

# ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

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## Memo

To: OHF Members

From: Phillip McKee - OHF Executive Director

Date: 12/17/2018

Re: Novice Player Pathway Implementation for 2020-2021 Season

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Over the past year the Ontario Hockey Federation with its Members have implemented strategies to for 8-and-under participants through the OHF Player Development Model. While these strategies have focused on the appropriate ice surface for the age of players, there have been many other recommendations to enhance the player experience and align our programming with the Hockey Canada Long Term Player Development model.

In March of 2018 OHF Minor Council passed a motion that only Minor Atom divisions and above will be eligible to conduct tryouts for the 2019-2020 season. The direction effectively was to transition tryouts for Novice and below age categories to evaluation sessions held in the Fall. This information has been sporadically distributed with various interpretations of eligibilities, dates and times for such evaluation sessions.

The OHF Directors have reviewed information pertaining to this direction, as well as feedback from the OHF Operations meetings and have determined the following:

- For the 2019-2020 season the full implementation of Novice programming as outlined in the OHF Player Development Model ([OHF PDM](#)) will continue to occur as has been communicated.
- For the 2019-2020 season it is recommended that Minor Hockey Associations review the OHF Player Development Model ideals and begin a plan to implement the ideals outlined in the player evaluation and seasonal structure aspects of the Novice Player Pathway.
- For the 2020-2021 season, in addition to the OHF Player Development Model for the Novice age group the player pathway will require player evaluations and selection to occur no earlier than the Tuesday following Labour Day Monday.

The full implementation and shift to a Fall evaluation period will place the Ontario Hockey Federation's seasonal structure in line with the Hockey Canada Novice Player Pathway. Furthermore, the move positively supports the objectives for Novice programming



outlined in the Canadian Player Pathway which explains that during this period players are continuing to develop fundamental motor skills and coordination, while growing their impression of hockey as a positive one for players and parents.

While the shift to a Fall evaluation period will not be required until the 2020-21 season, it is recommended that Minor Hockey Associations begin to implement Fall tryouts for the Novice age group for the 2019-20 season where possible. Support and information will be available to Minor Hockey Associations and administrators from your OHF Member by the end of January 2019.

The OHF will work in partnership with our five Members who administer Novice: the Minor Hockey Alliance of Ontario (Alliance), the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL), Northern Ontario Hockey Association (NOHA), Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA), and the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA).

### ***About the OHF***

*The OHF has been in existence since 1989 and is comprised of seven Members: the Minor Hockey Alliance of Ontario (Alliance), the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL), Northern Ontario Hockey Association (NOHA), Ontario Hockey Association (OHA), the Ontario Hockey League (OHL), Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) and the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA.)*