



Schomberg Minor Hockey Association

- Making Hockey Fun Since 1961 -

Hello Red Wing Players & Families!

If you are a new parent with our organization, a sincere and warm welcome to the Schomberg Minor Hockey Family! If you are a parent of one of our veteran players, welcome back for another exciting season of Hometown Hockey!

The coming days will be busy ones, with summer winding down and the kids getting back to school and back to the arena. Schomberg Minor Hockey has a great season lined up, with the launch of updated skill development programs, stylish new team and spirit wear and lots of fun events and tournaments.

Make sure that you make regular visits to our website (schombergminorhockey.com) to stay informed. You can also follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**, where we love to receive and share your Team game and tournament photos!

Pre-Season “Knock the Rust Off” Development Clinics:

In addition to the regular Development Clinics scheduled throughout the season, SMHA has scheduled two Pre-Season “Knock the Rust Off” Clinics on September 6 and September 13 at the Trisan Centre. These Clinics are free of charge and are scheduled for the following Local League Age Divisions:

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • September 6 (5 pm – 6pm) | Tykes and Novices |
| • September 6 (6 pm – 7 pm) | Atoms, Pee Wees & Bantams |
| • September 13 (5 pm – 6pm) | Tykes and Novices |
| • September 13 (6 pm – 7 pm) | Atoms, Pee Wees & Bantams |

These Skates are free for SMHA Local League Players and we will be counting on our Local League Coaches to get their Teams out to take advantage of this early ice time!

Please Join Us for Our “Welcome Back” BBQ

Don't forget that SMHA will be hosting our "Welcome Back BBQ" on **Saturday September 8th from 10 am – 6pm.** In addition to all of our Local League Teams hitting the ice for the first time, this will include:

- Some Great BBQ Food and Drinks
- Orders for Team and Fan Wear Will be Taken with Great Deals on Last Year's Clothing!
- Susan's Smile Centre will be taking orders for Custom Mouthguards
- Ice Cream!!!

Schedule for September 8 “Welcome Back BBQ”:

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| • IP Timbits / IP Local League (5 & 6 year olds) | 10 am – 11 am |
| • Tykes (age 7) and Novice (age 8) | 11 am – 12 pm |
| • Atom | 12pm – 1 pm |
| • Community Family Skate | 1 pm – 2 pm |
| • Pee Wee's | 2 pm – 3 pm |
| • Bantams | 3 pm – 4 pm |
| • Midgets (Balancing Skate #1) | 4 pm – 6 pm |

Our Local League Program this Season

Our Red Wing Local League Teams will continue to participate in the 11 Centre Simcoe Region Local League – with Teams at Novice and above playing a regular season of approximately 26 games (depending on age level), plus playoffs and occasional tournaments.

Age divisions under Novice (IP LL and Tyke) will play a partial condensed season, with games beginning in December, allowing for the first few weeks to focus on skill development to help get our youngest players ready for actual games.

The IP Timbits “Beginner” Division will be largely a fun skill development based learning format throughout the season, with fun game simulated scrimmages and occasional exhibition games taking place. Consistent with the new Hockey Canada and OMHA Development format, the IP Local League (6 year olds) and Tyke (7 year olds) will be playing games on a modified half-ice format, with smaller nets, to help provide our youngest players with more opportunity to learn and touch the puck on ice surfaces more consistent with their size and skill level.

Generally speaking most age divisions can expect approximately 2 hours of ice time per week, with one practice and one game (either home or away). While the practices and home games will try to keep a consistent scheduled time once booked, each team books its own away games, and those times can differ depending on ice availability with opposing Centres.

Midgets have a slightly lighter practice schedules to help our oldest players accommodate busy school, extracurricular and job commitments.

Of course, ice time can and will change throughout the season, as some practices and games get rescheduled for a variety of reasons, and once playoffs begin, the game schedule can become more unpredictable.

There will be a scheduling blackout during March Break, and our Local League Hometown "Red & White" Tournaments will fall during the Christmas Break, between Boxing Day and New Year's.

Ice Schedules will be posted on the Website shortly. Don't forget to subscribe to our Website scheduling app, which will populate your mobile phone calendar and automatically update you with any last-minute cancellations or re-scheduled times.

2018-2019 Local League Skill Development Program

Providing skill development opportunities for our Local League Players continues to be an important priority for us.

To help maximize the amount of development funding available to our Player this year, we have worked cooperatively with our Local League Partner NobleKing Minor Hockey to create a cooperatively run skill development program that will ensure that all Local League players receive the same high quality development opportunities regardless of what King Township community they live in or where they are playing Local League. We will be partner with Young Guns Hockey to provide professional skill instruction to our skaters, as well as with Tyler Bly who will be working with our Local League goalies.

At this point, our Local League Skill Development Program consists of the following primary initiatives:

(1) Development Clinics for IP & Tykes (Sunday Mornings)

Sunday mornings will be the key development time for our IP Timbits, IP Local League Players, as well as our Tykes and Novice. From September to the end of December, instructors from Young Guns Hockey will be working with our youngest Red Wings to help them develop basic skating and hockey skills.

The timing of these clinics (subject to change) is tentatively as follows:

- **Sundays 8:30 am to 9:30 am (IP Timbits and IP Local League)**
- **Sundays 9:30 am to 10:30 am (Tyke and subject to available space Novice players may be eligible as well)**

(2) Player Development for LL Skaters (Regular Thursday Night Skill Clinics)

Players at age Divisions from Novice to Pee Wee/Bantam will be eligible to participate in optional development clinics hosted on **Thursday Nights from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm**.

While there will be no separate Clinics for Midgets, we will work with the Midget coaches to see if there is interest for specialty instructors to support their practices on theme based issues of interest to this age group, such as safe contact skills.

In order to maximize the amount of ice time available and ensure that development clinics are provided for the entire regular season, these will be hosted out of the **Nobleton Arena** on a rotating basis. This format will be an increase in development time compared to previous years where we offered 3 to 4 clinics in September only.

This will help ensure consistent development clinics during most of the regular season, with both SMHA and NKMH investing significant money into purchasing a consistent sheet of ice every week to allow for this.

To make these skill clinics financially viable, players attending will be asked to pay a modest \$10 fee for each session they attend. Most age divisions in this group will be offered 7 rotating clinics as part of this program, with online registration for these clinics being available in the near future. **Please register early before these clinics fill up!**

Clinics for the Thursday Development Nights will vary week to week, focusing on different age groups and different skill themes (e.g. Powerskating, Shooting, Puck Handling – as well as occasional Coaching Development for Local League Coaches).

No clinics on Thanksgiving Weekend. Further details and the season Development Clinic schedule will follow shortly.

(3) Free Local League Goalie Clinics (Wednesday Nights)

Our popular Goalie Clinics will return for all SMHA and NKMH Goalies, hosted **Wednesday nights** at the **Trisan Centre from 7:00 to 8:00 pm**. Popular young goalie instructor Tyler Bly will work with beginner and developing LL goalies to help them learn basic skills and techniques. These free clinics will be offered all season long, as developing local goaltending talent is a key priority for us. We have a number of sets of beginner goaltending equipment for young players available for loan, and we encourage any children interested in goaltending to come out and give it a try.

The first Goalie Clinic of the year is scheduled for September 12 (no clinics on Halloween). If any prospective young goalies would like to try this out and need loaner equipment, please speak with our **Development Director Chad Lockhart**.

(4) Enhanced “Optional” IP Development for 2012 Birth Year

In addition to the regular IP Development Clinics on Sunday mornings hosted at the Trisan Centre, additional supplemental IP Skill Clinics will be hosted on Saturday mornings at the King City arena for both Schomberg and NobleKing LL players in the 2012 birth year. These supplemental clinics will be skill based, for advanced level players hoping to move into competitive level Rep hockey in future years. There will be 3 initial evaluation skates available to assess player ability, and the final development group will be selected based on skill. This enhanced program will offer approximately 26 weeks of skill development, for an optional fee of approximately \$350 - \$500 per player (ice costs will vary depending on the level of interest and the size of the group). This program will commence on Saturday September 8 and clinic times will be Saturday mornings at 8:30 am. As we need to quickly assess the level of interest in this optional fee based program to justify purchasing the required ice time, interested parents should promptly contact **Coach John at fiacco99@gmail.com** for further details.

(5) Hockey Canada Skills & Drills Camp – Save the Date!

Schomberg and NobleKing Minor Hockey will be hosting a Hockey Canada Skills & Drills Camp on Friday **November 23**, which is a Professional Development Day for both the York Region Public and Separate School Boards. This all day event focusing on players from the Novice to Bantam levels will feature instruction from the Hockey Canada Skills & Drills Team. Players will alternate between on-ice instructional sessions and off-ice dry land activities. The Camp will include lunch and all players will receive a Hockey Canada practice jersey. This optional Camp is fee based – and online registration will be available in the coming days, once final details with Hockey Canada have been arranged.

(6) Concussion Awareness Workshop on September 6

King Township is offering a Concussion Awareness Workshop for Coaches, Team Trainers and Parents on Thursday September 6 from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Trisan Centre. This is a great opportunity for Parents and Team Officials to gain some valuable insight with respect to how to prevent, identify and treat sports related concussion issues, so that we can all manage these situations more effectively and keep our kids safe. Please email programs@king.ca to pre-register for this workshop.

(7) Coaching Certification and Development

Coaching development is important to us, and we will be investing time and resources this season into making sure our Local League Coaches have the development and resources they need to be successful.

- **A Coach 2 Certification Clinic** will be hosted at the Trisan Centre on September 23 for any aspiring Coaches still needing their credentials (please see online registration).
- In addition, a **Coach Development Clinic** will be hosted on September 27 or October 4 (Date still pending – so stay tuned), with OMHA instructors providing valuable insights and tips on “**How to Plan and Deliver an Effective Practice**”. Coaches, these Clinics are here to help you, so please sign up and attend!

Volunteering at the Trisan Centre SnackBar – We Need Your Support!

The Trisan Centre SnackBar is operated by Schomberg Minor Hockey. We count on this revenue from a fundraising perspective to help us keep registration fees under control, and to pay for things like uniforms, skill development for players, as well as game expenses, like referees and timekeepers.

But the SnackBar cannot function without the support of our Membership. We count on ALL Minor Hockey Families, Players and Community Supporters to volunteer a few hours of their time each year helping to operate the SnackBar. It's easy to do, it's fun – and it's a great way to get to know people.

Plus, the students who volunteer in the SnackBar get credit towards their community volunteer hours, gain valuable job experience for their resume, and also can earn credits towards a free fitness membership at the Trisan Centre Gym. If interested, please contact our **SnackBar Chairperson Jennifer Casera** (jcasera@hotmail.com) & our **Fundraising Director Ali Piper** (ali.piper@schombergminorhockey.com).

Hometown Red & White Tournaments

Our Hometown Red & White Tournament Schedule has been determined, and SMHA Families can pencil the following Tournament dates into their calendars:

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • December 27, 2018 | Midget Red & White |
| • December 28, 2018 | Bantam Red & White |
| • December 29, 2018 | Pee Wee Red & White |
| • January 5, 2019 | Atom Red & White |
| • January 6, 2019 | Novice Red & White |
| • February 18, 2019 | Tyke Red & White Jamboree |

We will be looking for Tournament Volunteers and Sponsors, so please contact our Tournament Director peter.ogborn@schombergminorhockey.com for details.

Information for New Hockey Parents

Additional Registration Details:

If you have completed your child's online Registration for SMHA, you are almost done the process! Julie Kerr our Registrar will need a copy of your child's **Birth Certificate** to register with Hockey Canada. In addition, one parent or guardian will need to complete the mandatory **Hockey Canada Respect in Sport** training module available online before your child can be rostered to a Team. Finally, you will need to complete the OMHA Medical Information Form for your child:

(https://cdn4.sportngin.com/attachments/document/0042/8125/HTCP_MED_INFO_SHEET.pdf)

Your Team Trainer will keep on file for the season to help support any player medical situations that might arise.

New Player Equipment Tips:

We frequently get questions from new hockey parents about the type of equipment that their child might require. For many new hockey parents with younger children playing at the IP and Tyke levels, their first major equipment purchase is a boxed set of beginner equipment. These sets are generally available at most sporting good retailers.

The beginner boxed sets are often a good first start in terms of providing much of the basic equipment that your child will need. However, the sets do not provide absolutely everything, and you should ensure that prior to the start of the season, your child also has the following:

- A pair of properly fitting skates, that are kept regularly sharpened – don't forget to use skate guards and don't let your child walk on concrete arena floors without protecting the blades;
- A good fitting hockey helmet with a face mask – check to ensure that the helmet has a Canadian Standards Association (CSA) approval sticker on the back with a valid expiry date (helmets do have a lifespan and the sticker must be current);
- A hockey stick – cut to appropriate length, with the end of the stick capped or taped to ensure that it will not fit through the face mask on helmets;
- A velcro neck guard – relatively inexpensive and available at most sports stores;
- An athletic protector/cup – a "jock" for boy or a "jill" for girls;
- A mouth guard – inexpensive off the shelf products are available at most sports stores, or custom made mouth guards providing greater protection and comfort are available through various dental clinics, like Susan's Smile Centre – who will be onsite during our Welcome Back BBQ; and

- A practice jersey and practice hockey socks that go on overtop of the shin pads; any type or colour will do for practices...our official Red Wing jerseys are reserved for game days and will be distributed soon.

Included with this email, you will find a comprehensive manual from Hockey Canada, entitled "Safety Requires Teamwork". It sets out a number of policies and guidelines dealing with Hockey Canada's safety related policies.

In this manual is a section dealing with hockey equipment that will be of particular interest to both new and returning hockey parents with some excellent information about how to ensure that your child's equipment fits properly, is kept clean and well maintained, which will help all our Red Wings play safely and in comfort.

This Hockey Canada manual provides hockey parents with some excellent practical tips on equipment care and maintenance – and once the season begins, feel free to direct any questions you may have to any one of our team Coaches or Trainers, as well as members of our Executive, who are frequently at the rink.

In summary, we hope this information has been helpful to you in terms of outlining some important parts of our upcoming season.

We look forward to another exciting year of Minor Hockey action in Schomberg and hope to see you at the arena in the coming days.

Until then, keep your head up and your stick on the ice!

Yours truly,

**Schomberg Minor Hockey
Board of Directors**