



Welcome to the CNN Minor Hockey Association!

This information package may be useful to new or returning families at the U5 & U7 level when planning your child's upcoming season. We appreciate you taking the time to read this package over and hope you enjoy the upcoming season!

What does CNN stand for?

The acronym "CNN" stands for Crows Nest North. Crows Nest North road is the halfway point between Gibbons and Bon Accord. CNN minor hockey teams are made up of families from both communities, which makes the CNN family larger than your average rural minor hockey association.

CNN's Philosophy

CNN creates a holistic learning environment for all players, parents, and coaches. Giving players a safe and fun learning experience is our number one priority. We are committed to developing strong hockey players on the ice and well-rounded individuals off the ice.

What can you expect from CNN and what do they have to offer?

CNN is a rural minor hockey association, with big benefits. Having two arenas gives us the ability to give teams ample ice time, often 2 timeslots per week! We offer reasonable hockey fees, which include hockey development classes (power skating, shooting camps, goalie camps, etc).

Fundraising is a major contributor to any hockey association. Once teams are selected, the parents from your child's team will meet and discuss fundraising options. The funds raised will help to offset fees from any tournaments or events that your team plans on attending. Any extra fees for tournaments etc. that cannot be covered by your team's fundraising initiatives will be the responsibility of the parents.

The CNN Spurs U7 typically host a Jamboree during the season where parents will be expected to help with finding auction items and helping to run/manage the tournament.

Timbits U5 – Intro to Hockey

Timbits U5 is an introduction to hockey designed for players of all skill levels. This program provides young athletes with the opportunity to **develop their on-ice skills** while building new friendships with teammates.

We recommend that players be able to stand independently on skates and shuffle. If your player is not yet at that stage, **on-ice parent participation will be required** to ensure a positive and safe experience.

Our focus is to create an environment where players can:



- Build **foundational hockey skills** such as basic skating, puck handling, and game fundamentals
- Gain confidence on the ice through **fun and fair play**
- Form friendships in a **supportive and enjoyable setting**

Players will participate in **one on-ice session per week**, designed to introduce them to the game and foster a lifelong love of hockey. Players also receive a Timbits Jersey and socks.

Timbits U7 Program

Timbits U7 is designed to make the first strides in the game a **safe and positive experience**, introducing young players to the **basic skills of hockey**. Kids become part of a team, develop self-confidence, and experience personal achievement—all through **fun and fair play**.

This program serves as the **foundation of the hockey journey**, while also creating memories that last long after the game ends. The special bonds and friendships that hockey builds—for both players and parents—begin here.

When new players have fun, develop skills, and build confidence, they are more likely to enjoy the game for a lifetime. That's exactly what Timbits U7 provides. Players will participate in **two on-ice sessions per week**, focusing on skill development, teamwork, and love of the game. Players also receive a Timbits Jersey and socks.

What equipment am I required to provide for my child?

The following is a checklist of equipment for the initiation level of minor hockey. Equipment requirements progress as your child progresses in minor hockey.

- Underclothes
- Jock Strap or Jill Strap
- Shin Pads
- Practice Socks (covers shin pads) - one pair included in the Timbits program
- Jersey – one Timbits jersey included in the program
- Hockey Shorts
- Hockey Skates
- Shoulder pads
- Neck Guard
- Elbow pads
- Hockey Helmet (CSA approved)
- Hockey Stick
- Hockey Gloves

These are the minimum equipment requirements for minor hockey. As your child progresses, they will be required to supply other equipment, such as: mouth guards, goalie equipment, etc. It's important for



your child's safety that all equipment fits properly and is of good quality. If equipment requirements are not met, coaches will not be able to allow your child on the ice.

Are there places I can find quality used equipment?

Facebook group – CNN Spurs equipment Buy, sell and donate

Find used equipment right here in Gibbons and Bon Accord!

Play It Again Sports (13883 156th St NW, Edmonton AB) has a great selection of used equipment.

Source for Sports (8802 100 St, Fort Saskatchewan AB) Used skates and great deals on new equipment.

What does CNN require of you as a spectator, coach or player?

Spurring Positivity Program- All Parents, Players, Coaches are required to read, understand and sign an oath for our ***Spurring Positivity Program***. The program has been developed for our association to further ensure our commitment to creating an enjoyable and positive environment for everyone involved.

Spectating parents - One parent from each household is required to complete the "Respect in Sport - parent" program. This can be found at:

<http://respectinsport.com/parent-program/>

Head and Assistant Coaches - Head coaches are required to complete both the Hockey Alberta coaching program, Coach stream, and the Respect in Sport – coach program. Head coaches will progress through the levels of the "coach stream" program as desired, based on the level that they would like to coach. Assistant coaches are also expected to complete the Respect in Sport – coach program. Coach stream lessons/info can be found at:

<https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/coaches/>

The Respect in Sport – coach program can be found at:

<https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/members/respect-sport/>

(click on the link Activity Leader/Coach/Officials link and you'll be prompted to register or recertify) Coaches, assistant coaches, and parents will be required to complete these programs early in the season. Completing these courses helps to ensure that everyone has a successful and respectful season. Failure to complete these courses could result in parents not being allowed to attend or coaches not being allowed to coach.



What are some of the skills your child will be taught throughout the hockey season?

The objectives being taught to your child throughout their minor hockey experience can be summed up into specific skills. While physical and technical skills are a priority in any minor sport, your child will also be learning valuable life lessons. Important social skills like teamwork, commitment, perseverance, accountability, etc. will be blended into every season.

Where can I find additional information regarding the CNN Minor Hockey Association?

Any other information, including policies, bylaws, and board member contacts, can be found on the CNN spurs website:

<http://www.cnnspurs.com/>

Please do not hesitate to ask your team manager or level director (U5@spurshockey.com or u7@spurshockey.com) any questions that you may have.

Thank You, from the entire CNN hockey family. We hope you have a fun, exciting and positive hockey season!