



INFORMATION BULLETIN

BULLETIN #: 181220-018-I
DATE: December 20, 2018
TO: OMHA Centres
CC: OMHA Board; OMHA Convenors
FROM: Ian Taylor - Executive Director
SUBJECT: Novice Player Pathway

Attached please find a Memo from the OHF regarding Novice Player Pathway Implementation for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 seasons.

The most significant element of this Memo speaks to the issue of Spring Tryouts in 2019-2020. For the 2019-20 season, Spring Tryouts, as currently managed, will be permitted to continue for the 2019-2020 season at the Novice Age Division. For 2020-2021 season, Evaluations and Tryouts will move to a fall model for mandated implementation at Novice Division.

The other elements of programming for Novice, including the half-ice/full ice transition model, will be as communicated previously, and are included in the 'Programming Novice and Below - Association Implementation Guide' document as published. In your review of this document, please also note that the naming of what had previously been known as the 'Tyke' Division (7 year-old) will now be known as 'Minor Novice'. This will align the naming of this division with the rest of Hockey Canada.

Hockey Canada, through the OHF, will also be delivering the Atom Player pathway requirements and considerations for implementation in the 2020-2021 season, and it is expected that among the requirements, the Fall Evaluation/Tryout model will also be mandated for this age division. It is anticipated that the release of the confirmed Atom Pathway documentation will be released from Hockey Canada approximately January 15, 2019, and we will be communicating this to our stakeholders once it has been received.

Sincerely

Ian Taylor
Executive Director

ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

400 Sheldon Drive, Unit 9
Cambridge, ON N1T 2H9
T: 226 533.9070 F: 519 620.7476
www.ohf.on.ca



Memo

To: OHF Members

From: Phillip McKee - OHF Executive Director

Date: 12/17/2018

Re: Novice Player Pathway Implementation for 2020-2021 Season

Over the past year the Ontario Hockey Federation with its Members have implemented strategies to for 8-and-under participants through the OHF Player Development Model. While these strategies have focused on the appropriate ice surface for the age of players, there have been many other recommendations to enhance the player experience and align our programming with the Hockey Canada Long Term Player Development model.

In March of 2018 OHF Minor Council passed a motion that only Minor Atom divisions and above will be eligible to conduct tryouts for the 2019-2020 season. The direction effectively was to transition tryouts for Novice and below age categories to evaluation sessions held in the Fall. This information has been sporadically distributed with various interpretations of eligibilities, dates and times for such evaluation sessions.

The OHF Directors have reviewed information pertaining to this direction, as well as feedback from the OHF Operations meetings and have determined the following:

- For the 2019-2020 season the full implementation of Novice programming as outlined in the OHF Player Development Model ([OHF PDM](#)) will continue to occur as has been communicated.
- For the 2019-2020 season it is recommended that Minor Hockey Associations review the OHF Player Development Model ideals and begin a plan to implement the ideals outlined in the player evaluation and seasonal structure aspects of the Novice Player Pathway.
- For the 2020-2021 season, in addition to the OHF Player Development Model for the Novice age group the player pathway will require player evaluations and selection to occur no earlier than the Tuesday following Labour Day Monday.

The full implementation and shift to a Fall evaluation period will place the Ontario Hockey Federation's seasonal structure in line with the Hockey Canada Novice Player Pathway. Furthermore, the move positively supports the objectives for Novice programming



outlined in the Canadian Player Pathway which explains that during this period players are continuing to develop fundamental motor skills and coordination, while growing their impression of hockey as a positive one for players and parents.

While the shift to a Fall evaluation period will not be required until the 2020-21 season, it is recommended that Minor Hockey Associations begin to implement Fall tryouts for the Novice age group for the 2019-20 season where possible. Support and information will be available to Minor Hockey Associations and administrators from your OHF Member by the end of January 2019.

The OHF will work in partnership with our five Members who administer Novice: the Minor Hockey Alliance of Ontario (Alliance), the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL), Northern Ontario Hockey Association (NOHA), Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA), and the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA).

About the OHF

The OHF has been in existence since 1989 and is comprised of seven Members: the Minor Hockey Alliance of Ontario (Alliance), the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL), Northern Ontario Hockey Association (NOHA), Ontario Hockey Association (OHA), the Ontario Hockey League (OHL), Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) and the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA.)