any Initiation games or Jamborees.
- Jamborees: All Initiation "tournaments" hosted within the NOHA shall be hosted in a Jamboree-style format. The NOHA Board of Directors has approved that Jamborees be held over two (2) days beginning this season.

Mandatory use of lightweight puck

In 2016, the NOHA provided each Minor Hockey Association with a minimum of 100 lightweight pucks. These pucks are to be used for all Initiation practices, games and jamborees.

- The lightweight puck weighs 2 oz. less than the standard black puck, and more readily promotes the development of on-ice skills for younger players. It is easier to shoot, pass and stickhandle for players in the earlier stages of physical development.
- Other sports downsize their equipment to be age and skill appropriate.

No assigned goaltenders

The Initiation Program is a learn to play program, and is designed to teach the technical skills of the game; skating, puck control, shooting, passing and body contact. Teaching these skills are critical to a child's long-term involvement in the game.

That said, no individual player shall dress as a goaltender for the full season, and must be given the opportunity to develop all skills. If a team wishes to dress a player as a goaltender for practices and/or games, they are to be rotated.

No league standings

No statistics or league standings are to be recorded by any association or league that operates Initiation age group games.



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- Keeping League Standings promotes competitiveness amongst coaches, parents, and administrators.
- The focus needs to be shifted away from wins and losses, to fun/skill development.

Jamborees

Games are still played at the Initiation level but they are to be done in a cross-ice environment. To ensure consistency across Northern Ontario, the NOHA Board of Directors has supported that all "tournaments" hosted in the NOHA are to be in a jamboree-style.

Introduction

Jamborees are an excellent way to get many games in a short amount of time. They are also an excellent way for players to develop their technical skills, make new friends, and have fun!

Hosting a Jamboree

Application is to be made to the NOHA Office in the same manner that all other tournaments are requested. A separate application form has been developed for Jamborees, and is available on the NOHA website.

Jamborees can be hosted over two (2) days for the 2018/2019 season, but must follow the Jamboree rules as described below.

Attending a Jamboree

All requests to attend Jamborees are to be done via the NOHA Tournament Portal. Requests are submitted to your Minor Hockey Association and then entered on to the Portal by the designated person within the Association.

Jamboree Rules

- Jamborees can be hosted after December 1.
 - Hockey Canada's LTPD plan recommends 3-4 weeks of practice and skill development before playing any games.
- All Jamborees shall be one day events.
- All games shall be 20 minutes in length.
- Teams shall play a maximum of three (3) games per day; there shall be no playoff rounds.
- Schedules should be created so teams are only at the rink for half of the day.
- Games shall be played at 3 on 3 or 4 on 4, plus goaltender (if desired). The number of players is to be outlined in the jamboree rules in advance.



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- Games and zones should be scheduled based on abilities to allow every player a chance to succeed.
- Clock buzzes every 1 or 2 minutes to change players.
- Faceoff to start the game only; No face-offs after goals are scored, the puck will be shot into a corner to resume play.
- There shall be no icings or offsides.
- No keeping score and no winners shall be declared.
- There should be at least one coach, or on-ice helper that should act as an on-ice guide for the players during modified ice games.

Team Structure for Jamborees

Initiation Teams are defined as a group of registered participants who are qualified to be registered onto a team. During a modified ice game, it is critical for the Initiation Coach, Coordinator, Convener, or Organizer to separate teams into sub-teams. Preferably, these sub-teams should have one spare player. For instance, if you are playing 3-on-3, sub-teams should be made up of 4 players, if you are playing 4-on-4, sub-teams should be made up of 5 players. The maximum number of players per sub-team should be 6 (two spares during a 4-on-4 game). These sub-teams should be divided by talent (high, medium, and low). This way, players will be engaged in an atmosphere where they are comfortable, and are receiving enough playing time so that they are receiving the benefits of cross-ice.

Proposed Jamboree Schedule

Although your Jamboree schedule will be determined based on the number of participating teams, below is a template that can be used:

JR Tykes

Time	Ice 1	Ice 2	Ice 3	Division
8:45-9:05	TS – Wild vs KL Wings	TS Flames vs ENG – Bears	TS Devils vs KL Rangers	JR
9:10-9:30	TS – Stars vs ENG Lightning	TS – Panthers vs VM Coyotes	ENG – Eagles vs VM Kings	JR
9:35-9:55	TS – Wild vs ENG Bears	TS Flames vs KL Rangers	TS Devils vs KL Wings	JR
10:00-10:20	TS – Stars vs VM Kings	TS Panther vs ENG Lightning	ENG – Eagles vs VM Coyotes	JR
10:25-10:45	TS – Wild vs KL Rangers	TS Flames vs KL Wings	TS Devils vs ENG Bears	JR
10:50-11:10	TS – Stars vs ENG - Eagles	TS Panthers vs VM Kings	ENG – Lightning vs VM Coyote	JR

11:15 – 11:35 *** Flood and Set up for SR Tykes
Lunch will be served 11am – 1:00pm

SR Tykes

Time	Ice 1	Ice 2	Ice 3	Division
11:40-12:00	TS- Rangers vs ENG-Canada	TS- Leafs vs ENG- Sens	TS- Jets vs ENG-Habs	SR
12:05-12:25	TS- Canucks vs KL- Capitals	TS-Predators vs VM Nordiques	TS – Penguins vs VM Canadiens	SR
12:30-12:50	TS- Kings vs ENG- Sens	ENG- Canada vs TS- Wild	TS – Leafs vs KL- Canucks	SR
12:55-1:15	KL- Capitals vs VM Nordiques	VM Canadiens vs TS- Canucks	ENG- Habs vs KL - Flames	SR
1:20-1:40	KL-Canadiens vs TS- Rangers	TS-Kings vs KL- Wings	TS- Jets vs ENG- Canada	SR
1:45-2:05	TS – Penguins vs ENG- Habs	ENG- Sens vs KL- Canucks	TS- Rangers vs KL- Flames	SR
2:10-2:30	TS- Canucks vs VM- Nordiques	TS- Leafs vs KL- Wings	TS-Predators vs KL- Capitals	SR
2:35-2:55	TS- Wild vs VM Canadiens	TS- Jets vs KL-Canadiens	TS – Penguins vs KL- Flames	SR
3:00-3:25	TS-Predators vs KL-Canadiens	TS- Kings vs KL - KL- Canucks	TS- Wild vs KL- Wings	SR



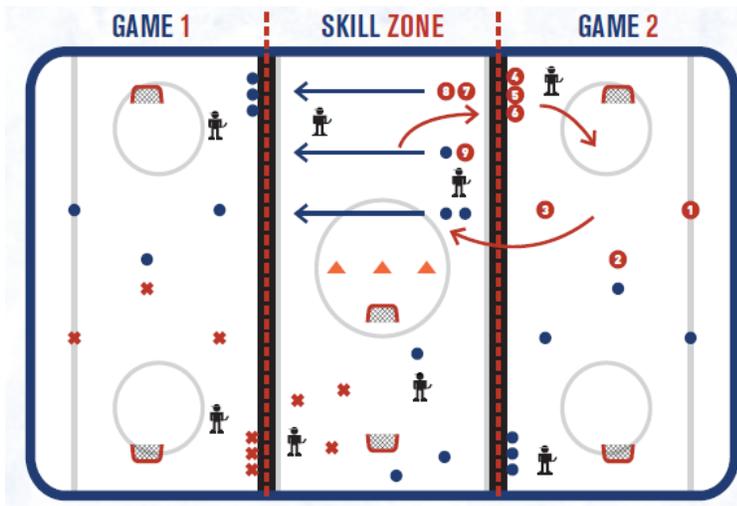
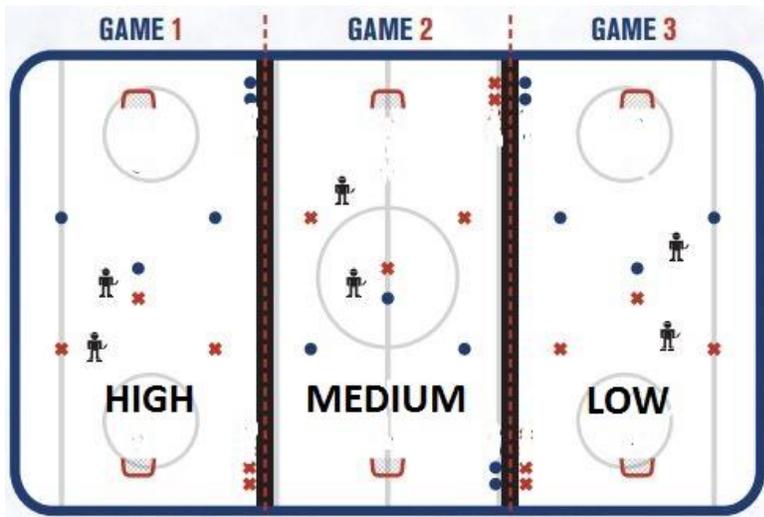
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Proposed Ice Setups

Once again, this structure will depend on the number of participating teams, but below we have provided two examples of how the ice can be set up for Jamborees; one is for two games taking place on the ice at the same time and the other is for three games taking place simultaneously.





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Should you have any questions about any of the above policies, please do not hesitate to contact your District Council Director or NOHA Executive Director Jason Marchand.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claudette Myre".

Claudette Myre
NOHA President