



FAQ's

Q. WHAT IF MY CHILD DOESN'T SKATE MUCH?

Your child will have more success if they are comfortable on their skates. There are skating and intro-hockey programs offered through the local arenas, as well as public skates and stick and puck. Try to get them on the ice as much as possible prior to hockey starting. If your child is older than 8 years, it is recommended that she/he have some skating skill and be able to stop proficiently.

Q. WHEN WILL MY CHILD START PLAYING?

This depends on whether your child is trying out for a Rep team or playing House hockey. You will get a phone call mid to late August for Rep, and early September for House teams. The actual season of games does not start until mid-October, although exhibition and/or balancing games will take place prior to the season start.

Q. HOW LONG DOES THE SEASON LAST?

VMHA has ice times as early as mid-August and depending on your child's age/level, may well be playing up to and including the school spring break in March.

Q. AT WHAT RINK AND AT WHAT TIME WILL MY CHILD BE PLAYING?

Due to Olympic construction, this year VMHA will use various arenas in the Vancouver and surrounding area. These arenas will include Britannia, the Agrodome, Trout Lake (until December), Reilly Park and 8 Rinks to name a few. Practices and home games will be held at these arenas for each team. The ice allocator puts a schedule together near the beginning of the season based on number of teams and ice availability. There are no guarantees that your child will play out of the arena closest to your home. Game and practice times vary. Be prepared to have your child available for one weekday and both weekend days once the season begins. Hockey 1-4 may have less time on the ice, and Rep teams may have more.

Q. CAN I SIGN MY DAUGHTER UP?

Yes, by all means! Vancouver Minor Hockey Association is open to boys and girls of all ages.

Q. CAN MY CHILD BE ON THE SAME TEAM AS HIS FRIEND?

We cannot guarantee this. You can submit a written request to the Division Coordinator prior to team selection/placement, however, we may not be able to accommodate all such requests as our Association must conform to the PCAHA rules of "Balancing" teams.

Q. WHAT DOES "BALANCING" IN HOUSE HOCKEY MEAN?

Pacific Coast Amateur Hockey Association governs VMHA, like all other associations that we compete with. PCAHA requires that all House teams in an association are as even as possible. This means that all teams should have a balance of inexperienced, new to hockey and experienced players. In game situations, teams should be competitive with one other.

Individual player evaluations take place prior to practice groups being put together. These practice groups will play "balancing" games against each other. Players may get moved from group to group in order to "balance" the teams. PCAHA requires that all teams must be balanced by December 1st. If they deem the teams imbalanced, they will request that the association balances the teams, and have the authority to request which players need to move teams. VMHA will endeavor to put forth balanced teams prior to the start of the season.

Q. I DON'T REALLY WANT MY CHILD TO PRACTICE IN THE MORNING BEFORE SCHOOL. CAN HE/SHE PLAY GAMES ONLY?

Because we cannot afford to waste ice, we respectfully request players that cannot commit the time to practice and/or play to please not occupy space that a committed player can use.

Practices in early morning or late evening ice will be a reality for many divisions. We have tried to accommodate many players & volunteers in the past, but due to Olympic upgrading, we will not be able to guarantee this possibility over the next few seasons. Ice will be very precious during this time and it is imperative that all members and players do their part to utilize the ice. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee a player's schedule.

Q. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A REP TEAM AND A HOUSE TEAM?

A Rep (or Representative) team is a team that is selected specifically to compete at the top level of the age group throughout the season. VMHA puts forward Rep teams from Atom division up. Tryouts for Rep

teams will take place over the Labour Day weekend. Rep hockey takes more commitment from players and parents than House hockey. Rep teams often travel further for games and tournaments and are often on the ice more than House teams. There is also a higher fee for those who play Rep hockey. House teams are comprised of players of all levels. House teams need to be balanced.

Q. WHAT IF MY CHILD DOESN'T LIKE HOCKEY OR GETS HURT? WHAT IS THE REFUND POLICY?

Please see VMHA's refund policy under forms.

Q. I LIVE WITHIN YOUR BOUNDARIES BUT MY CHILD'S FATHER LIVES IN ANOTHER ASSOCIATION'S BOUNDARY. WE SHARE CUSTODY, SO WHICH ASSOCIATION DO WE REGISTER OUR CHILD FOR?

Each situation individually assessed and we will contact you if there are further documents required (PCAHA has governing rules in these areas).

Q. MY CHILD WOULD LIKE TO TRY GOALIE. IS THIS POSSIBLE?

In Hockey 1-4, all children who want to try goalie will get the opportunity. From Atom up, children are starting to make the decision to become a goalie or a player full time. Atom Rep teams usually carry two goalies who share the game time. Atom House teams often have two children who split their time between playing goal and playing out. Older divisions tend to have specific goalies that play all of the time.

Q. DO I HAVE TO SUPPLY MY OWN EQUIPMENT FOR MY CHILD?

Yes, your child needs to have all of his or her own equipment unless they are playing goalie. If they are playing in goal, there is a \$200 refundable deposit on leg pads, chest protector, catcher and blocker. All other gear must be supplied by the individual. Applicable to Atom Rep and above, if a goalie has his or her own equipment, their registration fee is reduced.

Q. DO I NEED TO BUY A HOCKEY JERSEY FOR MY CHILD?

Your child will need a personal jersey to practice in. Team jerseys will be provided to each player once the teams are set and are only to be worn for games. There is a one time \$50 refundable jersey deposit required at time of registration. Team socks will be available for purchase once the season is underway.

Q. DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO WEAR A MOUTH GUARD?

Mouth guards are not mandatory in Canada; however, mouth guards have been proven to help reduce the possibility of concussions.

Q. WOW, HOCKEY CAN GET EXPENSIVE! ARE THERE ANY SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE?

There are programs such as Kidsport that help cover the cost of children's sports. VMHA has volunteer opportunities in exchange for hockey credits that may be used towards registration fees or equipment. These are in the form of volunteering to work at the Britannia concession or at a bingo. For more information on any of the above, please contact the registrar, treasurer or parent auxiliary.

Q. CAN I DROP MY CHILD OFF AT THE RINK AND THEN PICK THEM UP WHEN THE GAME OR PRACTICE IS OVER?

NO, a parent must be present at all times, for safety reasons as well as something as simple as a child needing specific attention from an adult besides the coach during a practice or game.

Q. WHO DO I GET MY CHILD'S SCHEDULE FROM?

At the beginning of the season, players will go through assessments for placing before teams are selected. These schedules will be given to parents and players by the divisional manager or coaches. During the playing season, your coach or team manager will provide you with a regular schedule.

Q. I HAVE A QUESTION THAT IS NOT ANSWERED HERE.

If your questions are registration related, please contact the registrars. Information is on the website. If you have a general question, you can email info@vmha.com or leave a voice mail on the hockey line. Please keep in mind that these positions are manned by volunteers and they will endeavor to reply as quickly as possible. If you do not receive an answer in a reasonable amount of time, please follow up on your call or email.

Q. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BODY CHECKING AND BODY CONTACT?

Vancouver Minor offers a CHOICE to our Peewee, Bantam and Midget players to either participate on body-checking or body-contact teams.

Body checking is also known as "hitting" and although body contact is also known as non-hitting, parents should be aware that there is still a certain amount of "bumping" and physical contact. The difference being that in body checking, intentional legal hits are permitted. A player is automatically assigned to Body Contact in their 1st year of hockey.

Please keep in mind the ages in each division. Peewee is 11 and 12, Bantam is 13 and 14, and Midget is 15, 16 and 17. The Risk Manager has the right to move any player to a body-contact team if he/she feels that it is in the players and the Association's best interest.

More information is available on the Body Checking Waiver located on the Forms tab on the VMHA website.

Q. HOW DO I GET MY JERSEY DEPOSIT REFUNDED?

If your child will not be returning to hockey the next season or withdraws during a season, you are entitled to a refund on your jersey deposit providing the jersey has been returned in the same condition it was received and verified by the equipment manager. Please email your requests to equipment@vmha.com after July 01, 2007.