



# Nepean Girls Hockey Association

## NGHA Wildcats



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### U9 Competitive Goalie Pilot (2 Year)

U9 is an important development year for young players and Hockey Canada recommends that all players should have an opportunity to play goalie and encourages all players to rotate through the position throughout the season. The Hockey Canada Long-Term Player Development Model encourages a wide range of skill development at a young age, and focusing on a single position may limit the opportunity to practice skills in all areas. The consequence of this is that players who have expressed the desire to focus on being a goalie often haven't received development to compete at higher levels as they progress to older divisions.

NGHA supports the Hockey Canada policy and would like to:

- Enhance the development path supporting more players to become full-time goalies particularly to support success at the U11 level and higher.
- Continue to support players more focused at goalie at U9 to develop skating fundamentals and other skills (e.g., compete, stickhandling, shooting, etc).
- Provide flexibility for players who enjoy playing as both a skater and a goalie to get more experience as a goalie at U9.

To meet these objectives, NGHA is implementing a two year pilot:

1. For the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 seasons the U9 Competitive team can roster **one player** as a goalie. This goalie will be selected in consultation with the Competitive Directors and Evaluation Committee and must meet the following criteria:
  - Player and parents indicate desire to be full-time goalie
  - Player must be the top ranked goalie after the 50 minute skill evaluation
  - Player must try out as a skater at all other tryout sessions and be deemed suitably qualified to play U9 competitive when skating and other skills (e.g., compete, stickhandling, shooting, etc) are assessed
2. During the first half of the season (half ice games, September to mid-January), there will be equal opportunity for players to rotate into the two goalie positions. The player identified as the full-time goalie must also take equal turns as a player.
3. During the second half of the season (mid-January to end of season), the player who is rostered as a full-time goalie may get a majority of the games but there will still be opportunities for other players to play this position. If there is no full-time goalie, preference may be given to players who are most interested in goalie development.
4. U9 House League and Competitive players rostered as, or who have expressed the desire to get more experience as, a full-time goalie will have access to the new NGHA Goalie Development Sessions.
5. Teams are encouraged to have practices (a minimum of 10 practices) with no goalies where all players (including a rostered goalie) skate as players with a focus on skating and edgework.

Our intention is that this pilot will be evaluated at the end of the 2025/2026 season, however we reserve the right to implement changes as required.



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