



# Schomberg Minor Hockey

**- Making Hockey Fun Since 1961 -**

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## Dear Schomberg Minor Hockey Families;

A sincere and warm welcome to Schomberg Minor Hockey's 57<sup>th</sup> season. With the blink of an eye, summer is over, the kids are back at school – and we are all back in the arena.

For those families new to Schomberg Minor Hockey, especially those younger families at the Initiation Program (IP) and Tyke levels, welcome to the Schomberg Minor Hockey family. Those first few trips to the arena and first steps onto the ice can be intimidating at first, but soon you will get used to the ritual of lacing up skates for an early morning practice, and building minor hockey memories with your child.

A few reminders for everyone as we start the season. The ice schedules are on the website. Please refer to that site often for necessary information and scheduling updates. The schedules do change from time to time as games do get re-scheduled and moved, and sometimes “bump” practice times. Syncing your mobile device calendar to the website schedule is the best way to keep up to date, and informed.

This is a transitional year for Schomberg Minor Hockey, as going forward, both SMHA and our neighbouring centre (NobleKing) will both be offering recreational Local League hockey only, with consistent programs and registration fees. This partnership model will help support both local organizations as we work together to standardize the minor hockey experience for all kids playing in King Township, regardless of arena or town of residence. Julie Kerr will now be the official administrator, registrar and ice scheduler for both organizations – providing support for all minor hockey business functions. Please watch for emails from Julie as they will contain important information.

As a Local League Centre, our teams will continue to play in the Simcoe Region Local League, offering a fun recreational travel hockey experience, with teams in nearby towns. The game scheduling meetings will be coming up in the next few weeks, and game schedules should be available shortly. Generally speaking, most teams can expect an average of one hour practice, and one game each week.

The Schomberg and NobleKing competitive “Rep” Programs are now offered through King Township Minor Hockey (King Rebellion), which both the Schomberg and NobleKing programs feed into and jointly operate together. This allows for development and Affiliated Player (AP) opportunities, should Schomberg Local League players be interested in AP'ing to King Township Rep Teams.

Randy Shepherd continues to be our Vice President of Local League – and is also currently doing “double duty” as our Skill Development Director. He has scheduled a number of skill development clinics with external hockey instructors over the first few weeks as teams get up and running. Watch for these on the schedule. Like previous years, Goalie Clinics will be available throughout much of the season, to help instruct and develop our local goaltenders.

The IP and Tyke Programs will benefit from regular instruction from the Young Guns hockey school over the first couple of months of the season, to help support and assist new Coaches at these younger levels, get out on the ice, learn some practice routines, and help develop their coaching skills. We strongly encourage any parents at these younger age levels who might be interested in coaching or helping out on the ice to step forward and contribute as volunteers. Minor hockey cannot happen without parent volunteers to support the kids and our teams.

While on the topic of volunteers – we definitely need additional parental support and involvement, especially from parents with players on the younger teams. We currently have two vacant positions on the Minor Hockey Board of Directors, including our Skill Development Director – responsible for overseeing technical development clinics, coaching curriculums, and the Initiation Program (IP). We also have a vacancy in the role of Local League Tournament Director, responsible for planning our famous “Red & White” Local League Tournaments during the week between Christmas and New Year’s. Without dedicated volunteers in these roles, we cannot offer skill development opportunities for our players, and will not be able to host hometown tournaments this year. If you are interested in supporting our community minor hockey program in these roles, please let us know!

In addition to available Board positions, Minor Hockey cannot function without fundraising. Many parents do not appreciate that the registration fee you pay for hockey only covers your basic ice-time related expenses, OMHA admin costs and insurance. It does not cover all the extras, like uniforms, skill development, and operational game costs for timekeepers and referees. This typically leaves a revenue gap of approximately \$200 per player each year that we must make up with fundraising.

Every season, this seems to get more and more difficult. This year in particular, we have no parents expressing interest in helping to coordinate our volunteer run Snack Bar, which traditionally has been a critical component of our fundraising plan. Without volunteers willing to support our fundraising initiatives, the Snack Bar will not open this season, and we will ultimately be forced to consider alternative fee options like most other minor hockey Associations, in terms of passing down additional game operational costs directly to the teams themselves to manage directly as part of a team specific budget. That is certainly not our first choice, so we hope that our SMHA parents will step up and eagerly support any fundraising and tournament projects this season, which we rely on to fund our program. If we cannot raise the money through fundraising, additional fees or levies may soon be unavoidable.

All of that being said, we are still very excited for another thrilling season of hometown hockey in Schomberg, and look forward to seeing everyone out at the rink in the coming days and weeks. Should any parents wish to support the Association in becoming involved as a volunteer, or should you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting a member of the Board for further details.

Keep your head up and stick on the ice!

Board of Directors  
Schomberg Minor Hockey