YELLOWKNIFE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

NOVICE DIVISION PROGRAM

IMPLEMENTED: Oct 20th, 2016

BACKGROUND

Prior to 2013, YKMHA lacked a Timbit program where new players were given the opportunity to spend their first year or two of hockey focusing on the basics of skating and getting used to being on the ice. In 2013, YKMHA introduced the Timbits program and divided the Initiation Program into two separate divisions, Timbits and Initiation. The Timbits program was for the brand new player learning from scratch and the Initiation Program was for the more experienced players under the age of 7. In 2016, YKMHA adopted the new Hockey Canada Initiation Program utilizing ¾ sized nets, blue pucks and half ice games to really focus on the grass root skills and allow the player more opportunity to touch the puck and build confidence. As such, the Novice program has evolved fairly significantly as player skill levels entering the Novice age group have increased.

GOALS OF THE NOVICE DIVISION

The goals of the Novice Program are to;

1. Have fun while playing hockey and engaging in physical activity.
2. Further develop the grass root skills required to play the game.
3. Develop an understanding of basic team work through participation in a variety of activities and adapted game situations.
4. Create and refine basic motor skills.
5. Continue to develop the concepts of cooperation, teamwork and fair play.

FOCUS OF THE NOVICE DIVISION

The Novice Program focuses on skill development in the following areas;

1. Skating
2. Puck Handling
3. Stopping
4. Passing
5. Turning
6. Shooting
7. Grass root hockey skills
8. Team tactical skills

NOVICE COACH REQUIREMENTS

People wishing to coach the Novice division must complete the Respect In Sport – Coach prior to working as a coach. They must also register on line at [www.ykminorhockey.ca](http://www.ykminorhockey.ca). Hockey Canada directs that all coaches at this level complete the Coach Level II. YKMHA works closely with Hockey North to put on these clinics at least once per year.

NOVICE PLAYER POSITIONS

In the Novice Division, players should be encouraged to try all positions on the ice including goalie. Coaches are to ensure that each player has an opportunity to try each position including goalie. If a team has a player that has identified themselves as a full time goalie, the coach must advise the parents that that player will have to allow others to try goalie as required throughout the year and that full time goalies are not allowed at this age level. Once each player has had the opportunity to try out the goalie position, towards the end of the season, coaches may choose to use a full time goalie.

NOVICE GOALIE EQUIPMENT

YKMHA has one set of goalie gear for each team in the division to be used by players as they try out this position. The sizes vary so coaches are encouraged to work together to ensure the appropriate sized equipment is shared amongst the teams.

NOVICE DIVISION EXECUTION

Novice Teams will be granted 1-2 half ice practices a week lasting 45 minutes in duration. Teams will also be granted 1 game per week. Games will be set up with a 5 minute warm up period and three 12 minute run time periods with the buzzer going after each minute for a mandatory line change.

Referees will call off sides, icings and penalties right at the beginning of the season so coaches are strongly encouraged to cover this during the initial practices.

NOVICE DEVELOPMENT TEAM (NDT)

Details on the NDT can be found in the Development Team section.