



MEMORANDUM

TO: OMHA Member Associations
FROM: Richard Ropchan
CC: OMHA Board
DATE: February 12, 2014
SUBJECT: Policy 2.3 - Program Below Novice

The OMHA Board has approved the following revision to Policy 2.3 g) - Program Below Novice:

Current Policy:

2.3 Program Below Novice

The following Policy will be in effect for Minor Development/Local League/House League Competition:

- a) Age categories below Novice will be: Tyke—for players aged 7 and Initiation Program (IP) for players 6 and younger.
- b) All Minor Hockey Associations and Teams must adopt the Initiation Program (IP) practice format, emphasizing skill development
- c) No Initiation or Tyke Tournaments will be sanctioned by the OMHA prior to December 1st of the current hockey season. A team can only enter a maximum of two (2) Tournaments.
- d) All coaches Novice and below must be Intro Coach (CHIP) certified and have Speak Out or Respect in Sport Certification.
- e) All Associations must identify an Initiation Program (IP) contact person.
- f) The lightweight Blue Puck shall be mandatory for all hockey programs for players six (6) years of age and below. It is recommended for all hockey programs for players seven (7) years of age and below.
- g) Minor Development League hockey for 6 year old Initiation aged players will be rostered and referred to as Minor Development Initiation Hockey.
 - i) Minor Development Initiation Hockey (6 year old) teams cannot begin scheduled games prior to December 1 and a maximum of 16 games, only, shall be played.
 - ii) Teams that participate in a Minor Development Initiation League may play a maximum of 4 exhibition games in a season, all of which must be approved by the Regional Executive Member and played prior to December 1 of the current season. No exhibition games may be played after December 1.
 - iii) Players aged 5 years and below shall not participate on any Minor Development Initiation Hockey team.



Revised Policy (Changes in Bold)

Present Policy 2.3 g) will be **deleted** and replaced with:

- g) ***Players aged 4 years and below are not eligible to participate on any Rostered Select Hockey Team.***

The revised Policy as adopted by the Board establishes that MD Teams will no longer be allowed for 6-year olds and that such teams no longer form a part of Programming below Novice.

Much like the progression in skill development, similar consideration should be given to progression in available programming options for players in their earliest stages:

Initiation	Tyke	Novice
House League/ Local League	House League/ Local League	House League/ Local League
<i>Rostered Select Teams</i>	Rostered Select Teams	Rostered Select Teams
	MD	MD
		Representative

This change will become effective with the 2014-2015 Season. Any corresponding changes to Regulation necessitated by the Policy revision will be addressed by the OMHA By-Law and Regulation Committee as Housekeeping items at the 2014 OMHA AGM. Although not in force until the 2014-2015 season, it is important that this is considered when planning your Association’s programming for next season.

Should there be any questions related to this memorandum, please contact your OMHA Regional Executive Member.

Sincerely
ONTARIO MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Richard Ropchan
 Executive Director