

Milton Minor Hockey Association
Proposed Program for 2020-21 Season

The Milton Minor Hockey Association Board of Directors would like to thank you for your patience and understanding while we waited for the green light to return to play from the Ontario government, the Town of Milton, the Region of [Halton Public Health](#), the [Ontario Hockey Federation](#) (OHF) and the [Ontario Minor Hockey Association](#) (OMHA). There have been many twists and turns along this journey but through it all the Milton Minor Hockey Association board of directors has been busy planning for the 2020-21 season.

There have been lots of rumours and assumptions going around so we will try and break it down as best we can. This is based on current information available and may change at any time.

- Teams will be made up of a maximum of 10 players (9 skaters + 1 Goalie).
- There will be no tryouts for representative hockey.
- Players who played for the MMHA during the 2019-20 season will be placed, whenever possible, on a team at the same level they played last year (AA,A,AE,MD, House League) .
- The current maximum number of players allowed on the ice at one time per the Town of Milton is 20. In addition there can be up to 3 coaches on the ice for a total of 23 people.
- All games will be played in house between Milton teams until we are allowed to have travel between associations located within our local public health unit (PHU).
- Game play will initially consist of 4 on 4 or 3 on 3 games.
- Teams will be grouped in cohorts of up to 50 players (5 teams) for all practices and games.
- The Ontario Hockey Federation has laid out the steps we will go through on our return to traditional 5 on 5 hockey. The progression through the steps will be determined by the OHF and OMHA based on guidance from the Government of Ontario and the Public Health Authorities. All sanctioned hockey governing bodies (OMHA, GTHL, OWHA, Alliance) will be mandated to follow the protocols laid out in the document. https://www.ohf.on.ca/media/tukpds4s/ohf-return-to-hockey_0731.pdf

The proposed start date for Milton Minor Hockey will be September 21, 2020 for the majority of our programming. As mentioned there will be no tryouts at this time for the 2020-21 season. This start date is based on the association receiving approval from the OMHA to commence on that date. If we are granted permission by the OMHA to hold tryouts at some point for the 2020-21 season, they will be held, and additional costs will be charged.

Following OMHA Guidelines, our program will consist of team practices and modified game play (4 on 4 or 3 on 3) and will see the players who played representative and house league last year (2019-2020 season) assigned to teams based on the level they played last year. Players who played representative hockey last year will play against each other and players who played house league last year will play against each other. All teams will play in-house hockey until such time as we are allowed by the OMHA and our PHU to make any changes (i.e. travel, representative, increasing team size).

The U8-U15 House league program will run for 22 weeks, between September 21 and February 28, 2021 (not including a two week break at Christmas) and will represent 36 hours of ice (practices and games). The first 4 weeks will consist of (1) development ice time per week and the remaining 16 weeks consist of one practice and one game per week.

The U16 – U21 House league will commence the week of October 18 and participate in a 30 game program similar to last season.

The U7 House league program will consist of 28 ice times with a practice/games ratio as per Hockey Canada guidelines.

U9-18 players who were rostered in last year's MMHA representative program will participate in 40 hours of ice times from September 21, 2020 through February 28, 2020. After the first 2 weeks, additional ice time may be available for this program. Additional fees will be charged and ice and is subject to availability from the Town of Milton. **Programming fees for this group is based on 10 players per team. If there are less than 10 players per team a top up fee will apply. Further information regarding the organization of these teams will be sent to the head coaches in early September.**

If restrictions are reduced, and our governing bodies allow for conventional game play the program will be adjusted to follow the changes. (i.e.: having tryouts and playing 5 on 5 hockey).

Registration for the above programs will commence on September 1, 2020 and will close on September 13, 2020. The only way to register for the program is online and with a credit card. There will be no exceptions this year as the office will not be open to accept walk in registrations. We will also be offering our membership the option of 3 installment payments. There will be a \$5 charge for any declined credit card transaction.

The above program will only commence provided we have approval from all governing bodies (OHF, OMHA, Town of Milton and our local Public Health Unit).

If the program is unable to commence or is ended early due to government, OMHA, or local Public Health Unit decree, prorated refunds will be provided once it has been determined there is no chance for a restart. There will be no refunds provided for the 2019-2020 season. Please refer to the 2020-21 Refund Policy under the return to play tab of our website for further details.

Due to the increased number of teams required because of the 10 player limit, we will be needing additional Coaches and Trainers especially at the house league level. If you were an Assistant Coach or Assistant Trainer last year we are looking for you to take a team this year so please reach out to Art Lucas our VP of house league at vphouseleague@miltonwinterhawks.com , or Tracy Gaetan our house league administrator at houseleagueadmin@miltonwinterhawks.com .

If we do not have sufficient coaches we will not be able to run all of our intended programming. We reserve the right to combine age groups in order to obtain sufficient numbers to run programming. Minimum numbers are required to run certain programs. If those numbers are not met the MMHA reserves the right to refund all money paid based on the order the enrollments were received.

Due to the on ice restrictions currently in place, please be aware that at this time we will not be offering programming for players in the U5 age group. Our hope is that we will be able to offer this programming later on in the 2020-2021 season.

The Milton Minor Hockey Association Board of Directors is committed to providing the best program possible based on the guidelines provided to us by our governments and OMHA all while ensuring the safety of our players, parents, referees, coaches and volunteers. We have done our best to keep the costs as low as possible while still delivering a quality product in a safe and fun environment. The inability to have more than 20 players on the ice at a time has caused the cost per player to go up significantly, along with additional costs associated with Covid-19 protocols. To help with keeping the sport as affordable as possible the MMHA Board of Directors has authorized the use of a significant amount of money from our reserve fund to subsidize the per player cost this year.

We understand that there is a lot of information to process and there will be lots of questions so feel free to ask. This is a situation like none of us have ever experienced but if we all work together we will get through this and come out the better for it. Please be aware due to the Covid-19 pandemic that there could be changes to the programing due to government or local Public Health Unit decree.

Safety will be the top priority so please refer to the MMHA Covid-19 protocol page for details on the procedures that will be in place to ensure the safety of all our families and volunteers.

- For 2020-21 Rates please refer to the 2020-21 Special Registration Information page under the Return To Play Tab of our website.

Milton Minor Hockey Board of Directors