
Hockey Edmonton TIMBITS Preseason Info Bulletin 2017-18

August 25, 2017

Attn: DOA Presidents and TIMBITS Directors;

Welcome back to the 2017-18 hockey season in Edmonton! Throughout the summer some alterations have been made to the Hockey Edmonton TIMBITS program to improve program quality and efficiency. Please recognize the following program adjustments and significant reminders before the season start.

1. **CONTACT:** *Questions/concerns from athletes, parents, and instructors must be directed to the respective DOA staff/executive.* If a question/concern requires further attention, I will be the DOA executive/staff contact for TIMBITS program questions. Please see my contact information below:

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2. *As per June 2, 2017 communication:* DOA's **MUST** offer registration for **ALL THREE** Timbits Program Levels (Discovery, Junior, Senior). Athletes must register in the appropriate level:
 - **Discovery** – Learn to Skate (4-year old's);
 - **Junior TIMBITS** – Introduction to Skill Development (5-year old's);
 - **Senior TIMBITS** – Introduction to Small Area Games (6-year old's).
 - If a TIMBITS athlete is proficient in the Hockey Edmonton Core Skills and is physically and mentally capable, they may be assessed by the DOA TIMBITS Program Director, and moved to a higher Timbits Program Level;
 - *A Timbit player cannot accelerate more than TWO Timbits Program Levels (i.e. a 4-year-old athlete cannot accelerate to Senior Timbits);*
 - An athlete **MUST** participate in a lower Timbits Program Level if they are NOT proficient in Hockey Edmonton Core Skills and NOT physically and mentally capable;
 - An athlete **MAY** participate in a lower TIMBITS Program Level if they choose.
3. **TIMBITS HCR:** HCR Rosters (10-12 players) will again remain unlocked for the 2017-18 season, to facilitate athlete adjustment throughout the 2017-18 season. Instructors/Directors **MUST** ensure athletes are registered within the appropriate TIMBITS Program Level.
4. **PROGRAM CURRICULUM:** NEW curriculums have been developed for the 2017-18 season. There will be THREE separate and distinct curriculums for Discovery, Junior, and Senior TIMBITS. Instructors **MUST** utilize these curriculums on a weekly basis, implementing exercise regressions/progressions when necessary. These curriculums will be available for digital electronic retrieval on the ProSmart Sports Learning website ([CLICK HERE](#)).

5. **PROGRAM FEES:** Many DOA TIMBITS programs are not following the minimum suggested fees set out for the TIMBITS program. The following fees **MUST** be utilized as minimal standards:
 - **Discovery:** \$165;
 - **Junior TIMBITS:** \$ 165;
 - **Senior TIMBITS:** \$ 250.
 - *Fees can be adjusted if ice time is shortened (i.e. Discovery Program: 45-min)*

6. **TIMBITS ACCELERATION:** The Hockey Edmonton Board of Directors voted to **NOT** allow any underage/accelerated player applications from Initiation Program (Timbits) to Novice starting in the 2017-18 season.

7. **TIMBITS PROGRAM RESOURCES WEBPAGE** ([CLICK HERE](#)): has been updated for the 2017-18 season. This webpage contains all necessary documents/resources concerning the Hockey Edmonton TIMBITS Program:
 - Numerous NEW Hockey Edmonton documents/resources have been uploaded to assist DOA's with executing their TIMBITS program;
 - The updated Hockey Edmonton TIMBITS Implementation Guide and Operations Manual will be uploaded by Thursday, August 31, 2017;
 - The updated Hockey Alberta Initiation Program Guidelines have been uploaded.

8. **IMPORTANT DATES:**
 - **Season Start:** (October 6/7, 2017);
 - **TIMBITS Fall Festival** (December 16, 2017) – format and curriculum in development;
 - **TIMBITS Winter Jamboree** (March 16-18, 2018) – format and curriculum in development.

- **TIMBITS Directors Meeting: September 7, 2017 @ 7:00-9:00pm @ Hockey Edmonton office**
 - Inviting all Hockey Edmonton TIMBITS Directors and respective DOA Presidents to participate in the season opening TIMBITS Directors meeting. It is mandatory to send at least one member from your respective TIMBITS DOA. At this meeting, we will discuss program changes, answer questions, and kick off the season with a special past-Oilers guest speaker.

- **TIMBITS INSTRUCTOR Meetings:**
 - Instructor Meetings (September 19, 21, 25, 27, 2017) – Instructors must choose ONE of EIGHT sessions;
 - These meetings are free, and are mandatory for all TIMBITS Instructors;
 - Register/more info via Hockey Edmonton webpage ([CLICK HERE](#)).

9. **HOCKEY EDMONTON TIMBITS MENTORSHIP COMMITTEE:** To provide more instructor support, THREE Hockey Edmonton TIMBITS program mentors have been recruited and trained to support and evaluate DOA TIMBITS programs and instructors. These mentors will be randomly visiting DOA TIMBITS programs and will be supporting and evaluating the programs off-ice and on-ice. A DOA may also request mentor assistance for instructor and director mentorship/support.

10. HOCKEY CANADA NCCP COACH REQUIREMENTS:

- **HOCKEY ALBERTA NCCP COACH CLINICS (NEW)**
 - All instructor clinic booking and inquiries are done through Hockey Alberta's main office. Clinic locations will vary across the City of Edmonton, and instructors will be provided with this information upon registration.
 - A reminder that all TIMBITS Instructor requirements must be met by: November 15, 2017.
 - Hockey Canada NCCP Coach Clinics ([CLICK HERE](#))
 - **Hockey Canada Announcement #2** ([CLICK HERE](#)):
 - Effective for the 2017-18 season, it is recommended all instructors coaching the Initiation Program players (5- and 6-year-olds) must be Coach 1 – Intro to Coach-trained;
 - For the 2018-19 season, it be mandatory that all instructors coaching Initiation and/or Novice (7- and 8-year-olds) be Coach 1 – Intro to Coach -trained;

11. FUTURE NOTES AND INFORMATION:

- **Hockey Canada announcement #1** ([CLICK HERE](#)):
 - Effective for the 2017-18 season, Hockey Canada has approved a policy that mandates all Initiation-aged players receive age-appropriate programming on cross-ice or half-ice surfaces.
- **Hockey Canada Announcement #2** ([CLICK HERE](#)):
 - In the 2017-18 and 2018-19 seasons, it is recommended all games played at the Novice-aged level be cross-ice or half-ice games;
 - In the 2019-20 season, it will be mandatory that all games played at the Novice-aged level be cross-ice or half-ice;
 - *Hockey Edmonton will wait for guidance from Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta, before making changes to Novice program;*
 - For development purposes, other PSO's have already launched a Novice program:
 - HOCKEY MANITOBA ([CLICK HERE](#))
 - BC HOCKEY ([CLICK HERE](#))
- **EDMONTON OILERS PROGRAMMING**
 - Lil' Oilers Program ([CLICK HERE](#))
 - February 2018 to March 2018

We are looking forward to kicking off a successful 2017-18 hockey season in Edmonton!

Yours in Hockey,

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