

TRYOUT AND REGISTRATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) 2015-2016 SEASON

(Last Updated July 27, 2015. Subject to Change without Notice.)

When are SPRING tryouts?

Spring tryouts begin Monday, April 27th, 2015 for the 2015-2016 season. Please refer to the Stratford Minor Hockey (SMHA) website for specific dates, times and locations.

Who participates in SPRING tryouts?

All players wanting to play for SMHA in 2015-2016 (REP or MD) should participate in spring tryouts with the exception of: Novice Tier 3 (2008) and Major Midget REP (1998/1999). All other players should participate in spring tryouts.

How do I to register for SPRING tryouts? What does it involve?

All players should register at the arena at their first tryout. There is a single page form that needs to be completed by a parent or guardian. If you would like to download and fill the form out in advance, you may do so from the APPLICATION FORMS section of the SMHA website. At the first tryout players will also be asked to submit a non-refundable tryout fee.

What is the SPRING tryout fee?

The spring tryout fee is \$80.00. Cash is preferred and is payable at the first tryout.

How many SPRING tryouts will my child get?

Each team will be assigned 5 tryouts plus the possibility of exhibition game(s). Coaches may begin releases after 3 tryouts.

Are teams being finalized after the last SPRING tryout?

Yes, all Seeded (REP) teams and the Novice Tier 1 team will be finalized (minimum 16 players signed) at the conclusion of the last scheduled tryout.

What if my child cannot attend the first tryout?

You should take the time to contact the Coach in advance to let him/her know that your child is unable to attend and why. Coach contact information can be found on the SMHA website; if you cannot contact the Coach, please contact the SMHA Registrar at registrar@stratfordminorhockey.com.

What are the birth years for the 2015-2016 season?

Seeded Teams:

Minor Atom REP.....	2006*	.....	Head Coach Paul Carter
Major Atom REP.....	2005*	.....	Head Coach Mike Martin
Minor Peewee REP.....	2004*	.....	Head Coach Todd McCann
Major Peewee REP.....	2003	.....	Head Coach Kevin smith
Minor Bantam REP	2002	.....	Head Coach Jason Horan
Major Bantam REP	2001	.....	Head Coach Mike Graham
Minor Midget REP.....	2000	.....	Head Coach Bob Zimmer
Major Midget REP.....	1998/1999	.....	Head Coach Terry Casey

* Requires Introduction to Body Checking, see next question

Novice and Minor Development teams:

Novice T1	2007*	.....	Head Coach Scott Petrie
Novice T2	2007*	.....	Head Coach Steve Olson
Novice T3 (Alliance West)	2008*	.....	Head Coach Brady Blain
Novice T3 (Alliance East)	2008*	.....	Head Coach TBA
Atom MD	2005*/2006*	.....	Head Coach Mark Hall (to play at MINOR level)
Peewee MD	2003/2004*	.....	Head Coach Steve Eidt (to play at MAJOR level)
Bantam MD	2001/2002	.....	Head Coach Matt Smyth (to play at MINOR level)
Midget MD	1998/1999/2000.....	.....	Head Coach TBA (to play at MAJOR level)

* Requires Introduction to Body Checking, see next question

Are there any special clinics or certifications that my child or I must have?

Yes!

Respect in Sport Parent Version (2004 or later Birth Years): Per Alliance Hockey Policy, if your child was born in 2004 or later, one parent or guardian must complete the Respect in Sport Parent Version before that player may be signed to an Alliance Roster (MD, A, AA, AAA). A link to the online course can be found on the SMHA website. This certification must be complete BEFORE the last tryout or your child will be ineligible to be signed.

Body Checking (2002 Birth Year): Per Alliance Hockey Policy, if your child was born in 2002 and is entering Minor Bantam (MD, A, AA, AAA) they will be required to take an INTRODUCTION TO BODY CHECKING clinic. The clinic will be held Sunday April 26th, 2015: Classroom Segment runs 4:30-6:00pm in the Tim Taylor Lounge at the Stratford Rotary Complex followed by an On-Ice Segment from 6:00-7:30pm. All 2002 players are required to take the clinic including goaltenders. Parents are welcome to attend the Classroom Segment. All 2002 players will also be required to take a follow up clinic by December 1st with their assigned team. Details will be provided in the fall.

What teams are finalized at SPRING tryouts?

Seeded (REP) teams (with the exception of Major Midget) will be finalized in the spring along with the Novice Tier 1 program. All Minor Development (MD) teams including Novice Tier 3 will have their tryouts and be finalized in the fall.

What happens if my child is signed to a team at SPRING tryouts?

There will be a brief parent meeting once the team has been selected. You will be asked to:

- Sign an INTENT TO PLAY form committing your child to the team
- Submit a \$300 first installment to payable to "Stratford Minor Hockey"
- If new to SMHA, submit a copy of your child's birth certificate
- If Minor Peewee or older, your child will be asked to participate in Baseline Concussion Testing in the summer (dates to be provided once available)
- Complete any team-specific information as requested by your team Coach or Manager.

There will be another parent meeting in the fall where you will be asked to:

- Sign a Fees Agreement
- Submit 5 post-dated cheques (or the balance in one lump sum) for the remainder of your fee installments (amounts to be determined and announced in August); cheques to be dated Sept 15, Oct 15, Nov 15, Dec 15 (all 2015), Jan 2016
- Sign a Parent Code of Conduct
- Complete an On-Line Registration (to be used for Children's Fitness Tax Credits)
- Complete a Medical Form for your player
- Complete any team-specific information as requested by your team Coach or Manager.

What happens if my child is released from SPRING tryouts?

If your child is released from spring tryouts, they are encouraged to attend Minor Development (MD) tryouts in the fall.

When are FALL tryouts?

Fall tryouts will begin after Labour Day. Dates, times and locations will be posted online early August. Registration for fall tryouts, like spring tryouts, will take place at the first tryout.

What is the FALL tryout fee?

The fall tryout fee will be:

\$12 for each 1-hour tryout;

\$15 for each 1.5 hour tryout; and

Tryout fees for the fall are on a fee-per-tryout basis. Cash is preferred and is payable at the beginning of each tryout.

How many FALL tryouts will be held before releases are made?

Each Minor Development team will be assigned 3 tryouts plus the possibility of exhibition game(s). Coaches may begin releases after 2 tryouts.

What happens if my child is signed to a team at FALL tryouts?

There will be a parent meeting once the team has been selected. You will be asked to:

- Sign an INTENT TO PLAY form committing your child to the team
- If new to SMHA, submit a copy of your child's birth certificate
- If Minor Peewee or older, your child will be asked to participate in Baseline Concussion Testing before their first regular season game (dates to be provided once available)
- Sign a Fees Agreement
- Sign a Parent Code of Conduct
- Complete an On-Line Registration (to be used for Children's Fitness Tax Credits)
- Complete a Medical Form for your player
- Submit 5 post-dated cheques for registration fee installments (or one lump sum); cheques to be dated Oct 1, Nov 1, Dec 1 (all 2015) and Jan 1, Feb 1, 2016
- Complete any team-specific information as requested by your team Coach or Manager.

What happens if my child is released from FALL tryouts?

If your child is not asked to sign with an SMHA team, we encourage them to participate in Stratford Rotary Hockey and to continue to build their hockey skills and the love of the sport. To register with Stratford Rotary Hockey, please contact them directly (www.stratfordrotaryhockey.com). We also encourage them to attend SMHA tryouts again next season.

When will we know the fees for the 2015-2016 season?

Registration fees will be announced in August 2015.

I paid an initial registration fee to Stratford Rotary Hockey. Will it be applied to my SMHA registration fees?

No. Stratford Rotary Hockey and SMHA are two separate organizations. If you have paid an initial registration fee with Stratford Rotary Hockey you will need to contact them directly for reimbursement.

I am coming from an OMHA Centre. What do I need?

All OMHA players wishing to tryout in Stratford (A/AA seeded teams only; Minor Pee wee and older) must bring their Ontario Minor Hockey Association 2015-2016 Non Resident Player (NRP) Passport.

I have never played for Stratford Minor Hockey before. What do I need to do?

Note: If a player is signed to a team but are found to be ineligible because they have not completed the proper paperwork or are found to be ineligible for any reason, SMHA reserves the right to release the player.

Scenario 1: If your child has never played for SMHA and has ONLY played for Stratford Rotary Hockey you will be asked to provide a copy of your child's birth certificate if your child is asked to sign with a team.

Scenario 2: If you are coming to Stratford as an IMPORT from an OMHA centre, you need to present your OMHA 2015-2016 Non Resident Player (NRP) Passport at the first tryout.

Scenario 3: If you have never played for SMHA and have moved to Stratford in recent years and at ANY time played for a non-Alliance centre (including House League, Local League or Representative Hockey), you need to make sure you have completed and submitted an "OHF Residential Move Form". ***Please do not leave this until the last moment as transfers can take time!*** Please complete immediately and submit to the SMHA Registrar or directly to the Alliance Office on Albert Street. Copies of the form can be obtained from the Alliance website, Alliance office or by emailing the SMHA Registrar.

SMHA Registrar: registrar@stratfordminorhockey.com

I moved in 2014 or 2015. Do I need to complete any paperwork?

Yes! If you moved within the Alliance (including within the City of Stratford) you need to complete an "Alliance Hockey Residential Move Form (Local & Alliance to Alliance Moves Only)". If you moved to Stratford from a non-Alliance centre, you will need to complete an "OHF Residential Move Form" and provide all the supporting documentation requested. In either case, forms can be obtained from the Alliance website or SMHA Registrar and completed forms can be submitted back to the SMHA Registrar or directly to the Alliance Office on Albert Street.

SMHA Registrar: registrar@stratfordminorhockey.com

Are there any summer obligations once signed to a team?

Players Minor Pee wee and above signed to Seeded (REP) teams will be required to participate in Baseline Concussion Testing in the summer (dates to be provided once available). Testing will take approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour.

SMHA believes it is important for players to take a break from hockey during the summer in an effort to (a) help prevent the burnout that causes so many young athletes to quit their sport, and (b) to avoid overuse injuries that often result from year-round play. SMHA believes athletes, regardless of age or ability, need to include downtime and rest from their sport to perform at their best. With that in mind, SMHA teams will not be permitted to hold team events (on or off the ice) from the end of May until August 16, inclusive. Commencing August 17, teams may hold "optional" events until their first regular scheduled SMHA practice in September.

I have a question not covered above. Who may I can I contact?

SMHA Secretary: secretary@stratfordminorhockey.com

SMHA Registrar: registrar@stratfordminorhockey.com