

IP Program FAQ's

Q. My child and I are new to the game of hockey, what does my child need to play?

A. Your kids will need an athletic supporter (jock or jill), garter belt, shin pads, hockey socks*, pants, skates, elbow pads, shoulder pads, neck guard, helmet and mouth guard. **The neck guard and mouth guard are very important as your child will not be allowed on the ice without them. *Players will need a hockey jersey for the first few weeks until players are divided into their groups and Timbits Jerseys and socks are handed out.**

Q. Will Hockey Jersey and Hockey socks be provided?

A. Tim Horton's is kind enough to provide jerseys and socks for the whole IP group that the kids are able to keep at the end of the season.

Q. When does the IP Program Start?

A. Typically the first ice session runs the first week of October. This year, however, the first ice session will begin on Saturday, September 30th.

Q. What days are the practices?

This year we have made changes so all ice sessions will be played in Fergus. Ice times will run Saturday for all IP age groups and IP1, IP2 and IP3 will have a 2nd ice session on Thursdays.

Q. What times on Saturday?

- 10:00am to 10:40 am – IP4
- 10:45 am to 11:30 am – IP3
- 11:45 am to 12:35 pm – IP2
- 12:40pm to 1:30pm – IP1

Q. What times on Thursday?

- 5:00pm to 5:45pm – IP3
- 5:48pm to 6:33pm – IP2
- 6:35pm to 7:20pm – IP1

Q. What time should be at the arena before practice?

A. Please be there with the child ready to go on the ice at least 5 minutes before practice. Ice time is at a premium and the coaches will want to get the kids into skill development drills as soon as possible.

Q. Do you need any volunteers to help on the ice?

A. **YES ABSOLUTELY!!!**, the IP program as well as the whole minor hockey program is run solely by unpaid volunteers, parents and high school kids. The success of the program is dependent on these people. Generally the groups will number between 30 to 40 kids on the ice at one time!! As someone who has been involved in coaching young people for a few years now I have learned that the more helping hands on the ice, the easier it becomes for everyone. Coaches are more willing to help out when they know there is a good group of parent volunteers that can keep the kids focused and occupied. The parents who cannot help out are happier because practices are organized and operating in an efficient manner. For those who are concerned that they do not have enough hockey experience to be able to assist please put that worry to rest. One of the most important things to keep the kids focused on working hard and enjoying the drills or modified games they are involved in, and help players stick with their group as they move from station to station. For this reason we've had parents who have come out on the ice and just focused on keeping groups together and monitoring the kids to keep the "horse-play" to a minimum.

Q. What do I need to do to be able to help out?

A. You will need a pair of skates, gloves, HELMET, stick and a smile on your face. There will be a background check that will need to be completed and the identification required for the check are as follows: Photo ID - Driver's License (including drivers licenses issued by another province, territory, or a foreign jurisdiction), BYID Card, Canadian or Foreign Passport, Canadian Citizenship Card, Possession and Acquisition License (or PAL Card), Permanent Residency Card, Certificate of Indian Status, Canadian National Institute of the Blind (CNIB) Identification Card, Canadian Military Employment Card or Canadian Military Family Identification Card, Ontario Photo Identification Card (*new* – available from the Ministry of Transportation) Non Photo ID - Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, Hunting License, Outdoors Card, Canadian Blood Donor Card, Immigration Papers
You will need two pieces of ID and I will be providing some photocopying services at the first couple of ice sessions. The last thing you will need to do is take the online Respect in Sport (Speak Out) training and here is the link

<https://omha.respectgroupinc.com/secure/>

Q. Is there anything else that can help as a coach?

A. Of course there is!! There is a coach's course that is based on the IP program and the first few years of hockey after IP. If you don't have a lot of experience working with athletes of this age it is an excellent learning tool to get you started on the ice. **It is also necessary to have when the kids start playing development games with other centers as the OMHA mandates that all coaches and trainers on the bench have a coaches or trainers designation.**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COSTS OF THE COACHES CLINIC AND SPEAK OUT ARE COVERED BY CWMHA

Please contact myself cwchips@wightman.ca and **Terry Conroy** (tconroy@cogeco.ca) if you are interested in taking the IP Coaches Course.

Q. Will we be playing full ice games this year?

A. Full ice games of 5 on 5 are no longer allowed by Hockey Canada at the IP level. 85% of all on ice time is to focus on skill development with the other 15% the focus being individual tactics. The IP1, 2 and 3 groups will have ice sessions dedicated to playing small area games starting in January. These games are run by the coaches and not referees. The IP1, 2 and 3 groups will play mostly 3 on 3 cross ice games with IP1 potentially playing some half ice games of 4 on 4 to keep the focus mostly on skill development.

Q. Will we be playing in a tournament this year?

With the changes made by Hockey Canada this year to go with smaller sized games it is unclear if whether the IP1 group will play in Tournaments this year. Below has been the policy in years past should the potential arise:

There will be an option to potentially play in a one day tournament this year but the entry fee will be the IP group's responsibility not CWMHA's. In the past we've raised money via a raffle and ideally we could do this again this year. Some good ideas for raffle tickets are pro sport tickets (Leafs/Raptors/Rock), a flat screen TV, gift cards for local businesses. This is a good marketing/advertising opportunity for parents who own local businesses. If any parents are interested in making arrangements regarding raffle prizes please contact me. The alternative option is to pay out of pocket to register for the tournament (usually a fee of around \$60/player for a guarantee of only 2 games). If there is enough interest using this option we will make teams based on who wants to participate.

Q. What are the most important things that make a good IP program?

A. Glad you asked that!! The following items are **FUN**damental for a good program

1. **HAVING FUN:** we need to instill an interest and enjoyment in the game of hockey, and a desire for **kids** to want to continue participating in this great sport
2. **SKILL DEVELOPMENT:** we need to provide a positive learning environment for the **kids** to learn, develop and understand the basic **fundamental** skills of the game
3. **SELF-ESTEEM:** we need to develop positive self-esteem in the **kids** through a sense of achievement and recognition of performance improvement – big or small
4. **TEAM CONCEPT:** we need to teach the foundation of a “Team” and what being a **good team-mate means**
5. **COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT:** we need to develop a sense of pride and ownership in the local community to help build strong citizens and future leaders

I hope this helps out all of the parents understand what we are trying to achieve in this program and if anybody has any questions that are not covered in this FAQ please don't hesitate to ask.

I have also provided some links below for parents to review to get a better understanding of the changes Hockey Canada made to the initiation program to allow more players to develop their essential skills, be more engaged and have a lot more fun!

Initiation Program:

<https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/hockey-programs/coaching/initiation>

Cross Ice Hockey: Take time to watch and listen to the videos here

<https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/hockey-programs/coaching/initiation/cross-ice-hockey>

Scott