



BASHAW STARS INTRO TO HOCKEY

PRE-INITIATION – INITIATION - NOVICE

Hockey Canada made it mandatory that all games are played on cross ice/half ice starting in the 2016-17 season for Initiation age category (ages 5 and 6) participants, and in the 2019-20 season for Novice age category (ages 7 and 8) participants. These policy changes were designed to address ongoing challenges to player development, including: over-competing and under-training; fundamental movement skills and sport skills not being taught properly; preparation geared to short-term outcomes; a competition system that interferes with athlete development; early specialization is demanded.

Effective for the 2019-20 season, Hockey Canada is mandating that all hockey for players aged eight years and younger (Initiation and Novice) is to be played according to age-appropriate development guidelines. Minor Hockey Associations not operating according to these standards will be considered in violation of the Hockey Canada policy.

The goals and objectives of Intro to Hockey programming are to:

1. Teach the basic skills of hockey so players can enjoy the game.
2. Assist in the development and enhancement of physical literacy and basic motor patterns.
3. Deliver a program that is age appropriate for the size, skill and age of the players.
4. Encourage the aspects of fitness, fair play and co-operation while having fun playing the game.

Please refer to Hockey Alberta's Introduction to Hockey Model:

https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/uploads/source/Intro_To_Hockey/Intro_to_Hockey_FINAL_2019-20.pdf

BMHA Philosophy: Introduce hockey to our youngest players in a fun and safe environment through passionate leadership and innovative skill development.

BMHA Objective: To coordinate with Hockey Alberta to introduce hockey to the players in our association

A. Program Guidelines:

Ages: Pre-Initiation (4 Year old players): being 4 years old before December 31st
Initiation Players: aged 5 or 6 before December 31st of the current season
Novice: aged 5 or 6 before December 31st of the current season

Overage: parents are to approach the head coach, manager or registrar. The request will then be decided upon by the BMHA Board. Refer to BMHA Policies for the overage process and Hockey Alberta Guidelines.

Fees:	4 year olds	players born 2015	\$225
	Initiation	players born 2013-2014	\$400
	Novice	players born 2011-2012	\$425

Pre-Initiation (4 Year Olds)

- Will be on the ice during the Initiation Practices learning basic skating and hockey skills: Tuesdays @ 4:30pm – 5:15pm and Thursdays @ 4:30pm – 5:15pm
- They will participate in practices only
- Families with a *4 year old only* will not be expected to work any concession hours
- Fundraising for BMHA will still be required (this includes raffles, events, casino and Oilers 50/50)
- 5 and 6 year olds may overage into the 4 Year old program – must meet Hockey AB guidelines for over-aging and BMHA Board approval
(*This allow applies to Novice players wishing to overage into Initiation*)

Volunteer Requirements:

As a small association we rely on our amazing parents to make hockey available to the children. If you are interested in managing or coaching, please speak with a BMHA board member.

Every family will be responsible to volunteer for fundraising throughout the season. This may include working at a Casino, selling Oilers 50/50 tickets, comedy night or any other opportunities as deemed by the board.

Volunteer Concession Hours: Each family is responsible to work 15 concession hours each season. A reduction of 5 hours will be offered to those who volunteer to manage or coach or board members.

Team Structure:

The number of registered players will vary yearly.

If there are 16 players or less, they will function as one team.

If there is 17+ players the BMHA Board will determine how the team is divided.

Division may include pods or teams or to continue as one large team.

B. Practice Guidelines

Hockey Alberta recommends 2:1 practice to game ratio

(Practices will start once ice is installed, typically the first week of October)

Tuesdays 4:30pm – 5:15pm

Thursdays 4:30pm – 5:15pm

Any Saturday practices requested by the head coach in lieu of a game will be **optional** attendance. We understand that for some players, twice a week is more than enough ice time for them.

The full ice surface will be used for practice with 3-5 stations set up. The focus will be on technical skill development by utilizing circuits and continuous drills. When splitting up players for station work in practices, they will be separated based on skill so all players can be challenged by enabling coaches to progress and regress drills as needed based on the skill set of each station group.

C. Game Guidelines

	Initiation	Novice
Games	-Games will be booked by team manager between November 1 st and February 29 th -*2 exhibition games may be scheduled in October	-Games will be booked by the West Country League between November 1 st and February 29 th -*2 exhibition games may be scheduled in October -Playoffs to be determined
Ice Orientation	Ice will be shortened using foam dividers utilizing center ice. Maximum ice surface is 100' x 85' (maximum 8,500 sq./ft)	
Game Format	4 vs. 4 plus goalie (no equipment other than goalie stick)	4 vs. 4 plus goalie (full goalie equipment)
Game Length	Two 24-27 minute halves (60 minutes total)	
Game Warmup	3 minutes	
Nets	36" x 54" x 20"	Regulation (4' x 6')
Puck	Lightweight blue puck (4 oz.)	Regulation black puck
Score Kept	None No game sheet	None Game sheet is required
Standings/Statistics	No stats will be tracked	
Benches	Bashaw will use the Home Team bench and the opposing team will use the visitors	
Positional Play	No position specialization, no full-time goalies – every player takes a turn	No position specialization, every player who has interest will have the opportunity to play goalie
Face-Offs	Start of game and second half only	
Off-Side & Icing calls	None	
Puck Out of Play	Drop new puck to non-offending team	
Goalie Freezes Puck	Offending team backs off and goalie gives puck to a teammate to resume play	
Goal is Scored	Scoring team backs off and goalie pulls puck out of his net and gives to teammate to resume play	
Shift Length	3 mins (Buzzer is set to 3 min intervals, on buzzer players leave puck, go to bench and new players enter the ice and continue to play)	1.5 mins (Buzzer is set to 1.5 min intervals, on buzzer players leave puck, go to bench and new players enter the ice and continue to play)
Officials	Not Required, coaches are to be on ice to control play	1 or 2 per game – both are acceptable

Penalties	None	Referee puts arm up to signal penalty, if offending team has the puck it is a change of possession as indicated by the referee. At buzzer at the end of the shift the referee tells the coach what the penalty was and who got it. Offending player misses next shift, team still plays full strength.
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Home Ice Time: Saturdays @ 9:00am (exhibition games, max. 2, may begin the 2nd weekend of October)

- This ice time may be used for practices/scrimmages but will be optional
- Parent volunteers are required for Time box & 50/50 sales
- Team Manager will create a work schedule and notify parents of required shifts. If unable to fulfill role, it is the parents' responsibility to organize a trade with another parent

D. Home Tournament: January 11 and/or 12th

- The tournament will be a *one or two day* tournament. This is to be decided upon by the team led by the tournament coordinator/committee.

-The structure of the tournament will be set up by a volunteer tournament coordinator/committee, along with *all* the parents.
(i.e. 6 teams each playing 3 games, no playoff games)

Parents will be required to help organize the tournament and work shifts during the tournament. (concession*, raffle table, 50/50 sales, time box)

Each family will be responsible to contribute a \$100 donation towards the tournament. This can be a personal donation or sourced from a business.

**These concession shifts do not count towards the 15 volunteer hours required for BMHA.*

Refer to Tournament Guidelines in the BMHA Handbook for additional details.

E. Under-aging 4 Year olds into the Initiation program

If parents feel that their child is ready to play games by December 7th, they may complete the Underage Application Form (appendix D) by December 1st and submit to the head coach. This will be reviewed by the coaching staff and they will then determine if the player is ready to participate with the team in practices and games. If the underage request is granted the player may begin playing

games on December 7th (Hockey Day in Bashaw). The coaching staff reserve the right to deny the application.

If a 4 year old begins playing games, they will participate as an Initiation team member for the remainder of the season including all games and practices as able.

As for parents, this will include:

- Contributing to the home tournament both financially and volunteering of time
- Six (6) concession hours will be required to be completed by the end of the season (*this applies to the families of just a 4 year old*)

Appendix

Underage Application Form For 4 Year Olds

Underage requests must be submitted by December 1st of the current hockey season

Date of Submission _____

Name of Player _____

Date of Birth _____

Division they would like to move up to _____ **Initiation**

Reason(s) player is ready to play games:

Name of parent(s) making the request _____

Email Address _____

Contact Phone Number _____

For Head Coach

Head Coach _____

Approval of under aging above mentioned Reason:
player into Initiation

Yes

No

Date _____