

GRANDE PRAIRIE MINOR HOCKEY
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2026-2027

Please check our website for more information.

Please refer to www.gphockey.com and our Facebook page for all news, updated & upcoming events.

How do I register?

All players are to register online, **providing the online The Shift Forward - Parent course is complete.**

REGISTRATION

Before any registration can be accepted, one parent must have completed THE SHIFT FORWARD - PARENT online course. [CLICK HERE](#)

For complete information check our REGISTRATION tab just above the logo on our website.

This is a proactive, educational program that empowers parents with the tools to ensure the game is enjoyable and respectful for themselves, their children and all other stakeholders in the game. If you already have children who have played hockey and you wish to register a new player, you must add this new player to your Parent Respect in Sport profile.

To start players must have been born in or after 2022 AND be self sufficient on the ice: if they fall they can get back up themselves.

What are the age divisions?

- 2022 born = U5

- 2020 - 2021 born = U7

- 2018 - 2019 born = U9

- 2016 - 2017 born = U11

- 2014 - 2015 born = U13

- 2012 - 2013 born = U15

- 2009 - 2011 born = U18

Positions do not begin until U11, and then only goalies are noted.

U11 only named position is goalie

indicate your preferred position

indicate your preferred position

indicate your preferred position

What levels of hockey are there?

We have male and female teams in all these levels.

Intro to Hockey - U5, U7, and U9

Recreation hockey from U11 + U13

U15 & U18 will play in the All Peace Hockey League

Development hockey from U11-U18 - Competitive, Travelling - Also U11 AA highest level for U11 in the province.

Elite teams for U13 - U18 (GPAC and PCFAC)

What is the difference between Intro to Hockey, Recreation, Development and Elite?

Intro to Hockey

Schedule may occasionally be affected by special events which will decrease our ice allotments.

U5 has one ice time on the weekend mainly Saturday mornings.

U7 and U9 have two ice times on the weekends.

Entry into exhibition games and tournaments must be a parent group decision, players who do not go are not obligated to pay.

Recreation

U11 & U13 have one practice during the week and two ice times on the weekends.

Weeknight practices will rotate Wednesday's and Friday's.

U15 ice times will be dependent upon registration and number of teams we have.

All travel must be approved by the division Commissioner

Recreation teams cannot collect team fees or have bank accounts, all funds must flow through the GPMHA office.

Any fundraising initiatives must be approved by the GPMHA Treasurer.

Development including U11 AA teams will have tryouts and will travel on a regular basis with league and tournament play.

Once a player has made a Development team including U11 AA, the D & E fee of \$ 200.00 per player must be paid to your team by Oct 31, 2026

Depending upon the budgets arrived at, there will be monthly team fees, as well as fundraising.

There will be two practices during the week, as well as the weekend league or tournament games.

One of the weekday practices may be at 6:30 - 7:15 am.

Elite AA & AAA teams will have tryouts and travel on a regular basis with league play. League schedules usually do not leave room for tourneys.

Once a player has made an Elite GPAC team, the D & E fee of \$ TBA per player must be paid to your team by Oct 31, 2026.

Once player has made an Elite PCFAC team, the D & E fee of \$ 260.00 per player must be paid to your team by Oct 31, 2026.

There will be two to four practices during the week, plus dryland, plus the weekend league play.

There are considerable costs involved in elite hockey as the teams belong to Provincial leagues.

Dev & Elite teams may collect monthly team fees and fundraise. All funds will run through the office and monitored by the Executive & Treasurer

Each team must provide a full financial statement to each parent and to the GPMHA Treasurer and office MONTHLY.

All fundraising initiatives must be approved by the GPMHA Treasurer.

GPMHA Team picture nights - October 20 & 21, 2026

GENERAL

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call us.

We can be reached through the office at the Design Works Centre, by phone 539-6177, fax 539-0398, or e-mail info@gphockey.com

We invite you to browse our website at www.gphockey.com.

Like our Facebook page = Grande Prairie Minor Hockey!

What is GPAC and PCFAC (Elite) ?

GPAC = Grande Peace Athletic Club

PCFAC = Peace Country Female Athletic Club

These are subsidiary organizations created to oversee our Elite Zone teams.

GPAC runs the U13, U15, U17 and U18 AAA Storm male teams as well as the U13, U15, U16, U18 AA Storm male teams.

PCFAC runs the U13 AA, U15 AA and the U18 AA Elite Storm female teams.

What are the Grande Prairie Boundaries?

Highway 43 in the north, the Smoky River in the east, the Wapiti River in the south, Range Road 71 in the west.

Why are there boundaries?

Hockey Alberta has mandated that each minor hockey association have their own boundaries.

We can take import (from other assns) players on our U11 AA, U11 FA - U18 FA, Elite AA and AAA teams - male and female.

Can I still register in Grande Prairie if I do not live in your boundaries?

Yes, if there is **no** team in your home association and GPMHA is the closest association.

Yes, if you are trying out for a U11 FA - U18 FA, with **no** pure female team in your home association, Elite Female AA or Male AA or AAA team.

When does registration run?

We start on May 22, 2026

A late fee of \$ 150.00 will apply on June 24, 2026 for all returning players who have not registered prior.

After June 25 any new players or imports registering, please call the office for a promo code to avoid paying the late fee.

We will still take registrations right up to one week before evaluation dates, providing we have room.

We are normally open Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. The office will be closed the month of July.

We are located upstairs at the Design Works Centre Arena, 6 Knowledge Way, Grande Prairie. 780 539 6177 ext 1

Payment of Fees

Payment can be made by mastercard, visa, debit, E-transfer.

For post dated e transfer payments, please complete the Promissory Note on our Registration page on the website.

There will be a \$ 45.00 admin fee on all dishonoured or late payments and the registration will be suspended.

Upon request, receipts can be issued for the base registration, evaluation/tryout and late fees only.

Financial Support

We believe all children should be able to participate in hockey. If you need financial assistance, please talk to the office.

All such conversations are confidential and handled discretely. We can help with registration fees and equipment.

You can apply online with Kidsport Oil Country Hockey Assist Program, Hockey Canada Assist, Canadian Tire Jumpstart.

Equipment - What equipment do I need? See Parents Corner on our website

Why are there evaluations for Recreation teams?

We try to keep the skill level for each team as even as possible.

Why do I have to pay a tryout or an evaluation fee?

To pay for the ice and referees and other expenses involved in evaluations and tryouts.

Why do I have to pay an extra D & E fee for a Development, AA or Elite team?

When calculating the registration fees, we have one base fee per division, **which is all that the Intro to Hockey / Recreation players pay.**

The D & E fee covers the extra practice ice, league fees, and Development for Elite teams.

Sponsors - Intro to Hockey/Recreation sponsors pay \$ 800.00 - \$ 1100.00 per year to help defray the costs of Intro to Hockey/Recreation hockey.

Sponsors - Development sponsors pay \$ 2600.00-\$ 2800.00 per year to help defray the costs of Development hockey.

Sponsors - Elite sponsors pay \$ 5000.00 per year to help defray the costs of Elite hockey.

Once a player has made a Dev team/U11 AA, the D&E fee of \$ 200.00 per player must be paid to your team by Oct 31, 2026

Once a player has made an Elite GPAC team, the D & E fee of \$260 - \$360 (team Specific)

per player must be paid to your team by Oct 31, 2026.

Once player has made an Elite PCFAC team, the D & E fee of \$ 260.00 per player must be paid to your team by Oct 31, 2026.

We registered in Recreation, can we switch to Development?

Yes upon paying the difference in the tryout fee, providing the change is made **one week before evaluations start.**

We registered in Development, can we switch to Elite?

Yes upon paying the difference in the tryout fee and approval from GPAC or PCFAC.

Can we request to be on a certain team?

Special requests are not permitted.

If Exceptional Circumstances/Situations exist, there is a provision for you to formally apply in writing at least 2 weeks prior to first ice time.

Convenience is not considered "Exceptional".

How much ice is included in the base registration fee?

up to 20 hours for U5 shared
 up to 20 hours shared ice U7
 up to 30 hours shared ice U9
 up to 45 hours shared ice U11 Recreation
 up to 45 hours shared ice U13 Recreation

The teams below will pay an additional \$ 200.00 - \$ 360.00 per player to get additional ice and cover additional expenses.

The extra D & E fee pays for costs over & above the base fee for the U11 - U18 Development and Elite teams.

As well the sponsor portion for Development and Elite teams is quite a bit higher than for Intro to Hockey and Recreation

up to 90 hours U11 Development

up to 90 hours U13 Development

up to 90 hours U15 Development

up to 90 hours U18 Development

up to 110 hours PCFAC teams

up to 110 - 160 hours GPAC team Specific

What is the cost of the ice?

we pay \$163.75 in the City and \$151.02 in the County per hour of ice. We must also pay for a .15 minute flood at the end of every practice or game.

Prices determined by municipality.

Do we have to fundraise?

Yes - GPMHA has fundraising projects that all members participate in - regardless of where your child plays.

Each member of each team or division must participate fully in fundraisers. If you do not, you will be expected to pay your share.

There is a Fundraising Fee of \$ 200.00 to each registration. This is paid along with the yearly registration, etc fees.

In the fall, raffle tickets will be available to each player's parents to sell in order to recoup the fundraising fee **if you so desire**.

Once all of the tickets in a book are sold, the parent then turns the ticket stubs in by the appointed date.

What is included in our registration fee?

Advertising, Coach Education, Coaching Mentor Expenses, Computer Costs, Equipment, Ice, Ice Scheduling Program, Insurance, Meeting Rooms, Office staff, Office supplies, Referees, Referee Clinics, Registration for Hockey Alberta/Canada, Rent, Socks, Picture Night Memorial Awards, Sponsor Awards, Technical Director, Telephone, Fax, Travel, Xerox

Clothing - Team Apparel - GPMHA teams

Every 3 years GPMHA requests quotes on all GPMHA or Knight's branded clothing from local suppliers. We award the contract in 3 year terms to the company which the executive feels will best be able to meet our needs, taking into consideration who will be able to provide the best service at the best price along with the vendor's support of the community and our association. We are proud of the GPMHA and Knight's names and want them displayed in the best possible way, treating it as our "brand" and trying to keep how our brand is represented as consistent as possible. We also need to ensure that we are giving proper recognition to our team sponsors which is why only certain options are allowed. We usually award the contract once every 3 years and the vendor will have exclusive rights for that time. On our website we will provide an updated Apparel Brochure along with information on how to access the online clothing store for items other than the Team Wear.

Refunds

Prior to evaluations or tryouts, approved refund requests will see a \$ 75.00 admin fee plus the Hockey AB/Canada Membership Fee

Once a player has been selected to a team, refunds will only be given with a medical note or proof of moving from the GPMHA boundaries, less

\$ 100 admin fee plus Hockey AB/Canada Membership Fee. The refund will be based on the BASE registration fee, ice used, & association resources used to date. If GPMHA is not able to operate, due to facility or gov't restrictions, refunds will be prorated on the BASE registration fee, ice used and association resources used to date.

EVALUATIONS AND TRY OUTS

All players must be registered for Tryouts or Evaluations one full week before the dates of Tryouts or Evaluations

Evaluation and Tryout Process

All players at the U11 level or older must pay a non refundable evaluation fee & indicate whether they want to be evaluated in the U11 AA, Development (T1 - T6), the Recreational (equal teams) or Elite (GPAC/PCFAC) Levels.

We have three goals within our Evaluation system:

to have all players compete at their highest level, to offer more opportunities at the Development level and to have parity within all levels.

There will be separate evaluations for each of the U11 AA, Development, Recreation divisions, and Elite (GPAC/PCFAC)

FROM GPAC/PCFAC TO GPMHA

If a player (local) attends a GPAC/PCFAC Tryout, does not make a GPAC/PCFAC team, they must then pay the GPMHA Evaluation Fee to the GPMHA office prior to entering into the A Evaluations. Only local players would continue on to Development Evaluations A, B, C.

DEVELOPMENT - Includes U11 - U18, male and female

Development evaluations begin once GPAC and PCFAC tryouts are completed.

During tryouts/evaluations parents may request a move down from the Technical or Executive Directors as long as it is prior to the Coach Skate.

Once the evaluations/try outs are **completed** and the player is advised of his/her placement, any request for movement must come in writing to the Vice President for Executive approval.

GPMHA will not necessarily have all of the T1 - T6 divisions, dependent upon registration and the skill level of those being evaluated.

RECREATION - Includes U5, U7, U9, U11 GP & U13 GP

There will be a further two or three week post evaluation period before the Recreational teams are formally set, to allow for movement to ensure the teams are of equal calibre.

U5 & U7 will be fully half ice. U9 will be a hybrid program, Tier 1 will have full ice after Nov 1st and all other U9 teams after Jan 1st. All players in each division will be evaluated together and tiered according to skill on mixed age teams.

Can I help with the team my child is on?

Yes with the proper certification and proper paperwork: team staff application & police information check.

What courses do I need to Coach?

Every member of the team staff must have a Staff Application form, Police Information Check, & The Shift Forward Coaches/Team Officials.

Team staff are head coach, assistant coaches, trainers, managers.

All Female teams must have at least one female carded/certified as Coach or Assistant.

All head coaches and assistants for players ages 4 - 8, must have the Coach 1 - Intro to Coach Certifications & Division Pathway

All head coaches and assistants for players ages 10 +, must have the Coach 2 certifications & Division Pathway

All head coaches and assistants for players ages 10 +, must have the Instructional Stream Checking Skills certification.

All head coaches for U13 AAA and AA levels U13 - U18 must have the Development 1 certification.

All head coaches for U15 - U18 AAA must have the High Performance certification.

All assistant coaches for AAA/AA must have Respect in Sport Activity Leader.

All teams must have two staff certified in the Canadian Hockey Trainer's Program.

No one can be on the ice or bench unless they are certified as above and have proper paperwork in.

How old do you have to be to become a referee?

You must be 13 years old by December 31 of the current year.

When is the referee clinic?

For more info go to www.hockeyalberta.ca under **Officials**

You will need to register and pay online. There will be an online portion to complete before you go to the clinic.

What arenas do we play at?

Design Works Center, Dave Barr, Bonnett's Energy Centre, and the JDA County Sportsplex are considered home ice.

We request that all facilities and staff be treated with the best of respect.

Fines will be issued for puck marks in any facility anywhere other than on the ice.

24 Hour Respect Rule

All parents, players, relatives and friends must adhere to the 24 Hour Respect Rule by waiting a full 24 hours prior to contacting any

Parent Liaison, Coaches, Managers, or Grande Prairie Minor Hockey Representatives regarding any hockey concerns or issues.

Complaints, concerns - Proper Communciation

Please follow the following protocol for questions or complaints. If your concern is not satisfied at the lowest level, then proceed to the next.

Under no circumstances is texting, calling or approaching team staff while a team activity is going on appropriate.

Parent > Parent Liason > Coach or Manager > Commissioner > Vice President > President > Executive as a whole

All concerns or complaints must be submitted in writing and must be signed.

Insurance

All players and officials associated with GPMHA are covered by mandatory liability insurance through Hockey Canada.

This IS NOT an accident insurance policy. It is recommended each player and official obtain their own insurance.

For more information on the insurance go to www.hockeyalberta.ca under the Members tab.

Jerseys

Player Name Bars are not allowed on any GPMHA jersey. Players are NEVER to take their jerseys home.

Each team must have one or two Jersey Directors, who will volunteer to collect the Jerseys from each child after each game, wash them WEEKLY as per the approved instructions, and ensure that they remain together in the sweater bag in good as condition as possible.

All Cs and As must be purchased from ProSport and sewn on by a professional.

Jerseys that are not returned or are returned damaged or abused at the end of the season will be billed out.

Recreation Exhibition Games and Tournaments

All of our Recreation level teams may be invited to play other teams from the surrounding area for the occasional game or for a tournament.

All travel must be approved by the Commissioner for each level. Parents must bear all costs relative to these games.

Hockey Alberta sanctions must be obtained for all exhibition or tournament games.

Volunteers

Other than the office staff, GPMHA is a volunteer run association. We need each and every parent to help in ways they are comfortable with.