

U9 (7 & 8 Year old Program)

Welcome to the 2025/2026 hockey season. Below you will find some information to help you answer some frequently asked questions regarding the upcoming hockey season.

Season Review

- U9 hockey emphasizes developing skating skills like stops, starts, transitions, and edge work, as well as passing, shooting, and puck control.
- The U9 hockey season in Lord Selkirk Minor hockey typically runs from October to March, with a combination of practices and games.

Respect in Sport Program for Parents:

- The parent that is registering their player MUST register and complete the Respect in Sport (RIS) Parent Program before October 31st. Anyone that has completed the coach/roster RIS program still MUST complete the Parent RIS program.
 - <https://hmbparent.respectgroupinc.com>

U9B versus U9A League

In Selkirk, U9 players can participate in U9B league teams within their community associations, or try out for U9 A teams that compete in a more competitive league within Winnipeg.

U9B League:

- Players who are aren't selected for U9A will be placed on a U9B league team.
- U9B Practices and games will take place at various arenas within Lord Selkirk Minor Hockey including East Selkirk, Selkirk Recreational centre, St Andrews Arena and, new to this year, West Kildonan Arena for U9B games versus Seven Oaks Minor Hockey association.
- Additional tournaments will be at the discretion of individual teams.
- Parents can expect to have 2 - 3 ice times per week. Times, dates, and locations to be determined.
- Friend requests can be emailed to u9@lsmha.com. We will do our best to accommodate families requests while ensuring teams are built evenly for competitive games.

U9A Winnipeg League:

- Players who make the U9A team after tryouts will participate in a slightly more competitive league.
- Practices will take place at any of the facilities utilized by Lord Selkirk Minor Hockey including East Selkirk, St Andrews, Selkirk Recreational Centre, and Winnipeg Beach.

- These teams typically practice more often, participate in more tournaments and their games will take place across Winnipeg and surrounding areas.
- U9A is registered in the Fall Classic in Winnipeg beginning of October.
 - Additional tournament will be at the discretion of individual teams.
- League scheduled games can be found: <https://www.hockeywinnipeg.ca/>

Equipment

- Players at all levels require full hockey equipment, including a helmet, skates, gloves, and protective gear.
- Want to know what your kids need for playing hockey! There is some great information here: <https://newtohockey.com/hockey-equipment-buying-guide-for-kids/>
- The cost for jerseys are included in registration. Name bars, socks and decals are not included in the registration fees for U9 and up. Subject to change.

Pathway Skates

- Prior to evaluations, U9 skaters will be given the opportunity to participate in pathway skates.
- Pathway skates are included in the cost of registration.
- These skates aim to create a more player-friendly environment before formal tryouts or evaluations, helping players get back on the ice in a relaxed setting. They also serve to level the playing field, as not all players have the opportunity to attend hockey schools or prep camps.
- The schedule for pathways skates will be emailed to registered families once groups and times have been assigned.

Evaluations Skates

- In Selkirk, U9A hockey evaluations typically involve assessing players' skills to determine their placement on either a U9A team or one of the U9B teams.
- The evaluations will be conducted by Max Analytics, an independent third-party evaluator to ensure fairness and objectivity.
- Players will participate in a series of evaluation sessions that include skills and games. The results help determine their team placement for the season.
- Group assignments and schedule will be emailed to families.
- Evaluation costs are included in registration.

Game Format

- Half-Ice Format: U9 hockey is played on a half-ice surface, which allows for more puck touches, increased player involvement, and a greater focus on skill development. Playing surface does not cross the centre ice line [according to Hockey Canada](#).

- Each team will designate A/B/C lines during games with 4 players per line.
- More information can be found here: <https://www.hockeymanitoba.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Hockey-Manitoba-Under-9-Half-Ice-Guidelines-2022-2023-1.pdf>

Continuous Play:

- Games feature continuous play, with no face-offs or stoppages during shifts, except for injuries or when the puck goes out of play.
- Teams will play two 24 min periods with the buzzer sounding every 2 mins to allow for line changes and ensuring all players receive equal ice time.
- Players can be given penalties. Although a player will only serve the remaining time of their shift for the penalty and there is no stoppage in play.

Development Zone:

- The half of the ice not used for the game serves as a development zone, providing extra space for skill work and drills.
- Each period players will spend 8 mins in the development zone if the team has enough players.

New to the area

- _Transferring into our area, you will have to fill out a form with Hockey Winnipeg
 - <https://www.hockeywinnipeg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/HWChangeofResidence2023.pdf>
- Once completed please send proof of residence (example Hydro Bill) to registrar@ismha.com

For more information please feel free to reach out via email to our U9 directors at the following email address: u9@ismha.com