

# TASA U9 (UNDER 9)



**UNDERU9VP@TASA.CA**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**When does the U9 season start?** The season typically begins in early October.

**How long is the season?** The season runs from October until March. You can expect to be at the rink twice per week.

**What are the various levels in U9?** There are three levels of U9 Hockey – Development, Intermediate, and Advancing. All teams are co-ed.

**How are U9 teams decided?** Players will be evaluated and assigned to levels based on skill and ability.

**Is there a female-only team?** All TASA teams are co-ed. We encourage all females to play with TASA, but if you are interested in a female league, you can register with Metro West Force. As per [Hockey Nova Scotia 2.23](#), “A female player will be permitted to try out for a minor team. Female players choosing to play female hockey must attend the female tryout process from the beginning and will not be permitted to be part of both a minor tryout process and a female tryout process simultaneously.” [As per 2.20](#) “Players playing female hockey on teams or in programs comprised of all female players must be registered with an approved Female Hockey Association or Female Regional Executive Committee.”

## EVALUATIONS



**What are Evaluations?** Evaluations allow us to observe players and build teams based on similar skills. All evaluation sessions are co-ed.

**How do Evaluations take place?** In late September, the TASA website will post a schedule with evaluation groupings. New lists will be posted after each evaluation until all teams are built (typically after three evaluation sessions). When new groups are created and posted, communication will be shared through TASA social media.

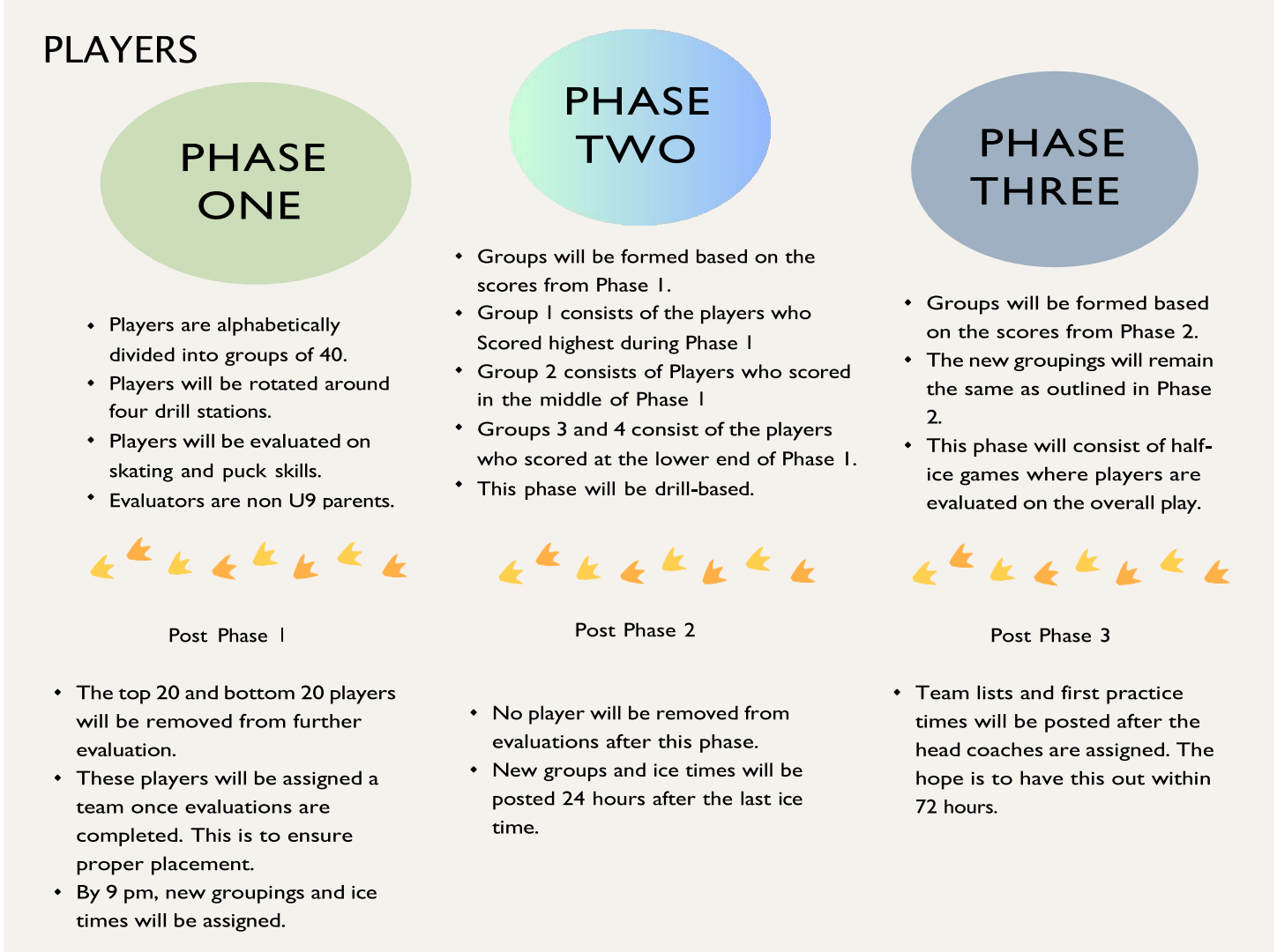
**Evaluation Groupings:** First-year U9 players will be evaluated with second-year U9 players. We could see up to 180 players at the U9 level—several returning U9 players, several moving up from U7 (Under 7), and hopefully some new to hockey.

**What skills are being evaluated?** Players will be assessed on their skating, stick handling, and overall play. Players will perform drills at approximately four stations and play games. At least one Evaluator (not associated

with any U9 player) will evaluate each station. Evaluation scores will auto-populate into GrayJay. The sum of your player's scores determines team placement.

**What if my player cannot make evaluations?** Please let the U9VP know this information ASAP. We will discuss placement.

**Evaluation Process:**



# GOALIES

## PHASE ONE

- Goalies are given an assigned ice time a few days before player evaluations
- Goalies are dressed in full goalie gear for this session
- Goalies are evaluated by non-U9 parents.
- Goalies are evaluated on skating and goaltending fundamentals



### Post Phase 1

Within 24 hours, Goalies are given a new evaluation date/time.

## PHASE TWO

- Goalie will participate in U9 player evaluations dressed as a goalie.
- Goalies are evaluated on skating and goaltending fundamentals



### Post Phase 2

3 goalies will be removed from the remainder of the evaluation process (2 will be placed in advanced, 1 in development)

Within 24 hours, 8 Goalies are given a new evaluation date/time.

## PHASE THREE

- Goalies will participate in U9 players' evaluations dressed as goalies.
- This phase will consist of half-ice games where players are evaluated on overall play.



### Post Phase 3

Team lists and first practice times will be posted after head coaches are assigned. The hope is to have this out within 72 hours.

The above information is based on past practice and is subject to change\*

## FEES



Registration includes shared practice times and half-ice games.

**Are there additional costs?** Once your players are assigned a team and have parental consensus, additional funds (called seed money) are collected to cover the expenses of tournaments, additional ice times, team functions, name bars, season socks, etc. Additional costs are up to a max of \$300.00 per player and are often due early in the season to get the team running. But there's an option (based on consensus) to fundraise this money back. The total max budget for a U9 team is \$17,000. Another fee will be charged to those new to hockey who need the Respect In Sport program.

## TEAMS



After the evaluations, each team will be assigned a Head Coach. The team manager, treasurer, and safety rep will also be discussed.

## PRACTICE



Regardless of level, all teams will practice twice weekly until the end of November. Starting December 1st, practice will be once weekly.

**What day and time are the U9 practices?** Practice times are inconsistent throughout the season, and schedules are not always set in advance—it is like that for the rest of hockey.

**Are all practices held at the St. Margaret's Centre (SMC)?** TASA has ice rental contracts at several facilities throughout HRM; the U9 practices are typically held at SMC.

**Are practices held over the Christmas holidays?** Practices are not scheduled by TASA between Christmas and New Year's. Depending on your team, you could buy extra ice times.

## GAMES



Starting December 1st, all teams will play half-ice games. Games are scheduled by Central Minor and will include Refs. They typically occur once per week, and scores are not kept. A maximum of 24 half-ice games, including tournament games, can be played.

**What day and time are the U9 games?** Game times are inconsistent throughout the season. Central Minor will circulate season games in late November. But teams may book alternative games that may not always be set in advance—it is like that for the rest of hockey.

**Are all games held at the St. Margaret's Centre (SMC)?** Central Minor books home games at SMC. Away games may occur throughout HRM.

**Are games held over the Christmas holidays?** Games are not scheduled by Central Minor between Christmas and New Year's. Depending on your team, you could be registered in a tournament.

## FULL ICE GAMES



Starting February 1st, all teams will play half-ice games. A maximum of 12 full-ice games and a minimum of 4 can be played.

## TOURNAMENTS



Tournament fees are in addition to registration fees and come from a team budget. U9 tournaments and games must be in Nova Scotia.

## GOALIES



**IN DEMAND – especially with half-ice games.**

**My player wants to be a goalie full-time.** U9 will have a goalie evaluation session. Evaluations allow us to watch player goalies and place them on teams based on skill. All goalie evaluations are co-ed. Please indicate in registration that your player wants to be evaluated as a goalie.

**My player occasionally wants to be a goalie.** If your player is interested, please encourage them to try it. TASA will provide goalie equipment.

## VOLUNTEERS



**There is no hockey without parents volunteering or Refs.**

**Do you need Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Managers?** Yes, each team will need one head coach, assistant coaches, a team manager, a safety rep, and a team treasurer.

## EQUIPMENT



**Will TASA supply a jersey?** Yes. Each player is given a jersey and sock set. Players must be prepared to have their own jerseys and socks for evaluations. Once teams are formed, jerseys and socks will be distributed to teams. If you need to borrow a jersey for assessments, please email the TASA U9VP and I will reach out to the TASA equipment manager.

# U7 & U9 EQUIPMENT

## GEAR UP WITH BAUER



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For information on socks and jerseys, email your U7VP or U9VP

[under7vp@tasa.ca](mailto:under7vp@tasa.ca)

[under9vp@tasa.ca](mailto:under9vp@tasa.ca)



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