

U9 Season Structure

The U9 hockey season is designed to progressively introduce players to full-ice play while emphasizing skill development and enjoyment through structured formats.

Half-Ice Practices

- **Start Date:** October 12th, 2024.
 - **Practice Format:**
 - Runs **twice a week** until December 1st.
 - From **December 1st to the end of the season**, practices will be held **once a week**.
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Cross-Ice Games

- **Start Date:** December 1st, 2024.
 - **Game Format:**
 - A maximum of **24 half-ice games** is permitted, including Jamborees.
 - Central Minor will schedule some of these games, with the schedule available in **mid-November**.
 - Half-ice games are used to enhance skill development by focusing on smaller playing areas
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Full-Ice Games

- **Start Date:** Begins on **February 1st**.
 - **Game Format:**
 - Teams can play between **4 and 12 full-ice controlled scrimmages** or games.
 - These scrimmages are intended for educational purposes to help players transition to full-ice play in preparation for moving to the U11 division.
 - Officials may be used for these games.
 - All scrimmages and games require travel permits.
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Weather: If a game needs to be rescheduled due to weather or a conflict with a tournament etc. Notify the TASA Ice Scheduler immediately. Re-scheduling of Central Minor/Metro Minor games should be done between the Association's Ice Scheduler, not the Team Managers.

Tournaments

- **Location:** U9 teams are restricted to participating in tournaments within Nova Scotia. Travel outside the jurisdiction of Hockey Nova Scotia is not permitted.
- **No Championship Format:**
 - Tournaments are not allowed to post statistics, select MVPs, or create all-star teams.
 - Championship games or formats that declare an overall winner are not allowed.

For finding tournaments, please refer to the Hockey Nova Scotia website, which is regularly updated: [Minor Hockey Tournaments](#). Additionally, I recommend checking various Association Websites across the province, as not all tournaments may be listed on the Hockey Nova Scotia site.

Extra Practices

For arranging extra practices, purchasing additional ice time is indeed a good option, as long as the team budget allows for it and parents are informed.

If you buy extra ice from TASA it will appear on your Ice Invoice at the end of the year. Ice purchased individually by teams will require a payment arrangement between the two teams.

It is the managers responsibility to track the team's ice and ensure those invoices are accurate and that the balance owing is paid in a timely manner before the season ends.

You have multiple resources to find available ice:

- **HRM ICE SWAP Facebook group**
 - **Halifax Rec Website:** recreation.halifax.ca
 - **Civic Center/Halifax Form Website**
 - **Greenfoot Energy Center:** Contact Deb Nickel at (902) 835-5454 ext. 2 or email at dnickel@greenfootenergycentre.ca
 - **TASA Ice Scheduler:** Email at tasascheduler@tasa.ca
 - **Chester Civic Center:** Contact Centre Manager Tom Graves at thepark@eastlink.ca
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Exhibition Games

- **Organization and Scheduling**
The team manager, in coordination with the head coach, is responsible for organizing

exhibition games. This includes securing ice time and communicating with the opposing team's manager.

- **Game Limits**

The following game limits include league, exhibition, and tournament games (with tournaments counting as three games):

- U9: 24 half ice (including regular season games and tournaments)
- 12 full ice games post February 1st

Referee

Once the exhibition game is uploaded to Gray Jay, referees will be automatically assigned. However, you should confirm referee assignments by emailing Jason at Jbhockey@eastlink.ca. Payment for referees and timekeepers must be made in cash from the team budget.

If you do not want a Referee, add the exhibition game into Gray Jay as a 'special event' vs 'exhibition game'.