

**STRIVE TO BECOME A
WARRIOR**



STRATFORD MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

TRYOUT PACKAGE FOR PLAYERS & PARENTS

2018-2019

(Revision 6: Last Update April 13, 2018)

**FOR PLAYER BIRTH YEARS
2001 through 2011, inclusive**

www.stratfordminorhockey.com

Welcome to the 2018-2019 hockey season with the Stratford Minor Hockey Association!

We are very fortunate living in Stratford to be able to put together teams at different levels of play. Each level has its own commitment requirements and objectives. Stratford Minor Hockey (SMHA) is proud to offer representative A/AA (often referred to as Seeded or Rep) and Minor Development (MD) travel hockey for players aged 7 to 17.

Playing on a Rep or MD team requires ability, desire, a good attitude, a willingness to learn and a commitment to the team. We at Stratford Minor Hockey have always believed that “good sports today make good citizens tomorrow”. We encourage all players to put their best skate forward and to become a Stratford Warrior!

For the 2018-2019 season, we intend to offer the following programs:

| Birth Year | Teams | Head Coach | Prerequisite |
|---|------------------|-------------------|---|
| 2011 <i>New OHF Modified Ice Progression We will form 2 teams of 12 to 14</i> | Novice 3 Blue | Jeff Molenhuis | • Respect in Sport: Parent Version |
| | Novice 3 White | Mark Price | |
| 2010 <i>Will form two Tier I and/or Tier II teams should turnout and skill level permit.</i> | Novice 1 | | • Respect in Sport: Parent Version |
| | Novice 2 | | |
| 2009 | Minor Atom Rep | Jamie Morris | • Respect in Sport: Parent Version |
| | Minor Atom MD | | |
| 2008 | Major Atom Rep | Jason Brenzil | • Respect in Sport: Parent Version |
| | Major Atom MD | Tim Jeffrey | |
| 2007 | Minor Peewee Rep | Tim Schultz | • Respect in Sport: Parent Version |
| | Minor Peewee MD | Aaron Chadwick | |
| 2006 | Major Peewee Rep | Mike Knechtel | • Respect in Sport: Parent Version |
| | Major Peewee MD | | |
| 2005 | Minor Bantam Rep | Jason Murray | • Respect in Sport: Parent Version • Introduction to Body Checking |
| 2004 | Major Bantam Rep | Colin Schmidt | • Respect in Sport: Parent Version • Introduction to Body Checking |
| 2003 | Minor Midget Rep | Troy McMann | • Introduction to Body Checking |
| 2001/2002 <i>Tryouts will be in the Fall</i> | Major Midget Rep | | • Introduction to Body Checking |

HEAD COACHES

Please note that at the time of publication, interviews for coaching staff were ongoing. The website and this document will be updated as Head Coaches are approved by the Board of Directors.

SPRING TRYOUTS

All teams (Rep and Minor Development) will try out in the spring with the exception of Major Midget. Major Midget tryouts will take place in the fall. Spring tryouts begin April 29th.

ELIGIBILITY

Players may only tryout for teams in their respective birth year.

Players must be home property of Stratford or must possess a NRP Passport obtained from their OMHA home centre (please refer to Non-Resident Player section below).

Players having moved to Stratford from another centre, must have filed their "*Alliance Local to Local Residential Move*" or "*OHF Residential Move*" forms **and** had them approved **prior to tryouts**.

Anyone exercising their "*Right of Choice*" to come to Stratford must have filed their paperwork **and** had it approved **prior to tryouts**.

TRYOUT FEES

The fee for **Seeded tryouts** and any subsequent MD tryouts is a flat fee of **\$75** payable in cash at the first Seeded tryout.

The fee for **MD ONLY tryouts** (Minor Atom MD through Major Peewee MD) is a flat fee of **\$45** payable in cash at the first MD tryout.

The fee for **Novice tryouts** (7 and 8 year olds) is **\$15 per tryout** payable in cash at each tryout.

In summary:

- Seeded/MD tryouts\$75 flat fee
- MD Only tryouts\$45 flat fee
- Novice tryouts\$15 per tryout

REGISTRATION FOR TRYOUTS

Registration for tryouts will take place at the first tryout for each team. If you wish to fill out the Registration Form in advance it may be downloaded from our website.

TRYOUT PROCEDURES FOR MINOR ATOM THROUGH MINOR MIDGET (2009-2003)

Players should attend tryouts for their birth year.

Players trying out for Rep teams will be guaranteed the first 3 scheduled tryouts; releases will begin following the 3rd tryout. Players released from the Rep team should then attend Minor Development tryouts (no additional fee).

Players trying out for Minor Development teams will be guaranteed the first 2 scheduled tryouts; releases will begin following the 2nd tryout.

Releases/Call Backs may be done in person or online.

TRYOUT PROCEDURES FOR NOVICE (2010-2011)

Novice players with a 2010 birth year should attend Novice 1 tryouts. Turnout and skill level permitting, a second team (Novice 2) may be formed.

Novice players with a 2011 birth year should attend Novice 3 tryouts. **NEW!** Novice 3's will play half ice this season per the Ontario Hockey Federation's new "Modified-Ice Progression" policy (mandated by Hockey Canada). Information will be available at the first tryout. We will form 2 teams of 12 to 14.

Releases/Call Backs will be done in person. Those released will return to Rotary Hockey or a house league program of their choice.

PLAYER SIGNINGS

Rep teams are required to sign a minimum of 16 players including goaltenders. MD teams are required to sign a minimum of 17 players including goaltenders. Teams may sign up to 19 players including 2 goaltenders.

Players invited to sign with a SMHA team will be asked to sign an "Intent to Play". A Spring Parent Meeting will be held following team selection; registration deposits of \$300 will be collected at that time and parents will be asked to complete SMHA-related paperwork. Final registration will occur in the fall at your team's Fall Parent Meeting.

MINOR DEVELOPMENT TEAMS

Players may opt to attend Seeded tryouts, and, if released, then attend MD tryouts (included in the \$75 Tryout fee). Players may also opt to forgo Seeded tryouts, and proceed directly to MD tryouts (\$45 Tryout fee).

Unless there is a higher than expected turnout for the 2003, 2004 or 2005 Seeded tryouts, there will be no MD teams for those birth years. If there is higher than expected turnout, additional ice times will be scheduled for MD tryouts.

Once MD teams are formed, SMHA will work with Alliance Hockey to determine where teams will play (Minor/Major; East/West).

2005 BIRTH YEARS - PREREQUISITE

Players born in 2005 must have completed the "Introduction to Body Checking Clinic" in order to try out. **Per Alliance Hockey, only those that have completed the clinic may try out.** If player did not take the Body Checking Clinic with SMHA/HPL on April 10th or 11th, 2018, they must provide signed proof of having taken a clinic elsewhere.

2004 AND YOUNGER BIRTH YEARS - PREREQUISITE

Per Alliance Policy, players with birth years 2004-2011 must have one parent who has completed "Respect in Sport Parent Version" **before the final tryout** in order for their child to be eligible to be signed. A link to the course can be found on www.stratfordminorhockey.com.

NON-RESIDENT PLAYERS

Non-Resident Players (NRPs) must register with their home centre and bring their NRP Passport to the first tryout. Players without valid passports will not be permitted on the ice. NRP players are only eligible to try out for Rep teams.

RESIDENTIAL MOVES & RIGHT OF CHOICE

If you have completed a **OHF Residential Move** or are exercising your **Right of Choice** to come to Stratford, the process must be complete **before** you are able to tryout. If you have filed for an OHF Residential Move or a Right of Choice, but have not yet been approved one week prior to your first tryout, please contact Laurie Cossey (registrar@stratfordminorhockey.com) as you are **ineligible** to tryout without the appropriate paperwork.

COACHES AND TEAM STAFF

SMHA may have up to 5 Bench Staff: Generally a Head Coach, two to three Assistant Coaches and a Trainer. Every attempt is made to also have a Goaltender Coach. Only rostered staff (those appearing on the Official Team Roster) may be on the bench during games. Teams also have a Manager and a Parent Representative. All Bench Staff as well as Managers are Respect in

Sport (Bench Leader) certified and must submit Vulnerable Sector Police Checks to SMHA. Teams may also opt to have a Fundraising Representative and Team Treasurer. All SMHA coaches are certified in accordance with Alliance Hockey with NCCP Coaching Certifications. Trainers have HTCP Level 1 certification as a minimum. All rostered staff are also Gender Identity and Expression course compliant.

COST COMPARISON AND VALUE

SMHA strives to select qualified coaches who are dedicated and willing to work with players to develop both individual and team skills; fundamentals that will take them to the next level in hockey. We hope to provide an environment where players grow personally and as valued members of our hockey community. Most importantly, we want players to enjoy their hockey experience within the competitive hockey environment that our leagues can provide.

SMHA fees are competitive with those of other minor hockey organizations including house leagues. When SMHA fees are broken down to amount of on-ice hours provided; the cost is very. Add to that certified coaches and the convenience of bussing, SMHA offers a great program for players to grow and develop.

WHAT DOES IT COST TO PLAY FOR SMHA?

As a general guideline, expenses will include:

- Tryout Fee: \$75, \$45 or \$15 per tryout, depending on division
- Registration Fee (see below): \$TBD
- Windsuit (if required, see below): \$0 to \$125
- Team Fund Contribution (if required, see below): \$0 to \$300
- Accommodation and travel expenses for team tournaments: \$TBD
(amount depends on location and number of tournaments)

REGISTRATION FEES

Registration fees for the season will be announced in August. **SMHA calculates fees based on a break-even budget; every effort is made to keep costs and fees to a minimum.** For reference purposes, the fees for last season (2017-2018) were:

Minor Atom Rep to Minor Midget Rep \$2,250
Major Midget Rep \$1,925
Novice and Minor Development Teams \$1,625

**NOTE: THESE ARE FEES
FROM LAST SEASON, GIVEN
AS GUIDELINES ONLY**

Note: Due to the new "Modified-Ice Progression" system, registration fees for Novice Tier III will not be the same as Novice Tier I or II.

There is the possibility of modest increases this season but every effort will be made to either hold fees as they are or minimize necessary increases.

An initial registration deposit will be made at the Spring Parent Meeting in the amount of \$300. The balance of registration fees will be paid during the season spread out over 5 installments (or may be paid in one lump sum).

Please plan in advance to ensure you have cheques available for your initial registration deposit and installments for the Fall Parent Meeting (one post dated for each installment). Unfortunately, eTransfers and pre-authorized debit are not available at this time.

Out of town players are required to pay a **\$75 Out of Town Fee**. This fee is collected by SMHA and then in turn remitted to the Stratford Minor Sports Council. Out of Town Fees are capped at \$150 per family.

Note: Any player who signs an Intent to Play but then later withdraws from the team will be entitled to a registration fee rebate based on fees paid to date less \$100 administration fee.

GAMES AND ICE TIMES

All home games are played at one of the Stratford arenas: The Stratford Rotary Complex, the William Allman Memorial Arena or the Dufferin Arena.

Minor Atom Rep through Major Bantam Rep will average two 1½-hour practices/week. They generally have a 30+ game season with a guaranteed 2 rounds of playoffs. Teams may also participate in tournaments.

Minor Midget Rep and Major Midget Rep will average one 2-hour practice/week. They generally have a 30+ game season with a guaranteed 2 rounds of playoffs. Teams may also participate in tournaments.

Minor Atom MD through Major Peewee MD will average one 1½-hour practice/week. They generally have a 35 game season plus playoffs. Successful teams will have an opportunity to play in the playdown rounds. Teams may also participate in tournaments.

Novice 1 and 2 (8 year olds) will average two 1-hour practices/week. They generally have a 35 game season plus playoffs. Successful teams will have an opportunity to play in the playdown rounds. Teams may also participate in tournaments.

Novice 3 (7 year olds) will average two 1-hour practices/week on half ice with the possibility of some games and a year end Jamboree.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Both parents of each player signed with SMHA must sign a Parent Code of Conduct **before the first regular season game**. SMHA bench staff and Managers are also required to sign Code of Conducts.

BUSSING

All teams will travel to regular season, playoff and playdown games by bus. Bussing is included in the registration fees for the season.

EQUIPMENT

Players are responsible for all their own equipment; SMHA requires that all players wear red hockey pants.

Helmets must be CSA approved. Neck protectors are also mandatory. Mouthguards are recommended, but not mandatory. Waterbottles are the responsibility of the player/team.

SMHA will provide one practice jersey, one home game jersey and one away game jersey to each player; all must be returned at the end of the season. SMHA also provides players with one pair of game socks.

CONCUSSION & INJURY MANAGEMENT

SMHA requires that all players participate in a concussion management program. Return to Play policies are expected to be followed whenever a player is injured; the policies are available on the SMHA website.

DRESS CODE

Dress codes for both home and away games are set by the Head Coach for each team. Players may be required to purchase a Stratford Warrior windsuit.

TOURNAMENTS

All Stratford teams with the exception of Novice 3, will participate in the **Jr. Warriors Weekend** — an SMHA hosted tournament to be held **September 28, 29 and 30, 2018**. There will be no tournament entrance fee for Stratford teams to participate.

Teams may participate in 2 other tournaments in addition to the Jr. Warriors Weekend tournament.

Teams wishing to participate in additional tournaments (above and beyond 2 tournaments and the Jr. Warriors Weekend tournament) may do so with a 2/3 majority team vote.

Maximum Tournament Rule: The Alliance limits Seeded and MD teams (excluding Novice) to a maximum of 4 tournaments + 1 at Christmas Break. The Alliance limits Novice teams to a maximum of 3 tournaments + 1 at Christmas Break. The only exceptions are if a team qualifies to participate in MD Championships, OHF Championships or the International Silver Stick Finals.

Tournaments may be local (no overnight stays required) or they may require overnight stays. Teams will use their team funds to pay tournament entrance fees. Transportation and accommodation expenses will be the responsibility of the individual players.

Rep teams will have the option to participate in the **Stratford Regional Silver Stick Qualifier**, this season being held **November 2, 3 and 4, 2018**. If teams decide to participate, the tournament entrance fee will be waived. The Stratford Regional Silver Stick Qualifier will count as one of the team's 2 tournaments not requiring a 2/3 majority team vote.

FUNDRAISING/TEAM FUNDS

In addition to SMHA registration fees, players may be asked to contribute to team funds. **These funds are used by the team for team expenses, not SMHA.** This contribution may be a cash contribution or the funds may be generated through fundraising.

Players and teams may, from time to time, be asked to participate in SMHA fundraising initiatives. These may be announced prior to the season or over the course of the season. One fundraiser already scheduled will be SMHA's Annual Chip Drive (a 40+ year tradition). All teams Novice through Major Peewee, inclusive, will participate the morning of Saturday, September 15, 2018.

ACTIVITY BLACKOUT

Once teams have been formed and have held their Spring Parent Meeting, there will be no SMHA-related hockey activities (on or off the ice) from June 1 through August 15, inclusive.

INFORMATION HANDBOOK

For more information, please refer to the "**General Information/Information Handbook**" found on the SMHA website, www.stratfordminorhockey.com, under the **INFO FOR PARENTS** tab. General inquires can be made to admin@stratfordminorhockey.com.