



Parent Information Handbook

Hockey 1-2 (Tyke)
Hockey 3-4 (Novice)
Recreation Hockey Division
(Atom C, Pee Wee C, Bantam C, Midget C)

Welcome to Vancouver Minor Hockey!

We are hoping that everyone is ready for a fun time learning to play hockey and for making new friends.

The purpose of this information booklet is to provide you with some basic information about what your family can expect over the season (September to March), and what the Association and your Division will expect of you.

Your team Coach/Manager will schedule a parent meeting at the beginning of the season and at that time you will be provided with further information on the program and you will be given an opportunity to ask questions.

As you review this booklet, remember that you are a member of the Association and every member is a volunteer. Hockey is a team sport and the Association, the Division and the individual groups/teams function best with everyone working together. We encourage and require the contribution and participation of all our members. If you are not sure how to help out, please do not hesitate to ask 😊

General Information (all ages/divisions)

Team Pictures

Team pictures are usually scheduled before Christmas (exact time to be announced). Please have your son/daughter fully dressed (without the helmet) for picture day. Arrive at the designated arena 15 minutes prior to your scheduled picture time with the completed Order Form (to be provided by the team Coach/Manager). A team photo together with a single picture of your son/daughter is provided free of charge. Additional photos may be purchased. In either case, please complete and submit the Order Form on picture day.

Special Events

Throughout the season events such as VMHA Giants nights, Casino nights, Awards nights, Gala Banquet etc. will be scheduled. We encourage every family to come out and enjoy the fun!

Amateur Hockey Structure - Registration and Additional Costs

International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF)
Hockey Canada
BC Hockey
Pacific Coast Amateur Hockey Association (PCAHA)
Vancouver Minor Hockey Association (VMHA)

Your registration fee covers the cost to the Association for your child's ice time, jerseys/equipment, insurance, and referee costs.

Once Hockey 1-4, Atom C, Pee Wee C, Bantam C and Midget C team formation is complete **you can expect an additional cost**, depending on the expenses your team chooses to incur (depending on the level it may work out to be about \$50-200 per child). Some teams generate additional funds through fundraising events. Be sure to attend the parent meeting when your team's budget is discussed and developed.

Team Budget

Each team/group will develop a budget for the expected costs that a team will incur over the season. For example, costs may include: tournament fees (each cost between \$450-\$1000/team), player/coaches gifts and a season-end wind up. This amount will be discussed by the team Coach and/or Manager and is dependent upon the number of tournaments in which the team wishes to participate and the type of wind-up the team wishes to organize.

Respect In Sport

The principle of Respect in Sport is to promote fair play and respect for all participants within the Association. The expectation is for team officials, parents and players to commit to observe the principles of Fair Play as set by the Canadian Hockey Association and supported by Vancouver Minor Hockey Association.

Player Equipment Required

- Athletic support (jock/jill)
- Shin pads
- Shoulder pads
- Practice jersey (VMHA team jerseys are only to be used in games)
- Neck guard
- Tape (for stick)
- Garter belt
- Hockey socks (matching socks are provided with your jerseys)
- Elbow pads
- Gloves
- Knee length hockey pants
- Helmet (full cage/full visor)
- Skates
- Mouth guard (optional but encouraged)
- Hockey Stick
- Long-sleeved under shirt and full length underwear

It is important for all players to obtain appropriate and well-fitting equipment. Coaches and experienced parent volunteers can assist you if you are unsure about your child's equipment requirements.

Team Equipment Provided by the Association

We are very fortunate in that our Association covers the cost of the following equipment that is required by the team:

- ✓ set of team jerseys (\$100 jersey deposit required at initial registration)
- ✓ team pucks
- ✓ First Aid kit for Safety Person
- ✓ goalie equipment (until Atom level)

All the above items are to be returned to the Association at the end of the season.

Dressing Room Etiquette

- Please ensure to arrive at the rink for practice and games at least 1/2 hour prior to the scheduled time to have your child dressed and ready to go on the ice 5-10 minutes prior to ice start time.
- Please ensure that you dress your child in the dressing room and not in the general lobby.
- There are no cameras, cell phones or other picture taking devices allowed in the dressing rooms.
- The dressing room is the place where valuable information is communicated and team bonding is formed. Coaches may request that parents leave the dressing room 5 minutes prior to the start of the game in order to speak with the players.
- Always notify the Coach or Manager in a timely manner when your child will not be able to attend a game or practice.
- Two deep rule - That there must be two adults (in BC that's defined as people 19 years and older) supervising the players at **ALL** times.

Team Roles and Responsibilities

VMHA is based on teamwork, respect and active participation.

One family member for each player is expected to assist in the operations of the team. This may include volunteer positions such as snack parent, home game 50/50 sales, home game time clock duties or away game scorekeeper (for H4 and above) and concession at the Agrodome. Your team Coach/Manager may wish to establish a rotation schedule for some of these duties.

VMHA also has a volunteer program that will excuse you from paying the \$75 per player volunteer fee. The following duties are part of that program:

Board Member	Division Manager	Coach
Assistant Coach	Team Manager	Safety Person
Tournaments	Fundraising for VMHA	Website Maintenance
Bingo	Giants Night 50/50	Event Ticket Sales
Photo Day	Equipment Assistant	Awards Dinner
Volunteer Dinner	Special Events	

All volunteer team officials (Coaches/Assistant Coaches, Managers, Safety Person) are required to take the Respect in Sport course. Participants will have the course cost reimbursed by the Association. Other certification requirements may be required based on position held.

Manager

Establish budget and manage team monies, arrange exhibition games, ensure game schedules are developed and distributed, ensure efficient operation of games and coordinate volunteers for game duties, complete game sheets and mail to League, organize entry into tournaments and assist the Coach with his/her responsibilities as needed, manage communications for the team, manage and track all paperwork requirements for the team. As well the Manager is responsible for organizing any fundraising activities and a year-end wind up party (the team Manager may wish to delegate the fundraising and party responsibilities to a volunteer parent). The team Manager is required to attend the PCAHA Presidents' League Managers' Meeting in November.

Head Coach / Assistant Coach

In addition to the Respect in Sport course, coaches are required to take the BC hockey coaching clinic. Participants will have the Program cost reimbursed by the Association. Visit the BC Hockey website for dates and locations at bchockey.net/Clinics/clinics.aspx

Safety Person (HCSP)

Provide on ice assistance, examine the arena and player equipment for safety, develop and disseminate an emergency plan for an injured player, assist injured players, be available to be on the bench during games. The Safety Person is also responsible for bringing the First Aid kit (provided by the Association's Safety Person via your Division Manager) to all games and practices, and for making an Injury Report available to the attending physician in the event a player must attend Emergency. In addition to the Respect in Sport course, the Safety Person is required to take the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) by no later than December 1st of the current season. Participants will have the Program cost reimbursed by the Association. Visit the BC Hockey website for dates and locations at bchockey.net/Clinics/clinics.aspx

Presidents Banner Weekend

Is usually scheduled the weekend prior to spring break.

For Tyke and Novice, each team will play their last game of seasonal play and each player will receive a participation banner.

For Atom – Midget, the final championship game is played for each division and the winning team receives a banner for their association.

Ice Allocation Policy

VMHA receives ice from the Vancouver Parks Board based on their minor sports allocation policy. Parks Board programs such as learn to skate, public skate etc., are given priority over minor sport programs. These programs are also usually at prime times during the week and weekends. We compete for ice times with other minor sport associations as well, such as girl's hockey, school hockey programs, figure skating, speed skating and other minor hockey associations.

We have 3 types of ice available to us...

Entitlement Ice – is the ice we receive from the Parks Board based on the allocation policy. On average this is about one hour per week per team which does not come close to meeting our Associations needs for both practice and game ice.

Above Entitlement Ice – is the ice we receive from the Parks Board that they are not using. This typically is late night or early weekday morning ice times.

Private Ice – This is the ice that we purchase outside of the Parks Board rinks to meet the minimum needs of our associations teams. This is also restricted to availability however we purchase everything that is available for our association.

The availability of ice is always an issue for VMHA but we are committed to finding as much ice as possible for our player's development.

Ice times are assigned to teams based PCAHA guidelines.

The Initiation Program

The focus of the Initiation Program (Hockey 1-4) is on skill development. During the first number of weeks of the season, players will be put into groups to facilitate a series of practices. By the beginning of November, each player in Hockey 2-4 will be evaluated and assigned to a team. The purpose of this evaluation process is to balance the teams within each Division and, ultimately, to ensure that our teams have fun when they play against teams within the PCAHA. There are no playoffs at this level.

Hockey 1

The objective of the Hockey 1 program ("Introduction to Hockey") is to provide first-time players (aged 5) instruction in the basic skills of the game of hockey in a positive, non-competitive atmosphere, utilizing the Hockey Canada "Introduction to Coaching Program" lesson plans. There will be no formal structured hockey games for Hockey 1. By using the progressive lesson format, players will be introduced to hockey in a fun, positive and safe environment. Players involved with the Hockey 1 program are

permitted to participate in one jamboree over the course of a season. Although the Hockey 1 group is not organized into structured teams, the concept of active participation of the group is necessary. The Hockey 1 group will need volunteers such as Manager, Coaches, and Assistant Coaches to assist with the on and off ice operations of the group (see Roles and Responsibilities).

Hockey 2 – 4

The objective of the Hockey 2 to 4 program is to provide an introduction to team play for hockey players aged 6-8 in a non-competitive, recreational structure. The emphasis in the program is to promote skill development and sportsmanship and the continued utilization of the Canadian Hockey Association Initiation Program. Hockey 2 may be referred to as "Tyke", and Hockey 3 and 4 referred to as "Novice".

Following the initial weeks of skill development, teams will be formed in appropriate skill levels using the criteria set out in the Initiation Program. The numbers of teams and number of players per team will be decided once the teams are skill-balanced in accordance with the PCAHA rules. Generally, two ice times are allocated to each team. One ice time is used for practice and the second ice time is used for games. The League Manager will assign "league" games, and the team Manager will schedule all remaining "exhibition" games. Some of these games will be home games, and others will be away games. During games, all players are entitled to equal ice time. A team meeting will be held by the Coach and/or team Manager at the beginning of the season to define roles and responsibilities, team goals, and to discuss the team budget.

Hockey 1-4 Summary (for guideline purposes)

Hockey 1

No formal games. Jamborees are permitted

Hockey 2

6 assigned "league" games after Dec. 15th

Exhibition games may be scheduled after November 1st

No more than 30 games per season, including exhibition games and a maximum of 2 tournaments

No score is kept or posted

Hockey 3

13 assigned "league" games starting after the Remembrance Day weekend

Exhibition games may be scheduled after October 15th

No more than 35 games per season, including exhibition games and a maximum of 2 tournaments

No score is kept or posted

Hockey 4

13 assigned "league" games starting after the Remembrance Day weekend

Exhibition games may be scheduled after October 15th

No more than 40 games per season, including exhibition games and a maximum of 2 tournaments

Score is kept, no more than a 5 goal difference is posted.

New Player Program

VMHA is pleased to offer a unique "New Player Program". This program has been specifically designed for those players in Atom to Midget (age 9 to 17 years of age) that have not played organized hockey within an association before. This is an opportunity to ensure the player has the skill level and confidence prior to being placed on a team within their respective division.

The program promotes hockey skill development, self-confidence, encouragement, sportsmanship and hockey rules and regulations in an environment that is non-competitive. Once the season starts, and up until mid-December all players will continue to be assessed by the coach. During this time the player could be moved to a team if the coach feels the player is ready. If a player has not been assigned to a team within their division by mid-December, then they will remain in the New Player Program until the end of the season, improving their skills for the next season. All players are guaranteed a spot on a team the next season.

For those that remain in the program, this is "their team".

Program includes:	2 ice times per week	Professional Coach
	Assistant coach	Manager
	Safety person	

All other expectations as outlined in this document are applicable to the new player program.

No official games are played in this category.

Atom C, Pee Wee C, Bantam C, and Midget C Recreation Hockey Division

It is very important to the Association to provide the best opportunity for balanced teams within these divisions. Player assessments begin **Labour Day** weekend and players are evaluated on a number of skills and rated 1-5. Based on this information, teams are drafted and must be balanced to other teams within VMHA in their division.

Team selection and balancing

Once player evaluations are completed Coaches and the Division Manager will meet to divide the teams into player groups based on the player evaluations, the Division Manager will oversee this process. There will be a double blind draft. Player groups will be drafted in the first phase based on the average score assigned to each player during the skill evaluation process with the final result being that all the groups will be of equal strength and skill. The second phase is that each of these player groups will be assigned a Coach in a lottery process, trades will be made to allow for a Coach's child or coaching staff's children to be moved to that player group, each player traded will be of equal strength and skill. Once this is completed, player groups will play a series of "balancing" games to ensure that groups are indeed of equal strength. Players may be moved to facilitate the balancing process. After the completion of the balancing games, the Division Manager will declare that the player groups are balanced on behalf of the VMHA and player groups will then become teams. PCAHA has until January 15th to have trades made between the teams if it should become apparent that the teams are not actually balanced. Every effort is made by the Coaches and Divisional Manager to avoid this happening.

League games begin after October 15th.

Generally, two ice times are allocated to each team. One ice time is used for practice and the second ice time is used for home games. The League Manager will assign "league" games, and the team Manager will schedule all remaining "exhibition" games, there will be a home game and an away game played each week. During games, all players are entitled to equal ice time. Playoffs begin in February.

Arena Maps

Teams will travel to different arenas through the season for league games and tournaments. You can access the following site to find out where arenas are located: www.arenamaps.com

More information can be found on the following websites

www.vmha.com
www.pcaha.bc.ca
www.bchockey.net