



TRI-COUNTY
minor hockey league



U7/U8 & U9 PROGRAMMING

Tri-County Minor Hockey League
2024/2025 Seasonal Structure MD

Revised March 24, 2024



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U7/U8/U9 Program Overview

TCMHL will provide a tiered MD league for associations for U7, U8 & U9. The MD league is intended to operate in partnership with your associations commitment to opportunity-based programming. Associations may partner the MD league program with internal commitments to their additional development program.

- MD League will be divided into “pods” based on the following priorities:
 - Geographic areas
 - Tiering options/association entries
 - Facility and partnering between associations
- ****Please note some exceptions may be required due to association/league needs***
- Rules for game play will be communicated annually and sent to associations by your OMHA Regional Director
- Hockey Canada Pathways and OHF/OMHA communicated Seasonal Structures and Objectives are the foundation for the TCMHL programming model.
- Program models will be reviewed annually and in consultation with associations



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U7 MD Season Summary- Cross Ice All Season

Prep/Evaluation & Development Phase

Sept 3rd to Oct 31st 2024

- Prep Skates (min 4)
- Evaluations (min 3 prior to tiering)
- Focus on Skills/Development
- Up to 4 Exhibition Games

Regular Season Phase
Nov 1 to Feb 16th 2025

- Cross ice games
- Seasonal break at Christmas
- **16 games** total divided as follows:
 - 12 games scheduled by TCMHL
 - 4 exhibition games may be used in reg season and end of season phase

End of Season Phase
Feb 18th to March 31st 2025

- 6 games
- TCMHL U7 Showcase (one day event)

Notes:

- Tiering of players grouped by like skill (i.e. MD 1, MD 2) & placed in “Pods” for game play (Pod sizes pending association submissions)
- On-going monitoring of Pods for the purpose of tiering by like skill
- No scores/standings are kept
- 3 Jamborees
- Seasonal Break – **Dec 23rd 2024 to Jan 4th 2025**
- **TCMHL Development Phase tiering evaluation/kick off weekend Oct 19-20 2024 pending interest approval of TCMHL associations**
 - 2 exhibition games per team split cost of games to the host centres.
- Year End TCMHL Showcase Weekend: **March 29th - 30th 2025**
 - Interested hosts to email **Tri-County President and OMHA Regional Director by July 31st 2024**
 - Costing per team and event overview to be provided as part of host interest submission (Average cost approx. \$300-\$400 per team)
 - Each team to play 2 games (one day event)
 - Pizza Lunch
 - Team medallions provided by TCMHL for all participants



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Highlights

U7 Cross Ice Game Play and Scheduling

- Games played outside TCMHL scheduled regular/end of season require travel permits
- All Jamborees require travel permits (excluding TCMHL Kick off/Year End Show Case)
- Pod's will be finalized based on association interest and may be adjusted prior or during the season to ensure tiering by like skill is optimized
- Flexibility built into game scheduling for additional exhibition games

Game Play:

- Foam dividers or boards to divide the ice at centre red line
- Small nets required for U7 (if association is unable to provide nets smaller than 4x6 they must advise TCMHL & Regional Director in advance of program start date)
- 3 min warm up (option for 5 min if ice time permits)
- Max game time 60 mins, two 22 run time periods
- Face offs to start each half
- 4 on 4 hockey two game model (in the event of low numbers have the option to run 3 on 3 alternative or 1 half ice game model alternative)
- Visiting team switches ends at intermission
- Buzzers set to 2 mins (90 secs optional alternative if deemed developmentally appropriate for the group)
- Blue pucks required
- Tagging up is required when double shifting of players is needed as a result of low numbers (coaches must ensure all players have opportunity to double shift)
- On ice Officials (min 1 required, if association is unable to provide alternative option for supervision must be approved by TCMHL & OMHA Regional Director)
- Game flow and penalties to be implemented as per *page 18-19 of U7 Hockey Canada Pathway*
- Participation sheets must be used and submitted to U8 Convenor by the following submission dates:
 - November 30th 2024
 - February 28th 2025
 - March 31st 2025



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U8 MD Season Summary- Half Ice All Season

Prep/Evaluation & Development Phase
Sept 3rd to Oct 31st 2024

- Prep Skates (min 4)
- Evaluations (min 3 prior to tiering)
- Focus on Skills/Development
- Up to 6 Exhibition Games

Regular Season Phase
Nov 1 to Feb 16th 2025

- Half ice games
- Seasonal break at Christmas
- **16 games total composed as follows:**
 - 12 league games TCMHL Scheduled
 - 4 Exhibition games may be used in reg season/ end of season phase

End of Season Phase
Feb 18th to March 31st 2025

- 8 games
- TCMHL U8 Showcase (one day event)

Notes:

- Tiering of players grouped by like skill (i.e. MD 1, MD 2) & placed in "Pods" for game play (Pod sizes pending association submissions)
- On-going monitoring of Pods for the purpose of tiering by like skill
- No scores/standings are kept
- 3 Jamborees
- Seasonal Break –**Dec 23rd 2024 to Jan 4th 2024**
- **TCMHL Development Phase tiering evaluation/kick off weekend Oct 19-20 2024 pending interest approval of TCMHL associations**
 - 2 exhibition games per team split cost of games to the host centres.
- Year End TCMHL Showcase Weekend: **March 29th -30th 2025**
 - Interested hosts to email **Tri-County President and OMHA Regional Director by July 31st 2024**
 - Costing per team and event overview to be provided as part of host interest submission (Average cost approx. \$300-\$400 per team)
 - Each team to play 2 games (one day event)
 - Pizza Lunch
 - Team medallions provided by TCMHL for all participants



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Highlights

U8 Half Ice Game Play and Scheduling

- Games played outside TCMHL scheduled regular/end of season require travel permits
- All Jamborees require travel permits (excluding TCMHL Year End Show Case)
- Pod's will be finalized based on association interest and may be adjusted prior or during the season to ensure tiering by like skill is optimized
- Flexibility built into game scheduling for additional exhibition games

Game Play:

- Foam dividers or boards to divide the ice at centre red line
- Small nets required for U8 (if association is unable to provide nets smaller than 4x6 they must advise TCMHL & Regional Director in advance of program start date)
- 3 min warm up (option for 5 min if ice time permits)
- Max game time 60 mins, two 22 run time periods
- Face offs to start each half
- 4 on 4 hockey two game model (in the event of low numbers have the option to run 3 on 3 alternative or 1 half ice game model alternative)
- Visiting team switches ends at intermission
- Buzzers set to 90 sec
- Blue pucks required
- Tagging up is required when double shifting of players is needed as a result of low numbers (coaches must ensure all players have opportunity to double shift)
- On ice Officials (min 1 required, if association is unable to provide alternative option for supervision must be approved by TCMHL & OMHA Regional Director)
- Game flow and penalties to be implemented as per *page 21 of U9 Hockey Canada Pathway*
- Participation sheets must be used and submitted to U8 Convenor by the following submission dates:
 - November 30th 2024
 - February 28th 2025
 - March 31st 2025



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U9 MD Season Summary- Half Ice to January 15th 2025 & Transition to Full Ice Model



- Notes:
- Tiering of players grouped by like skill (i.e. MD 1, MD 2) & placed in “Pods” for game play (based on association submissions)
 - On-going monitoring of Pods
 - No Scores are kept/No Standings kept for half ice games
 - iPad/Game Sheet Inc used for Full Ice Games, Scores & Standings kept
 - 3 Jamborees, 1 Jamboree pre Jan 15th and 2 Tournaments Post Jan 15th or 3 tournaments post Jan 15th
 - Seasonal Break –Dec 23rd 2024 to Jan 4th 2025
 - *TCMHL Development Phase tiering evaluation/kick off weekend Oct 19-20 2024 pending interest approval of TCMHL associations*
 - 2 exhibition games per team split cost of games to the host centres.
 - Year End TCMHL Championship Weekend: **March 28th-30th 2025**
 - Interested hosts to email Tri-County President and OMHA Regional Director by July 31st 2024 (host sharing between associations option)
 - Costing per team and event overview to be provided as part of host interest submission
 - Each team to play min 3 games (championship game 4th game)
 - Pizza Lunch and Team Beverages (Saturday April 6th)
 - Team medallions provided by TCMHL for all participants



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Highlights

U9 Half Ice & Full Ice Game Play and Scheduling

- Games played outside TCMHL scheduled regular/end of season require travel permits
- All Jamborees/tournaments require travel permits (excluding TCMHL Year End Show Case)
- Pod's will be finalized based on association interest and may be adjusted prior or during the season to ensure tiering by like skill is optimized
- Flexibility built into game scheduling for additional exhibition games

Half Ice Game Play:

- Smaller nets recommended for U9 half ice games (full size permitted)
- 3 min warm up (option for 5 min if ice time permits)
- Max game time 60 mins, two 22 run time periods for Half Ice Games
- Face offs to start each half
- 4 on 4 hockey two game model (in the event of low numbers direct option to run 3 on 3 alternative or 1 half ice game model alternative)
- Visiting team switches ends at intermission
- Buzzers set to 1 min
- Tagging up is required when double shifting of players is need as a result of low numbers (coaches to ensure all players have opportunity to double shift)
- On ice Officials required (min 1 required, if association is unable to provide alternative option for supervision must be approved by TCMHL & OMHA Regional Director)
- Game flow and penalties to be implemented as per [page 21 of U9 Hockey Canada Pathway](#)
- Participation sheets must be used and submitted to U9 Convenor by the following submission dates:
 - November 30th 2024
 - January 31st 2025



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U9 Full Ice Game Play and Scheduling

Full Ice Game Play:

- 4x6 nets required for U9 full ice games
- 3 min warm up (option for 5 min if ice time permits)
- 10-10-15 period lengths (no buzzers)
- Traditional full ice playing rules in effect
- Black pucks used for full ice games
- Affiliation U9 to U9 throughout the season, U9 to U10/U11 permitted after Jan 12th for full ice phase only
- Game Sheet Inc/iPads used for all full ice games



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Contact and Program Leads:

- Michelle Bridges, OMHA Regional Director (Region 3 Area C)
- Paul Allan, OMHA Regional Director (Region 3 Area F)
- Glen Davis & Paul Harvey, Tri County Minor Hockey League
- U8/U9 Convenor: Future position Sept 2024

Decision Points Confirmed:

- Scheduling of games will be completed between ice-schedulers to support facility and association partnerships, One DB divisions/scheduling initial set up to be completed by Tri-County League Scheduler.
- March Break regular season games may be scheduled if mutually agreed to by both associations
- ZOOM call hosted Sept 2024 for coaches/managers
- ***Competition PODS -Adjustments may be required in season to align groups by like skill***

Decision Points Pending Confirmation:

- Year end participation in TCMHL Kick off/Championship optional, associations must communicate by Sept 15th 2024 of their participation.



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Pods U7MD: Association projected entries as of March 8th 2024

Reminder:

- Pods will be monitored and adjusted if needed to address tiering by like skill
- Initial Pods are prioritized by the following:
 - Geographic areas
 - Facility and partnering between associations
 - Tiering options/association entries

POD Sizes/Groupings will be based on Association Confirmed Interest by Sept 15th 2024

Projections based on 2023 U7 Select Entries and Expressed Interest as of March 8th

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| 1. Guelph | 9. Milton |
| 2. Brampton | 10. Halton |
| 3. Orangeville | |
| 4. Caledon | |
| 5. Woolwich | |
| 6. Hespeler | |
| 7. Burlington | |
| 8. Oakville | |
| 9. Flamborough | |

Key Notes:

- *Regular Season consists of scheduled games within pods and exhibition games to permit program flexibility and increase opponent variety*
- *Associations are encouraged to ensure budgets for season include allowances for TCMHL POD scheduled games, exhibition games & additional events*
- *South/Central Competition PODS are combined for kick off weekends and year end championship wrap up*



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Pods U8: Association projected entries as of *March 8th 2024*

Reminder:

- Pods will be monitored and adjusted if needed to address tiering by like skill
- Initial Pods are prioritized by the following:
 - Geographic areas
 - Facility and partnering between associations
 - Tiering options/association entries

South MD 1

1. Halton
2. Oakville
3. Milton
4. Burlington
5. Flamborough

South MD2

1. Halton
2. Oakville
3. Milton
4. Burlington
5. Flamborough

Central/East/West MD

1. Guelph 1
2. Brampton
3. Orangeville
4. Caledon
5. Woolwich
6. Hespeler
7. Centre Wellington
8. Guelph 2
9. New Hamburg TBC

Key Notes:

- *Regular Season consists of scheduled games within pods and exhibition games to permit program flexibility and increase opponent variety*
- *Associations are encouraged to ensure budgets for season include allowances for TCMHL POD scheduled games, exhibition games and additional events*
- *South/Central Competition PODS are combined for kick off weekends and year end championship wrap up*



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Pods U9: Association *projected* entries as of March 8, 2024

Reminder:

- *Pods will be monitored and adjusted if needed to address tiering by like skill*
- *Initial Pods are prioritized by the following:*
 - *Geographic areas*
 - *Facility and partnering between associations*
 - *Tiering options/association entries*
- *Pending association interest Tier 2/3 Pods will be divided into Tier 2 and Tier 3*

South MD 1

1. Halton
2. Oakville
3. Milton
4. Burlington 1
5. Flamborough
6. Guelph 1
7. Burlington 2
8. Oakville 2

Central East/West MD 1/2

1. Woolwich
2. Centre Wellington
3. Brampton
4. Orangeville
5. Caledon 1
6. Guelph 2
7. Hespeler

South/Central MD 2/3

1. Halton 2	7. Guelph 3
2. Oakville 3	8. Caledon 2
3. Milton 2	9. Erin
4. Flamborough	
5. Burlington 3	

Key Notes:

- *Regular Season consists of scheduled games within pods and exhibition games to permit program flexibility and increase opponent variety*
- *Associations are encouraged to ensure budgets for season include allowances for TCMHL POD scheduled games, exhibition games and additional events.*
- *South/Central Competition PODS are combined for kick off weekends and year end championship wrap up*



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Resources and Support Links

HOCKEY CANADA PLAYER PATHWAY - RESOURCES

[U7 Player Pathway](#)

[U9 Player Pathway](#)

ASPEN INSTITUTE – PROJECT PLAY

[Sport for All, Play for Life: A Playbook to Get Every Kid in the Game](#)