

NHHA Initiation Hockey Program

1- Mission statement

To build a strong foundation of hockey skills with a focus on all players having fun, in order to develop a life long love for the game of hockey.

2- Goals/Objectives

- a) To teach basic hockey skills with a keen focus on skating followed by passing, shooting and puck skills.
- b) To develop team work aspect of the game, through participation
- c) To instill principles of respect and fair play towards all parties within the game (teammates, opponents, coaches, trainers, officials, spectators, administrators, media...)

3- Roles

IP program has 4 levels

- a) Association President/Vice President
 - b) Coach selection Committee
 - c) Initiation Coordinator
 - d) Coaches/Trainers/Managers/On Ice Helpers
- In order to continue to grow and develop as an association NHHA believes that the leadership of its board is required to take a lead role with the entry level grass roots program.
 - The Coach Selection Committee with assistance of the President and Vice President recruits and appoints the IP Coordinator- the Coordinators is subject to credential and police check criteria. The position is reviewed annually.
 - Ideally the Coordinator leads the program for 2 years, Coordinators are typically recruited from pool of coaches that have been involved in the program for at least 1 year.
 - Coaches/Trainers/Managers/On Ice helpers can apply or be recruited to apply for positions – those individuals are then approved via regular coach selection process pending verification of all necessary credentials and police check as specified by the OMHA. Preferred on ice instructor to player ratio is 4-1 should not be below 5-1

4- Levels

Fundamentals:

- Next step after learn to skate programs (Generally 4 year olds or first year hockey players), with progression to skating skills related to hockey (i.e. with a puck, stick-handling, shooting, passing)
- Progression to ½ ice games and then full ice inter-squad games—max 6 games with other centers after Jan 1st (this is NOT a Learn to Skate Program)

Learn to Play:

- Continued focus on skating skills in combination with puck handling, shooting and passing. (generally 2nd year players that have been in our fundamentals program the previous season)
- Introduction of off-sides and positional play.
- Use of ½ ice games progressing to full ice games and exhibition games and tournaments (after Dec 1st)-max 2 tournaments and 10 exhibition games with other centers. (5 home 5 away)

Pre-Novice:

- Continued focus on skating skills in combination with puck handling and shooting and passing. (Generally 3rd year players of NHHA and 7 year olds).
- Full ice scrimmages with increased emphasis on off-sides and positional play.
- Progress to regular exhibition games and tournament participation starting Dec 1st -max 2 tournaments and 12 exhibition games.

*** All players are evaluated at the beginning of each year- see below #5 for further details

*****Tournament games not included in total number of games*

Each level can consist of up to 45 players and using current ice time allocation IP program can handle up to 135 participants.

5- Streaming

- NHHA IP philosophy includes that all IP aged players should be streamed and play with kids of similar ability as they progress through IP towards Novice.
- All players are evaluated under the direction of the IP Coordinator and placed within the proper level.

- The IP Coordinator with help of the Coaches can move players between levels during the year as they develop.
- Within each stream the players can be further broken down into teams of 10-15 players with each team having an assigned coaching staff including head coach, trainer, assistant coach, manager and on ice helpers. OMHA roster rules apply.
- NHHA does not promote the movement of 7 year olds to into our Novice LL program – however individual cases have been brought to the board for review and exception. Typically IP Coordinator would initiate this scenario. Decision of the board on player movement is final.

6- Ice time- practices and games

- All levels get 2 practice ice times per week on average – in a regular time slot as assigned by NHHA Ice Scheduler.
- (one weekend one weekday ice times can start as early as 4:30pm during the week and 7:00am on Saturdays)
- Extra ice assigned as available by NHHA Ice Scheduler.
- Practice plans are responsibility of the Coaches under the guidance of the IP Coordinator. Coaches are encouraged to utilize Hockey Canada Initiation Program for practice plans and drill set ups with focus on use of stations.

Games can be run 2 ways

- a) With no referees, time keepers or game sheet, using coaches to guide and assist players- shifts can be by coaches whistle or automatic buzzer. (Inter-squad only)
 - b) As per standard OMHA game with referee, time keeper and proper game sheet* all coaches on the bench must have proper credentials and be on an OMHA roster.
- All IP level games are to be equal ice time for all players.

7- Blue Puck

- The lightweight blue puck is mandatory for all IP levels with the regular puck being introduced at Pre-Novice at the discretion of the IP Coordinator and Coaches.
- Blue pucks will be supplied by NHHA.

8- Equipment

- All players and goalies are required to wear full CSA approved equipment. (mouth guards are mandatory)
- See website for further details

9- Goalies

- NHHA promotes the development of goalies – however prior to becoming a “full time” goalie players need to have basic skating skills.
- Therefore in all IP levels there are to be no fulltime goalies- players should be allowed to rotate through the position and determine who has an aptitude for the position.
- Pre-Novice full time goalies may start to be identified and dress as such for ice times – noting that other boys should still be permitted to take turns in goal.
- NHHA will supply dedicated goalie equipment to each level for this purpose, this equipment is property of NHHA on loan, it must be maintained and returned to NHHA.
- All initiation teams receives one set of Goal equipment from the NHHA Equipment Chair will issue the equipment at start of season and collect it at the end of the season.

10- Parents Requirements

- All parents new to NHHA hockey must complete the Parent Respect in Sport course prior to the start of the hockey season, the link is below.
- [http://newhamburghockey.com/Pages/5106/Respect in Sport - Parent/](http://newhamburghockey.com/Pages/5106/Respect%20in%20Sport%20-%20Parent/)

Information that is also on our Website

The OMHA will move to become a complete ‘Respect’ integrated association effective the 2014-2015 season. Effective August 31, 2014, **in addition to Team Officials, the OMHA will require Parents to take the appropriate ‘Respect’ education.**

At least one parent or guardian of each player registered in minor hockey in the OMHA will need to complete the online Respect In Sport Parent Program as a condition of participation. The program is a proactive, educational program that empowers parents with the tools to ensure the game is enjoyable and respectful for themselves, their children and all other stakeholders in the game. This will take about 1 hour to complete at a cost of \$12.

Below are the links that you will need to complete this course:

- 1) Here is more information on the program - [Respect In Sport Parent Overview](#)
- 2) Click on the following for instructions to access the program online - [Respect in Sport Parent Program Access Instructions](#)
- 3) Click on the following to register online for the program - [Respect In Sport for Parent](#)

***Please make sure you complete this section of the course** - With successful registration, you will be taken to the Child Management page. This is where you associate your profile with your child/children active in the OMHA. Enter your child's first name, last name and date of birth in the same manner as they are registered with your minor hockey association, and select "Add Child" When all children have been added, select Done.

Thanks for your assistance in ensuring a safe and fun hockey environment for all participants.