

**STRIVE TO BECOME A  
WARRIOR**



STRATFORD MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

**TRYOUT PACKAGE  
FOR PLAYERS & PARENTS  
2021-2022**

FOR PLAYER BIRTH YEARS  
2004 through 2014, inclusive

[www.stratfordminorhockey.com](http://www.stratfordminorhockey.com)

# Welcome to the 2021-2022 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 8 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 2021-2022 season, we intend to offer the following programs:

**U8 (2014) - Jeff Molenhuis**

Email: jhmolenhuis@gmail.com

**U9 (2013) - Tim Bickel**

Email: tim.bickell@gmail.com

**U10 (2012) - Nick Keating**

Email: nick\_raps15@hotmail.com

**U11 (2011) - Mark Price**

Email: price.mark9@gmail.com

**U12 (2010) - Todd Schmidt**

Email: tntgroupinc@rogers.com

**U12 MD (2010) - Jason Carman**

Email: jason.carman@me.com

**U13 (2009) - Dan Daum**

Email: rocitman65@gmail.com

**U14 (2008) – TBD**

Email: NA

**U14 MD (2008) - Justin McCann**

Email: mccann.justin90@gmail.com

**U15 (2007) - Tim Shultz**

Email: tim.d.schultz5@gmail.com

**U16 (2006) - Mike Knechtel**

Email: jmknechtel@rogers.com

**U18 (2005 & 2004) - Mike Heisz**

Email: heisz.mike@gmail.com

## 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 fall. Tryouts begin September 18<sup>th</sup> 2021.

## 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 center (please refer to Non-Resident Player section below).

Players having moved to Stratford from another center 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 online at time of registration payable in cash at the first Seeded tryout.

- Seeded/MD tryouts \$75 flat fee paid by EFT to [payment@stratfordminorhockey.com](mailto:payment@stratfordminorhockey.com) with player's name and birth year as the message. IE) John Smith 2005

## REGISTRATION FOR TRYOUTS

Registration for tryouts will take place online for each team. You may find our Tryout Form linked in our Tryout Information section or alternatively at:

<https://stratfordminorhockey.com/Forms/3514/>

## TRYOUT PROCEDURES FOR MINOR ATOM THROUGH MINOR MIDGET (2012-2008)

Players should attend tryouts for their birth year.

Players trying out for Rep teams will be guaranteed 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 U8 & U9 (2014-2013)

Players with a 2014 birth year should attend U8 tryouts.

Players with a 2013 birth year should attend U9 Tryouts.

We will be following the Ontario Hockey Federation's "Modified-Ice Progression" policy (mandated by Hockey Canada). This information can be found on the Alliance Website under "PLAYER PATHWAYS"

Players that are released from U8 & U9 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 20 players including 2 goaltenders.

Players invited to sign with a SMHA team will be asked to sign an "Intent to Play". Final registration will occur at a Parent Meeting the following week at the conclusion of tryouts.

## MINOR DEVELOPMENT TEAMS

Players may opt to attend Seeded tryouts, and, if released, then attend MD tryouts (included in seeded flat fee). Players may also opt to forgo Seeded tryouts, and proceed directly to MD tryouts (we encourage you to attend both as it is the same \$75 fee applied whether player chooses to attend seeded tryouts or not. Please contact the head coach if you intend on skipping the seeded ice times).

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

## 2008 BIRTH YEARS - PREREQUISITE

Players born in 2007 & 2008 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 September 7, 8 or 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, they must provide signed proof of having taken a clinic elsewhere.

## 2004 AND YOUNGER BIRTH YEARS - PREREQUISITE

Per Alliance Policy, players with birth years 2004-2014 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](http://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 an 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 Brittany Hallock ([registrar@stratfordminorhockey.com](mailto: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, add to that certified coaches, SMHA offers a great program for players to grow and develop.

## REGISTRATION FEES

Registration fees for the season will be announced in September. SMHA calculates fees based on a break-even budget; every effort is made to keep costs and fees to a minimum.

Interac e-transfer is the accepted payment method using the following email address [payments@stratfordminorhockey.com](mailto:payments@stratfordminorhockey.com). Please ensure you list the player's name and birth year in the message so we know who to attach the payment to. (ie) John Smith 2004

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.

U8 will average two 1-hour practices/week on half ice with the possibility of some games and a year-end Jamboree.

U9 will average two 1-hour practices/week.

U12 MD & U14 MD will average one 1½-hour practice/week.

U10 through U18 will average two 1½-hour practices/week.

Game minimums and playoffs are based on Alliance guidelines. Playoff format may be changed this season due to late start in the regular season.

### **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.

### **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 two pairs 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 or other SMHA branded apparel.

### **TOURNAMENTS**

Teams may participate in 4 tournaments.

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, November 5, 6 and 7, 2021. 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.

\*\* Due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, no out of country tournaments are permitted at this time.\*\*

### **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 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.

Please see our website for the latest news and updates [www.stratfordminorhockey.com](http://www.stratfordminorhockey.com). General inquires can be made to [admin@stratfordminorhockey.com](mailto:admin@stratfordminorhockey.com).

\*\*\*Due to the ongoing COVID 19 Pandemic any information displayed in this document could change prior to tryouts or throughout the season. Please ensure to check our website regularly prior to and during tryouts\*\*\*