

U9 FAQ

Updated: September 2024

The U9 Program aligns with Hockey Canada's Seasonal Structure for U9 hockey programs and adheres to guidelines for the U9 Division outlined by Hockey Nova Scotia. For more information, please click here:

<https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/hockey-programs/coaching/under-9/parents/introduction>

If this is your first year participating in minor hockey, please also refer to U7 FAQs by clicking here: [U7 FAQs](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

What does U9 stand for?

U9 stands for Under 9. It is the Division set out by Hockey Canada for players who turn 7 or 8 years old by December 31 of the current year. It replaces the division formerly known as Novice.

When does the U9 Season Start?

The U9 Season start date is mid-October and will run for 20 weeks. Ten weeks prior to Christmas Break and ten weeks after Christmas Break ending mid March.

Registration and Evaluations Dates:

Any player wishing to play hockey this season at the U9 level should be registered before October 15; otherwise, it could have an impact on Evaluations (Time Trials) and your child's placement on a team.

Evaluations are usually scheduled for late October. It is the responsibility of the parents to check our Facebook Page and website for final notification of when Evaluations will be taking place, and the specific times and groups on the date(s).

Pre-Evaluation Ice Times

All U9 players will practice together for the first couple of weeks of the season to prepare for Evaluations (Time Trials).

What are Evaluations (Time Trials)? Are they Try-Outs?

Evaluations are when players are evaluated on their skills based on average times and then placed on teams with other players at the same skill level. Evaluations are not try-outs. U9 players are not competing for a specific team. The objective of evaluations is to provide each player with a fair, impartial, and consistent process to be placed with players of like skill, resulting in the best chance to develop their hockey skills, and understanding of the game.

What are the different levels in U9? How many teams are there?

There are three levels of U9 Hockey – Developmental, Intermediate and Advancing. Last year SRMHA had 1 Developmental Team, and 1 Intermediate Team. This may change from year to

year based on skill level and number of players enrolled at this level. All of these teams are co-ed.

How do Evaluations (Time Trials) take place?

A schedule with player groupings will be posted on the SRMHA Facebook page and Website once a date has been established for the time trials to take place. Based on the number of players registered in the division, the group will be split into two or three groups to allow for enough time to conduct the evaluations.

Evaluations (Time Trials) will be conducted by the Novice Coordinator along with several other independent coaches or helpers not associated with the U9 Division.

On arrival each player will be assigned a number to be placed on their helmet. This will be used to identify the player on the evaluation sheets. Players will be timed as they perform approximately 2-4 drills or stations. Each player will perform each drill / station a set number of times (usually twice).

After these evaluations, players based on their times, will be assigned to either Intermediate or Developmental – this will be the level they will play at this year.

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

What are the qualifications for coaches?

Registered Coaches will have completed a Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector check, a Respect in Sport for Volunteers course, an online Intro to Coach course, and an online virtual or half day in-class Coaching Course (to be completed after the online portion). This applies to Assistant Coaches as well as Head Coaches. All Head Coaches must also do an online Safety Course.

Where are practices held?

Practices will be held at both Richmond Arena and Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre.

What are the practice times?

There are 2 practices each weekend on Saturday and Sunday. Times vary amongst the U9 teams and time slots are usually scheduled between 7am-11am. Ice times are NOT consistent. If ice is available, an additional practice time made be allotted during the week for all U9 teams to participate.

Will my child play hockey games in U9?

Yes, U9 teams can start playing half ice games starting December 1.

Development Team Players may participate in games at this level with a minimum practice to game ratio of 2:1. Teams may participate in a maximum of 24 half-ice games per season including any exhibition and/or tournament play.

Intermediate Team Players may participate in games at this level with a minimum practice to game ratio of 1:1. Teams may participate in a maximum of 24 half-ice games per season, including any exhibition and/or tournament play.

Will my child play full ice games?

Yes, U9 team may begin playing full ice games beginning February 1 with a maximum of twelve (12) controlled scrimmages, between associations or within an association, to be used for the purpose of full ice playing education/instruction in preparation for moving into the U11 division.

Can I be on the player bench or open the door if I need to talk to or assist my child?

No, all parents and spectators are asked to not be on the bench or open the doors to the ice. It may be tempting to step on the bench to help your child get a sip of water or to say hello, but this can be distracting and disrupt the flow of the practice. The coaches are there to assist your child. Should the coaches require assistance from a child's parent, they will bring them to one of the doors to the ice and seek you out.

Can I drop my child off?

No, a parent/guardian must be available at all times for every practice. Coaches will not leave the ice for washroom breaks and must adhere to Hockey Canada's 'Two-deep policy'. Parents must be immediately available to respond to children if required.

Are there any extra costs not covered by the registration fees?

Yes, there are optional extra costs that are not covered. Photographs, name bars, Jamborees, and any extra team building activities would be an extra cost to the parent/guardian.

Do we have to fundraise?

Players registered in the program are required to sell SRMHA weekly 50/50 draws. Money raised will go towards future registration fees. [Click here for more information](#). \$0.40 of the total tickets sold will be going back directly to the player selling the ticket to offset future registration costs. Tickets will be available for Monthly draws.

U9 Teams may also sell 50/50 tickets during their games/tournament to raise funds for their year end party.

What about Goalies?

We need Goalies – especially since we are playing half ice games all season!

We will provide goalie equipment for the U9 Age players. If your player is interested, please encourage them to give it a try.

For those players interested in only playing Goalie, there is a separate stream for Goalie evaluations during the general U9 Evaluations in October. Please indicate on your registration form that your player is interested in being evaluated as a goalie.