



INFORMATION BULLETIN

BULLETIN #: 251204-023-I
DATE: 4 December 2025
TO: OMHA Associations; OMHA Leagues
CC: OMHA Board; OMHA Convenors
FROM: Ian Taylor – Executive Director
SUBJECT: 2026-27 SEASONAL CALENDAR

The Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) has approved key dates and details regarding the Seasonal Calendar for the 2026-27 season. This model adheres to the key concepts and principles of the Canadian Player Pathways framework from Hockey Canada.

See enclosed **OHF bulletin 25-046 - 2026 - 2027 Seasonal Calendar Key Dates**

In addition, the OMHA has identified additional information and direction on the following items:

U8 & U9

- Player Evaluations for U8 & U9 Minor Development (MD) will be permitted to take place in the Spring beginning **Saturday 11 April 2026**.
- These evaluations may take place over a 14-day window (April 11 – 24)
- The Development Phase for U9 & below will be finalized in January when confirmation is received from Hockey Canada through OHF regarding U9 pilot and game play models.

Addition of a Fourth Player Evaluation Window

- Player Evaluations held in the spring will be divided into four (4) 7-day Evaluation windows.
- Previously, there were only three (3) windows with “A” & below taking place in the third window.
- For 2026-27, Evaluations for “A” category teams will take place in the third window and Evaluations for “B” category teams will take place in the fourth window.

BB Category

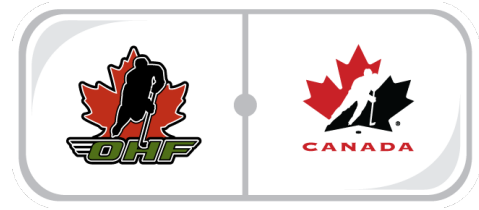
- Also of note, Evaluations for “BB” category teams will take place in the third Evaluation window along with “A” category teams.
- This reiterates the OMHA’s position that the “BB” category is “A”-equivalent programming simply without body checking.

Please contact your Regional Director should you have any questions or require additional clarification.

Encl.

ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

400 Sheldon Drive, Unit 9
Cambridge, ON N1T 2H9
T: 226 533.9070
www.ohf.on.ca



OHF Bulletin

To: OHF Directors, OHF Members, OHF Staff, OHF Senior Leadership Team, OHF Member Communication Staff
From: Jeff Stewart - Director of Programs and Events
Date: December 3, 2025
Re: 2026 - 2027 Seasonal Calendar Key Dates
Bulletin ID: 25-046

The Ontario Hockey Federation has released the key dates and seasonal timelines for the 2026–2027 season. This summary highlights all major milestones across Player Evaluations, Preparation Phases, Development Phases, Spring and Summer Programming, and the seasonal calendar.

With Labour Day falling later than usual in 2026, this document will take precedence over any conflicting dates noted in the Playing Regulations. The resource provides an overview to help Associations plan effectively for the year ahead.

In addition, the Team Official Form for the 2026–2027 season is now included and ready for Association use.

All details, including timelines, requirements, and age-division specifics, can be found in the attached document.



ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

Summary Playing Regulations & Seasonal Calendars (2026-27)

WITH THE LATE LABOUR DAY DATE FOR THE 2026-27 SEASON, ANY DISCREPENCIES ON DATES OR TIMELINES WITH THE PLAYING REGULATIONS AND THIS DOCUMENT, THIS DOCUMENT WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE.

The following resource is intended to provide a simplified overview of the key dates with the Playing Regulations for the 2026-27 season.

The below seasonal calendar summary applies to Minor Hockey within the Ontario Hockey Federation. The OWHF may implement a modified seasonal calendar to best suit the needs of Female Hockey within the province.

GENERAL CHANGE

Change in terminology from Tryout to Player Evaluation

To align OHF definitions with that of the Hockey Canada Player Pathways.

Player Evaluation provides flexibility in the format that Associations' tier their Registered Participants. Whereas with Tryouts a player either makes the team or does not. Player Evaluations still allows and encourage Associations to tier players with like skill.

COACH APPLICATIONS

Prohibitive Advertising Regulation

December 1, 2025

Associations may begin accepting applications for coaching positions for the 2026-27 season.

COACH COMMITMENTS

Prohibitive Advertising Regulation

January 15, 2026

Associations may begin offering positions to coaches.

TEAM OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT DAY

Prohibitive Advertising Regulation

February, 15, 2026

PLAYER EVALUATION REGISTRATION

Registration for Player Evaluations

April, 1, 2026

PREPARATION PHASE / PREP SKATES

Non-Team Development	Non-Team Development Opportunities are part of the season with your registered Association. If your Association/Member operates non-team development opportunities, you must participate with your Association/Member. If your Association/Member does not operate non team development opportunities, you may register with any other Association/Member. Refer to Playing Regulation G2
-----------------------------	---

UNDER-9 SEASONAL CALENDAR

U8 – U9 Player Evaluations	Spring evaluations for U9 & U8 Minor Development (MD) and Select hockey (highest tier within the Member) can begin at the direction of each Member, starting as early as the first day after their Member's U7 and U9 programming is complete for the 2025-26 season and can extend for 14 days from that date. Preparation Phase Requirements: Minimum of four (4) skill sessions must be provided by a Minor Hockey Association (or group of MHAs) to all Players. Players are not required to attend the preparation skates; attendance does not impact eligibility to attend Player Evaluations.
-----------------------------------	---

UNDER-11 & UNDER-13 SPRING PLAYER EVALUATION SEASONAL CALENDAR

Preparation Phase	AKA – non-Team Development Opportunities Start: <u>may</u> begin March 2 End: <u>must</u> end April 17 Requirements: Minimum of four (4) skill sessions must be provided by a Minor Hockey Association (or group of MHAs) or Member to all Players. Players are not required to attend the preparation skates; attendance does not impact eligibility to attend Player Evaluations. Eligibility: Refer to Playing Regulation G3(h).
Player Evaluations	AAA: April 18 AA: April 25 A & BB : May 2 B: May 9 Note 1: All Players may attend Player Evaluations with multiple Associations during each of the seven (7) day periods in accordance with Regulation G3 Note 2: Associations may conduct Fall Player Evaluations at AA and below in accordance with playing regulation G4

Development Phase

Teams selected in the spring **must** run a Development Phase between:

Start: September 8

End: October 1

Note 1: For the Divisions of U11 and **above** following Labour Day Monday, during the Development Phase teams may only practice and play a maximum of four (4) exhibition games or two (2) exhibition games and one Tournament in accordance with G3(i) (ii), and two (2) practices for every one (1) game.

UNDER-15 THROUGH TO UNDER-18 SPRING PLAYER EVALUATION SEASONAL CALENDAR

Preparation Phase

AKA – non-Team Development Opportunities.

Start: may begin March 2.

End: must end April 19

Requirements: Minimum of four (4) skill sessions must be provided by a Minor Hockey Association (or group of MHAs) or Member to all Players. Players are not required to attend the preparation skates; attendance does not impact eligibility to attend Player Evaluations.

Eligibility: Refer to Playing Regulation G3 (h).

Player Evaluations

AAA: April 20

AA: April 27

A & BB: May 4

B: May 11

Note 1: All Players may attend Player Evaluations with multiple Associations during each of the seven (7) day periods in accordance with Regulation G3.

Note 2: Associations may conduct fall Player Evaluations at AA and Below in accordance with Playing Regulation G4.

Development Phase

Teams selected in the spring **must** run a Development Phase between:

Start: September 8

End: October 1

Note 1: For the Divisions of U11 and above following Labour Day Monday, during the Development Phase teams may only practice and play a maximum of four (4) exhibition games or two (2) exhibition games and one Tournament in accordance with G3(i) (ii), and two (2) practices for every one (1) game.

SPRING & SUMMER PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES (U11, U13, U15, U18)

Spring Programming Opportunities	Associations permitted to operated skill development programming in team-based setting. Start: May 12. End: June 30. Frequency: 1 or 2 times per week, focusing on skill development with teams. Note 1: Associations must put team members (coach/players) on the appropriate roster. Note 2: OHF Members are responsible for determining internal process for approving team ice times.
July 1 – August 9	No sanctioned programming permitted during this period
Summer Programming Opportunities	Associations and Members permitted to provide individual skills training or hockey schools that operate as set out below: Start: August 10 End: September 4 Note: Only individual skill development (not-team based) is allowed. Registration with the Association is required if the Association hosts its own skill development sessions. Must be entered in the HCR. Note: Team based team builders (no exhibition games week prior to Labour Day). Associations must enter within the HCR team members (coach/players) on the appropriate roster. Note: OHF Members are responsible for determining their internal process for approving team activities
September 5 – September 7	No sanctioned programming

UNDER-9, UNDER-11, UNDER-13, UNDER-15, UNDER 18 FALL PLAYER EVALUATION SEASONAL CALENDAR

Applies to Associations that did not deliver spring Player Evaluations.

Dates listed are the earliest possible, Associations permitted to shift dates subject to internal needs while ensuring each of the identified Phases are accommodated.

Preparation Phase	AKA – non-Team Development Opportunities. Start: <u>may</u> begin September 8 Requirements: Minimum of four (4) skill sessions must be provided by a Minor Hockey Association (or group of MHAs) or Member to all Players. Players are not required to attend the preparation skates; attendance does not impact eligibility to attend Player Evaluations.
--------------------------	---

Player Evaluations	AA & Below: September 12 Note: All Players may attend Player Evaluations with multiple Associations during each of the seven (7) day periods in accordance with Regulation G4. Playing Regulations: G4
Development Phase	Start: September 19 Requirement: Must be a minimum period of 14 days development time.

TOURNAMENTS

Tournaments for all Divisions and Categories (excluding U7/U9) permitted to start **September 25, 2026**.

REGULAR SEASON

The Regular Season for all divisions and categories (excluding U7/U9) permitted to start **October 2, 2026**

PREPARATION PHASE & PLAYER EVALUATION RESOURCES: ON-ICE

Hockey Canada has provided on-ice practice plans to support Associations in facilitating the Preparation Phase and Player Evaluations. Sessions are linked by age Division.

PREPARATION PHASE RESOURCES	PLAYER EVALUATION RESOURCES
Under-7 Preparation Practice Plans	No formal evaluation required – recommend repeating Prep Skates to tier like skilled players
Under-9 Preparation Practice Plans	Under-9 Player Evaluation Practice Plans
Under-11 Preparation Practice Plans	Under-11 Player Evaluation Practice Plans
Under-13 Preparation Practice Plans	Under-13 Player Evaluation Practice Plans
Under-15 Preparation Practice Plans	Under-15 Player Evaluation Practice Plans
Under-15 Checking Skills	
Under-18 Preparation Practice Plans	Under-18 Player Evaluation Practice Plans