



**TRI-COUNTY**  
minor hockey league



# U7/U8 & U9 PROGRAMMING

**Tri-County Minor Hockey League**  
**2024/2025 Seasonal Structure MD**

*Revised August 12, 2024*



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## U7/U8/U9 Program Overview

TCMHL will provide a tiered MD league for associations for U7, U8 & U9. The MD league is intended to operate in partnership with your associations commitment to opportunity-based programming. Associations may partner the MD league program with internal commitments to their additional development program.

- MD League will be divided into “pods” based on the following priorities:
  - Geographic areas
  - Tiering options/association entries
  - Facility and partnering between associations
- ***\*Please note some exceptions may be required due to association/league needs***
- Rules for game play will be communicated annually and sent to associations by your OMHA Regional Director
- Hockey Canada Pathways and OHF/OMHA communicated Seasonal Structures and Objectives are the foundation for the TCMHL programming model.
- Program models will be reviewed annually and in consultation with associations



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## U7 MD Season Summary- Cross Ice All Season

### Prep/Evaluation & Development Phase

Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> to Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2024

- Prep Skates (min 4)
- Evaluations (min 3 prior to tiering)
- Focus on Skills/Development
- Up to 4 Exhibition Games

Regular Season Phase  
Nov 1 to Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 2025

- Cross ice games
- Seasonal break at Christmas
- **16 games** total divided as follows:
  - 12 games scheduled by TCMHL
  - 4 exhibition games may be used in reg season and end of season phase *provided game to practice ratios are maintained*

End of Season Phase  
Feb 18<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025

- 6 games
- TCMHL U7 Showcase (one day event)

### Notes:

- Tiering of players grouped by like skill (i.e. MD 1, MD 2) & placed in “Pods” for game play (Pod sizes pending association submissions)
- On-going monitoring of Pods for the purpose of tiering by like skill
- No scores/standings are kept
- 3 Jamborees
- Seasonal Break – **Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024 to Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 2025**
- **TCMHL Development Phase tiering evaluation/kick off weekend Oct 19-20 2024 pending interest approval of TCMHL associations**
  - 2 exhibition games per team split cost of games to the host centres.
- Year End TCMHL Showcase Weekend: **March 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> 2025**
  - Interested hosts to email **Tri-County President and OMHA Regional Director by July 31<sup>st</sup> 2024**
  - Costing per team and event overview to be provided as part of host interest submission (Average cost approx. \$300-\$400 per team)
  - Each team to play 2 games (one day event)
  - Pizza Lunch
  - Team medallions provided by TCMHL for all participants



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**Highlights**

## U7 Cross Ice Game Play and Scheduling

- Games played outside TCMHL scheduled regular/end of season require travel permits
- All Jamborees require travel permits (excluding TCMHL Kick off/Year End Show Case)
- Pod's will be finalized based on association interest and may be adjusted prior or during the season to ensure tiering by like skill is optimized
- Flexibility built into game scheduling for additional exhibition games

### Game Play:

- Foam dividers or boards to divide the ice at centre red line
- Small nets required for U7 (if association is unable to provide nets smaller than 4x6 they must advise TCMHL & Regional Director in advance of program start date)
- 3 min warm up (option for 5 min if ice time permits)
- Max game time 60 mins, two 22 run time periods
- Face offs to start each half
- 4 on 4 hockey two game model (in the event of low numbers have the option to run 3 on 3 alternative or 1 half ice game model alternative)
- Visiting team switches ends at intermission
- Buzzers set to 2 mins (90 secs optional alternative if deemed developmentally appropriate for the group)
- Blue pucks required
- Tagging up is required when double shifting of players is needed as a result of low numbers (coaches must ensure all players have opportunity to double shift)
- On ice Officials (min 1 required, if association is unable to provide alternative option for supervision must be approved by TCMHL & OMHA Regional Director)
- Game flow and penalties to be implemented as per *page 18-19 of U7 Hockey Canada Pathway*
- Participation sheets must be used and submitted to U8 Convenor by the following submission dates:
  - November 30<sup>th</sup> 2024
  - February 28<sup>th</sup> 2025
  - March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025



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## U8 MD Season Summary- Half Ice All Season

**Prep/Evaluation & Development Phase**  
Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> to Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2024

- Prep Skates (min 4)
- Evaluations (min 3 prior to tiering)
- Focus on Skills/Development
- Up to 6 Exhibition Games

**Regular Season Phase**  
Nov 1 to Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 2025

- Half ice games
- Seasonal break at Christmas
- **16 games total composed as follows:**
  - 12 league games TCMHL Scheduled
  - 4 Exhibition games may be used in reg season/ end of season phase **provided game to practice ratios are maintained**

**End of Season Phase**  
Feb 18<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025

- 8 games
- TCMHL U8 Showcase (one day event)

### Notes:

- Tiering of players grouped by like skill (i.e. MD 1, MD 2) & placed in "Pods" for game play (Pod sizes pending association submissions)
- On-going monitoring of Pods for the purpose of tiering by like skill
- No scores/standings are kept
- 3 Jamborees
- Seasonal Break – **Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024 to Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 2024**
- **TCMHL Development Phase tiering evaluation/kick off weekend Oct 19-20 2024 pending interest approval of TCMHL associations**
  - 2 exhibition games per team split cost of games to the host centres.
- Year End TCMHL Showcase Weekend: **March 29<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> 2025**
  - Interested hosts to email **Tri-County President and OMHA Regional Director by July 31<sup>st</sup> 2024**
  - Costing per team and event overview to be provided as part of host interest submission (Average cost approx. \$300-\$400 per team)
  - Each team to play 2 games (one day event)
  - Pizza Lunch
  - Team medallions provided by TCMHL for all participants



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**Highlights**

## U8 Half Ice Game Play and Scheduling

- Games played outside TCMHL scheduled regular/end of season require travel permits
- All Jamborees require travel permits (excluding TCMHL Year End Show Case)
- Pod's will be finalized based on association interest and may be adjusted prior or during the season to ensure tiering by like skill is optimized
- Flexibility built into game scheduling for additional exhibition games

### Game Play:

- Foam dividers or boards to divide the ice at centre red line
- Small nets required for U8 (if association is unable to provide nets smaller than 4x6 they must advise TCMHL & Regional Director in advance of program start date)
- 3 min warm up (option for 5 min if ice time permits)
- Max game time 60 mins, two 22 run time periods
- Face offs to start each half
- 4 on 4 hockey two game model (in the event of low numbers have the option to run 3 on 3 alternative or 1 half ice game model alternative)
- Visiting team switches ends at intermission
- Buzzers set to 90 sec
- Blue pucks required
- Tagging up is required when double shifting of players is needed as a result of low numbers (coaches must ensure all players have opportunity to double shift)
- On ice Officials (min 1 required, if association is unable to provide alternative option for supervision must be approved by TCMHL & OMHA Regional Director)
- Game flow and penalties to be implemented as per [page 21 of U9 Hockey Canada Pathway](#)
- Participation sheets must be used and submitted to U8 Convenor by the following submission dates:
  - November 30<sup>th</sup> 2024
  - February 28<sup>th</sup> 2025
  - March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025



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## U9 MD Season Summary- Half Ice to January 15<sup>th</sup> 2025 & Transition to Full Ice Model

Prep/Evaluation & Development Phase  
Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> to Oct 20<sup>th</sup> 2024

- Prep Skates (min 4)
- Evaluations (min 3 prior to tiering)
- Focus on Skills/Development
- Up to 6 Exhibition Games may be used in reg season/ end of season phase

Regular Season Phase- Half Ice  
Oct 21<sup>st</sup> to Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 2025

- Half ice games
- 10 games
- Seasonal break at Christmas

End of Season Phase  
Jan 15<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025

- Full Ice Games
- **18 games total** composed as follows:
- 8 games (plus 10 Ex games)
- TCMHL U9 Championship (March 28-30)

### Notes:

- Tiering of players grouped by like skill (i.e. MD 1, MD 2) & placed in “Pods” for game play (based on association submissions)
- On-going monitoring of Pods
- No Scores are kept/No Standings kept for half ice games
- iPad/Game Sheet Inc used for Full Ice Games, Scores & Standings kept
- 3 Jamborees, 1 Jamboree pre Jan 15<sup>th</sup> and 2 Tournaments Post Jan 15<sup>th</sup> or 3 tournaments post Jan 15<sup>th</sup>
- Seasonal Break –Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024 to Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 2025
- *TCMHL Development Phase tiering evaluation/kick off weekend Oct 19-20 2024 **pending interest approval of TCMHL associations***
  - *2 exhibition games per team split cost of games to the host centres.*
- Year End TCMHL Championship Weekend: **March 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> 2025**
  - Interested hosts to email Tri-County President and OMHA Regional Director by July 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 (host sharing between associations option)
  - Costing per team and event overview to be provided as part of host interest submission
  - Each team to play min 3 games (championship game 4<sup>th</sup> game)
  - Pizza Lunch and Team Beverages (Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>)
  - Team medallions provided by TCMHL for all participants



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**Highlights**

## U9 Half Ice & Full Ice Game Play and Scheduling

- Games played outside TCMHL scheduled regular/end of season require travel permits
- All Jamborees/tournaments require travel permits (excluding TCMHL Year End Show Case)
- Pod's will be finalized based on association interest and may be adjusted prior or during the season to ensure tiering by like skill is optimized
- Flexibility built into game scheduling for additional exhibition games

### Half Ice Game Play:

- Smaller nets recommended for U9 half ice games (full size permitted)
- 3 min warm up (option for 5 min if ice time permits)
- Max game time 60 mins, two 22 run time periods for Half Ice Games
- Face offs to start each half
- 4 on 4 hockey two game model (in the event of low numbers direct option to run 3 on 3 alternative or 1 half ice game model alternative)
- Visiting team switches ends at intermission
- Buzzers set to 1 min
- Tagging up is required when double shifting of players is need as a result of low numbers (coaches to ensure all players have opportunity to double shift)
- On ice Officials required (min 1 required, if association is unable to provide alternative option for supervision must be approved by TCMHL & OMHA Regional Director)
- Game flow and penalties to be implemented as per [page 21 of U9 Hockey Canada Pathway](#)
- Participation sheets must be used and submitted to U9 Convenor by the following submission dates:
  - November 30<sup>th</sup> 2024
  - January 31<sup>st</sup> 2025





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## U9 Full Ice Game Play and Scheduling

### Full Ice Game Play:

- 4x6 nets required for U9 full ice games
- 3 min warm up (option for 5 min if ice time permits)
- 10-10-15 period lengths (no buzzers)
- Traditional full ice playing rules in effect
- Black pucks used for full ice games
- Affiliation U9 to U9 throughout the season, U9 to U10/U11 permitted after Jan 12<sup>th</sup> for full ice phase only
- Game Sheet Inc/iPads used for all full ice games



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#### **Contact and Program Leads:**

- Michelle Bridges, OMHA Regional Director (Region 3 Area C)
- Paul Allan, OMHA Regional Director (Region 3 Area F)
- Glen Davis & Paul Harvey, Tri County Minor Hockey League
- U7/U8/U9 Convenor: Peter Cabral

#### **Decision Points Confirmed:**

- Scheduling of games will be completed between ice-schedulers to support facility and association partnerships, One DB divisions/scheduling initial set up to be completed by Tri-County League Scheduler.
- March Break regular season games may be scheduled if mutually agreed to by both associations
- ZOOM call hosted Sept 2024 for coaches/managers
- ***Competition PODS -Adjustments may be required in season to align groups by like skill***

#### **Decision Points Pending Confirmation:**

- Year end participation in TCMHL Kick off/Championship optional, associations must communicate by Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 of their participation.



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## **Pods U7MD:** Association projected entries as of March 8<sup>th</sup> 2024

### **Reminder:**

- Pods will be monitored and adjusted if needed to address tiering by like skill
- Initial Pods are prioritized by the following:
  - Geographic areas
  - Facility and partnering between associations
  - Tiering options/association entries

**POD Sizes/Groupings will be based on Association Confirmed Interest by Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Projections based on 2023 U7 Select Entries and Expressed Interest as of March 8<sup>th</sup>**

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| 1. Guelph      | 9. Milton  |
| 2. Brampton    | 10. Halton |
| 3. Orangeville |            |
| 4. Caledon     |            |
| 5. Woolwich    |            |
| 6. Hespeler    |            |
| 7. Burlington  |            |
| 8. Oakville    |            |
| 9. Flamborough |            |

### **Key Notes:**

- *Regular Season consists of scheduled games within pods and exhibition games to permit program flexibility and increase opponent variety*
- *Associations are encouraged to ensure budgets for season include allowances for TCMHL POD scheduled games, exhibition games & additional events*
- *South/Central Competition PODS are combined for kick off weekends and year end championship wrap up*



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## **Pods U8:** Association projected entries as of *March 8<sup>th</sup> 2024*

### **Reminder:**

- Pods will be monitored and adjusted if needed to address tiering by like skill
- Initial Pods are prioritized by the following:
  - Geographic areas
  - Facility and partnering between associations
  - Tiering options/association entries

### **South MD 1**

1. Halton
2. Oakville
3. Milton
4. Burlington
5. Flamborough

### **South MD2**

1. Halton
2. Oakville
3. Milton
4. Burlington
5. Flamborough

### **Central/East/West MD**

1. Guelph 1
2. Brampton
3. Orangeville
4. Caledon
5. Woolwich
6. Hespeler
7. Centre Wellington
8. Guelph 2
9. New Hamburg TBC

### **Key Notes:**

- *Regular Season consists of scheduled games within pods and exhibition games to permit program flexibility and increase opponent variety*
- *Associations are encouraged to ensure budgets for season include allowances for TCMHL POD scheduled games, exhibition games and additional events*
- *South/Central Competition PODS are combined for kick off weekends and year end championship wrap up*



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**Pods U9:** Association *projected* entries as of March 8, 2024

**Reminder:**

- *Pods will be monitored and adjusted if needed to address tiering by like skill*
- *Initial Pods are prioritized by the following:*
  - *Geographic areas*
  - *Facility and partnering between associations*
  - *Tiering options/association entries*
- *Pending association interest Tier 2/3 Pods will be divided into Tier 2 and Tier 3*

**South MD 1**

1. Halton
2. Oakville
3. Milton
4. Burlington 1
5. Flamborough
6. Guelph 1
7. Burlington 2
8. Oakville 2

**Central East/West MD 1/2**

1. Woolwich
2. Centre Wellington
3. Brampton
4. Orangeville
5. Caledon 1
6. Guelph 2
7. Hespeler

**South/Central MD 2/3**

1. Halton 2	7. Guelph 3
2. Oakville 3	8. Caledon 2
3. Milton 2	9. Erin
4. Flamborough	
5. Burlington 3	

**Key Notes:**

- *Regular Season consists of scheduled games within pods and exhibition games to permit program flexibility and increase opponent variety*
- *Associations are encouraged to ensure budgets for season include allowances for TCMHL POD scheduled games, exhibition games and additional events.*
- *South/Central Competition PODS are combined for kick off weekends and year end championship wrap up*



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*Resources and Support Links*

**HOCKEY CANADA PLAYER PATHWAY - RESOURCES**

[U7 Player Pathway](#)

[U9 Player Pathway](#)

**ASPEN INSTITUTE – PROJECT PLAY**

[Sport for All, Play for Life: A Playbook to Get Every Kid in the Game](#)