

What is the Hockey Edmonton Recreational League?

The program offers participants a less structured program with few practices. The focus is on participation, fun and playing with friends. It is a non-body checking, no slap shot alternative to the current mainstream hockey model - note that body contact is allowed in the same manner as in Novice, Atom, Peewee and Female divisions of play - similar to Adult recreational leagues. Registration is restricted to minor hockey players aged 13-17 as of December 31 of the current season. (1999-2003 birth years) The program is open to all players residing in Edmonton and surrounding areas that do not have Recreational Hockey Leagues within their own program such as St Albert, Leduc, Spruce Grove, Bon Accord etc.

How does it operate?

The Hockey Edmonton Recreational League arranges schedules, recruits league directors, monitors teams/players, develops league rules, co-ordinates referees, etc.

Teams play games against all other teams within their category. No standings are kept. There are no exhibition, tournament or playoff games.

How many teams are expected?

It varies from year to year; we hope to see 6 Bantam teams and hopefully 8-10 Midget teams. Shortages of goaltenders may impact the number of and configuration of teams.

How are the teams selected?

We attempt to honor "play with friend requests" (2 friend request maximum) as well as other requests with respect to families and driving requirements, so we have no tiers in effect. We do try to balance the teams out as best with single players with no friend requests, though we also have rules to maintain with equalization of teams. A 3 goal limit and the option to swap players if there is a 5 or more goal difference augments this challenge.

How are the coaches selected?

Coaches are volunteers with players (family) on their team. We encourage equal time and fair play with some minor and basic skill development.

Do the coaches need the same qualifications as the regular (body contact) hockey stream?

Yes, all team officials require the RiS Coach/Leader. The Head Coach is required to have the Coach 2 Level as well as Checking Skills. One team official per team must have the HCSP (Safety).

What divisions of play are offered?

Categories are Bantam (13 &14) and Midget (15-17). Depending on the success of the program categories may have to be combined or modified. If there is substantial growth, a natural outcome may be categories with divisions of play. If there are insufficient numbers in the categories, it may be changed to age groupings. This would be finalized once registration is completed and numbers are determined.

What if my skill level is not high enough or too high?

We will do our best to place a player where they are most comfortable. We welcome all skill levels and roll with them on every line regardless of skill.

What is the Recreational Hockey Leagues primary objective?

Our focus is fun/recreation. Costs of ice are a challenge to keep fees low so practices and player development sessions are curtailed. Many parents did come from the mainstream programs and are finished with the fundraising aspect. We also cater to families that are financially challenged, so asking for additional fees would be inappropriate. For those new to hockey we do encourage them to get in extra skating on the free ice available to the public, as well as any possible opportunities in local outdoor rinks.

Are the rules different than mainstream hockey?

Teams play under the current Hockey Canada playing rules with the exception of body checking and no slap shots. Players and team officials are subject to the same penalties as competitive teams for similar offences. Supplemental Discipline, if necessary will be more severe than in mainstream hockey. All players will be advised of the differences before starting play. Full equipment is mandatory.

Who Referees?

Certified Hockey Alberta Referees will be assigned for all games.

How many games are planned for the season?

We plan on 18 games (1 per week) beginning mid October and ending in March. There will be 1 practice for initial team formation and familiarization, and 1 practice half way through the season. As this is a recreational & fun based theme, it allows for less commitment from parents and players. As well it limits our costs (and player registration fees) with ice time and the constant challenges of managing ice for a league.

How many extra practices do coaches usually fund through parent cash contributions/fundraising?

None and there is no allowance for having teams pursue additional funding for expenses of this nature. As mentioned above, many parents are done with the fundraising aspect and additional fees.

Are there playoffs?

No, standings will not be kept and there are no playoffs.

Is HERL a part of Quikcard Edmonton Minor Hockey Week?

No, we do not participate in Edmonton Minor Hockey Week.

Can HERL teams play exhibition games against other regular stream teams, if the other team agrees to the no-hit rules?

No. There is a risk involved that cannot be effectively managed through the different insurance policies of the leagues. Goalies (via the substitute goalie process) are the only players that can cross leagues.

How long are the games?

All games are 1.5 hours in length.

What days will I play on?

Games will be scheduled on Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

Do parents need to do anything?

Yes, one parent from each family must complete the Respect in Sport Parent online program before their child is allowed on the ice. They do not need to repeat it every year.

How much does it cost and how do I pay?

Registration for 2016-2017 has been set at \$380.00 per player. Registration and payment are done online by following this link: <https://registration.hockeycanada.ca/registration/?ID=507>

Please note that if you are a new player to hockey OR to the Rec League, you must contact Glenn at the office prior to registering.