

Initiation Program Overview & Update

September 10, 2017

Milton Minor Hockey Association



Program Goals



- Create a safe, fun environment for all players ages 4 to 7 years old to begin the development of basic hockey skills, team work and sportsmanship.
- Create an environment where all players can succeed.
- Create a future foundation for players at all levels.
- Assist parents in creating a supportive learning environment.

“Leadership and sportsmanship starts in the stands and it starts with you”

Trevor Linden, President of Hockey Operations, Vancouver Canucks

Program Evolution



Pre 2011 – 2012

- TimBits
- Mite Team (1 & 2)
- Tyke AA, A, AE

2016 - 2017

- The First Shift
- Respect in Sport / Parent Code of conduct / on-ice requirements
- Beginner Program
- TimBits
- Squirt Program
- Super Six
- Tyke White, Blue, Silver

Program Evolution



Hockey Canada **INITIATION PROGRAM**



Program Evolution



Program Foundation

- Providing a safe environment in which to be introduced to hockey's fundamental skills.
- Developing an understanding of basic teamwork through participation in structured activities and adapted game-like situations.
- Introducing participants to the concepts of fair and co-operative play.
- Refining basic motor patterns and building self-confidence.
- Providing an environment that challenges individuals positively and rewards the participants for their efforts.
- Provides opportunities to experience a number of activities related to the building of a lifestyle of fitness and activity.



Program Evolution



Program – what it looks like

- The Initiation Program is a progressive, learn-to-play teaching curriculum. Players learn through participating in practice drills and informal modified games.
- The program consists of four phases of instruction, designed for any entry-level hockey player, which introduce the skills of skating, passing, puck control and shooting in a progressive, one-step-at-a-time manner.
- The focus is on **skill development and fun** without the pressures of winning.
- It aims to create participants and instructors who will continue in the game.
- The motto is **Fun, Fitness and Fair Play.**



Program Evolution



Why Change?

- ...



Program Evolution



Why Change?

- Half-ice/cross-ice hockey has always been part of the Initiation Program, but has not been implemented in the same way in every community – beginning this fall (2017-18 season), cross-ice/half-ice is **mandatory** at the Initiation level because we want to make sure all kids are learning the basic skills in an age-appropriate manner, and following the same steps based on our long-term player development model. – **Not a big change for Milton**



Program Evolution



Why Change?

- Half-ice/cross-ice hockey at the Initiation age effectively right-sizes the playing surface for young players:
 - You don't put five- and six-year-olds on a full-size soccer pitch, or expect them to play basketball on a full-sized court with no height adjustments – hockey is no different.
 - Half-ice/cross-ice hockey allows young players the opportunity for more puck-touches, which promotes greater opportunity for skill development (puck-handling, shooting, skating, coordination) and decision-making.
 - Players on half-ice/cross-ice have been shown to receive five times more passes and take six times more shots than when they are on a full-sized rink.
 - Small-area games are used at all levels of the game – including senior national teams and the NHL.



Program Evolution



Why Change?

- The benefits of half-ice/cross-ice hockey go beyond player development; the special boards and bumpers allow minor hockey associations to alleviate pressure around scheduling and ice-time availability by safely allowing multiple practices and games to take place on one rink at the same time.



Program Evolution



Milton's Initiation Program 2017 – 18 Season

- 4 program sections
 - The First shift
 - Beginner – mini-Hawks Hockey School
 - TimBits (East & West Divisions)
 - Tyke White, Blue, Silver, Houseleague
- ½ ice / cross hockey throughout IP (Full ice for Tyke for 2017-18 season)
- New boards
- Electronic schedules

Initiation Program Overview



The First Shift

- THE CANADIAN TIRE FIRST SHIFT program is designed to ensure a positive experience for families new to hockey.
- Breaking down the perceived barriers that exist for many parents, and making them feel at home within our hockey community.
 - Currently not enrolled in hockey (ages 6 – 10)
 - 6 weeks; 1-hour per week
 - Consistent day / time



Initiation Program Overview



Beginner Program – mini-Hawks Hockey School

- Age 4-5 (Born 2013)
- 1 ice-time per week
- Two rotating 50-minute times
 - Saturdays 7:00AM / 8:00AM
 - Facilitated by development service provider
- Current maximum enrolment – 80 players

Initiation Program Overview



TimBit Program

- Age 5-7 (Born 2011 - 2012)
- 24 teams of 12 players (east and west divisions)
- Between 1 and 2 ice-times per week
 - One development sessions / week (Saturday)
 - One development session or cross ice / half-ice scrimmage every other week (Sunday)
- Practice plans provided to all coaches
- Season starts – Oct. 7th
- Saturday 6:30AM – 10:30AM; Sunday 9:30AM – 12:30PM

Initiation Program Overview



Tyke MD Teams (White, Blue, Silver)

- **Unchanged for the 2017-18 Season**
- Age 7 (Born 2010 ONLY)
- Players selected via evaluations held in September
- Evaluation fee - \$60 (each player gets 3 ice times)
- Player selected by White, Blue, Silver Coaches, VP Rep, IP Director
- Evaluations run by development service provider
- Coaches selected through league Rep process
- League manages team financials
- Current maximum enrolment – 51 players

Initiation Program Overview



Tyke MD Teams (White, Blue, Silver)

- 52 practice ice times over the year
- 17 sets of home and away jerseys including names
- 13 development sessions with a development service provider
- 17 home & away games and refs
- 2 Tournaments (After December 1st)
- 1 Track suit / hockey pants
- \$2000 towards goalie development (\$1,000 per goalie)
- \$1500 towards additional player development.
- \$1000 to be used for other board approved activities
- Pucks and Pylons provided by the league
- League manages team financials
- Fees (in addition in League Fees) - \$1550

Initiation Program



[One last video](#)



Initiation Program

FAQ

- Do we have to do this? We have heard other centers are not.
- What happens if we don't implement this program?

