

2009 - 2010 Timbit Initiation Hockey Program

Purpose:

To promote SMHA policy of providing fun and enjoyment while at the same time stressing the values and appreciation of improved skating and hockey skills.

To ensure that there is fun and enjoyment while at the same time providing good competition by ensuring that players are encouraged to play with and compete with other players of similar skills, abilities and desires.

To provide a program which ensures that all players will enjoy equal opportunities of ice time during practice instruction and games.

To provide guidelines which encourage coaches and other team executives to improve their own coaching qualifications and instructing skills by participating in coaches certification programs.

Every coordinator will ensure that every coach and his assistant attend the initiation program coaches clinic. For this initial year of coaching the SMHA should endeavor to promote and advertise this clinic.

To promote other instruction programs which provide opportunities for coaches to improve their own instructional techniques in theory, technical and practical skills and coaching philosophy.

Groups:

- A. All coaches and assistant coaches in the Timbit Initiation Program must have attended the Intro to Coach Clinic and Speak Out Clinic. There must also be a person who has attended the Safety Clinic on the team registration form (i.e. Trainer)
- B. Timbit Initiation program is to remain in place and is to be used at all practices.
 - a. All materials are to be distributed at no charge.
 - b. We will require funding for an instructors' clinic. This funding is to cover all registrations and costs of clinic.
- C. All teams will practice to the end of the third week in November. **Every attempt should be made to ensure there are no more than 4 to 5 players per one on-ice instructor during practices.** A 2 to 1 practice game ratio shall pertain to the balance of the season. Games shall be arranged by the chairman in charge of initiation group. All ice times will be 1 hour in length subject to the availability of ice. Beginners will play 1/2 ice games until December 31. Advanced will play full ice games all season.
- D. To be eligible to participate in the SMHA Timbit initiation program, the player must be 5 years old as of December 31 of the current season.
- E. All players must wear full equipment (as defined by the CHA) from the time they step onto the ice until they leave the ice surface.

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- F. Each Timbit initiation group will be broken down into the following two levels of ability subject to point C above:
- a. **Beginners**
5 year olds and 1st year 6 year olds.
 - b. **Advanced**
2nd year 6 year olds. A 1st year 5 or 6 year old may move up to the advanced program if the player is of comparable ability to the players in the advanced group when approved by the coordinator and the City Chairperson. Before team registrations are turned in: breakdown of groups will be reviewed at a meeting of all zone coordinators.

Game Rules:

1. In keeping with our policy of providing fun and enjoyment while playing hockey, as opposed to emphasizing winning, there will be no scoring posted on scoreboards for both levels in the initiation program at all SMHA scheduled games and tournaments organized in or out of town by any team under the SMHA umbrella.
2. In the beginner division all six players are to change on the line changes and must always rotate positions.
3. In the advanced division, all games starting from the beginning of the season will be divided into 3 - 18 minute straight time periods. All players must change on line changes and change positions every period and play on at least one offensive and one defensive position during one of the three periods. Goaltenders will use full goal equipment for games. Coaches must use a different player for goaltender each game.
4. At the beginner level, line changes will be made every **two** minutes and take place at center ice. Line changes are also made every **two** minutes at the advanced level but take place at the face-off circle where the referee is standing with his arm raised.
5. At both levels, when the goalie smotheres the puck, the referee will continue play by taking and throwing the puck in the corner.
6. A minimum of 1/maximum of 2 coaches/parents from each team will be on the ice during the games.
7. Goaltenders in the beginner division have the option of using a goal stick in games.
8. No penalties will be called. If a player commits an obvious offense, that player's coach will confer with that player about the infraction while play is continuing.
9. Coaches must ensure that their players line up at the conclusion of their game, at center ice, and have their players shake the hands of their

opponents. For safety purposes the players will keep their gloves on while shaking hands.

10. In those situations where games (and practices) are NOT separated by a flood time players leaving the ice will line up along the boards and wait until all players going onto the ice are on the ice.

Program Committee:

The Committee will consist of the Initiation Program Chairperson plus 7 Initiation Coordinators or their substitute representing the SMHA Zones. Each Zone Initiation Coordinator will ensure that their zone is represented at each meeting.

Approved: April 21, 2008