



**S.D.M.H.A.
Tyke Program Changes
2017-2018**

Overview



- Starting in the 2017-2018 season, the Tyke program will undergo structural changes in an effort to better develop our players, provide a program that better suits the needs of our players and most of all make the experience more positive and enjoyable for all our Tyke players. The intent is to provide a better experience to our players while they learn the basic skills and grow a fundamental foundation for years to come. Based on the changes for the 2017-2018, the S.D.M.H.A. Executive determined the need for a document to detail the Tyke Program was necessary.

Overview



- The three key changes to our Tyke program (starting in 2017-2018) as compared to the outgoing program are:
 - S.D.M.H.A. will follow the OMHA guidelines and allow 7 year olds to be included in Tyke level
 - S.D.M.H.A. will now have 3 levels – JR IP, SR IP and Tyke
 - There will be more flexibility to move kids between the IP and Tyke levels, based on the player's skill level to better aid their development throughout the season
- It is important to note that not all 7 year olds will play Tyke. 7 year olds will be evaluated to determine if they play in the Tyke level or the Novice Local League level.
- This is an Initiation Program (IP) based on the recommendations and IP programming guidelines by Hockey Canada.
- 7 year olds released from Novice Rep will be added to the Tyke roster to be evaluated on their skill level and fill Novice LL roster spots as needed.

JR IP (JR IP)



- The focus is to teach fundamental, individual skills with a focus on skating, passing and stick handling
- JR IP level consists mostly of practice time
- Games will consist of one in-house game per month starting in the new year
- The JR IP level will be a House League Program Only – There will be no tournaments, travel or exhibition games
- Geared towards 4 & 5 year olds
- 4 year old players will automatically be placed in this group
- 5 year old players in their first year of hockey automatically be placed in this group

SR IP (SR IP)



- The focus is to build on the fundamental skills from JR IP, expand on these skills and introduce an informal and fun game setting, along with the introduction of the team concept
- The SR IP level consists of practice time and informal games, which will be half ice games
- Games will start mid-late November
- A divider or barrier system will be utilized to split the playing surface into two smaller areas for games to be played between 4 teams
- The SR IP level will have one tournament in the new year and travel to other centres for games
- 5 year old players in their second year will automatically be placed in this group
- 6 year old players in their second year will automatically be placed in this group, pending evaluations
- 6 year old players in their first year of hockey will automatically be placed in this group

SR IP (SR IP)



- 7 year olds in their first year of Hockey may be placed in the SR IP level:
 - The preference is to start 7 year olds at the Tyke level
 - We try to avoid 7 year olds in SR IP as they are moving onto Novice in the next year
 - Any 7 year old that starts in the SR IP level, must be moved up to the Tyke program by December 1. This allows the player to focus on core skills for the first half of the year and then move to formal games in the second half
 - Spots are to be left open on the Tyke teams for all 7 year old players that start in SR IP

Tyke



- The focus is to continue build on the fundamental skills from the JR IP and SR IP programs, introducing basic positioning and continuing with the team concept with the addition of formal games
- The Tyke level consists of practice time and formal games
- Games may start as early as mid-late October
- The Tyke level will be a Local League Program, playing local centres. This requires the coaching staff to have proper certifications
- Tyke will play surrounding centres. This is to be organized by the Tyke Coordinator/Convenor and Ice Scheduler
- The teams may enter tournaments, will travel in the local area and may play exhibition games
Tournaments:
 - A team can only enter a maximum of two (2) Tournaments.
 - Tournaments cannot be entered into prior to December 1

Tyke



- 6 years old players in their third year will automatically be placed in this group
- 7 year olds in their first year of Hockey will automatically be placed in this group:
 - The preference is to start 7 year olds new to hockey at the Tyke level.
 - We try to avoid these 7 year olds in SR IP as they are moving onto Novice in the next year.
 - We try to avoid these 7 year olds in Novice, so that they can have a year to develop and learn the game at the Tyke level.
- The Tyke level is intended for 7 year olds who are not ready for Novice and will benefit from a year at this level. S.D.M.H.A. does not want to push a 7 year old into Novice if they are not ready for and will not benefit from playing in Novice.

Player Evaluation and Movement



- Age is a factor, but ultimately a player's skill set will determine what level they will be assigned to. Players are assigned to the appropriate program level through the evaluation process
- There will be multiple coaches and other volunteers that will be involved to evaluate the players. For the group that is being evaluated to determine whether they play Tyke or Novice, all the Tyke and Novice coaches will be involved in the evaluation process at a minimum.
- Should we get it wrong, we have written in the allowance of player movement within the Tyke program prior to December 1st. Any coach, parent or volunteer involved with the program can submit a request by November 15th that the a player be moved either up or down to ensure that the player is at the right level for their skill set.
- Our goal is to have every player playing at the level that best suits their skill set.

SR IP (JR IP) Games



- Games will start in January.
- Informal Games:
 - Referees will not be used
 - No Timekeepers; possible use of time clock
 - Game sheets are not required
 - Scoreboard will not be used
 - Coaches on the ice for games to guide kids and act as referee as required
 - Penalties may be called by coaches
 - There are no offside or icing rules in play
 - Games are subject to curfews
 - Games use a barrier system to split the rink into two separate playing surfaces
 - Smaller nets
 - No goalies

SR IP (SR IP) Games



- Games will start in mid-late November.
- Informal Games:
 - Referees will not be used
 - No Timekeepers; possible use of time clock
 - Game sheets are not required
 - Scoreboard will not be used
 - Coaches on the ice for games to guide kids and act as referee as required
 - Penalties may be called by coaches
 - There are no offside or icing rules in play
 - Games are subject to curfews
 - Games use a barrier system to split the rink into two separate playing surfaces
 - Smaller nets

SR IP (SR IP) Games



- 1 PERIOD – 46 MINUTES IN DURATION EACH
- 3 MINUTE SHIFTS WITH RUN TIME
 - Buzzer for a change every 3 minutes
- Dressed goalies on a rotational basis between two or more players (other centres may not have a dressed goalie)
 - All players will be given equal opportunity to play the goalie position
 - Games will be played using the smaller 3'x4' nets
- Infraction/Penalties:
 - Player in question will go back to their team's bench and sit for the remainder of the two minute shift
 - The penalized player does not return to the ice during the shift in which they receive the penalty for any reason
 - Coaches are to use their judgment when calling penalties. The goal is to discourage negative behavior on the ice

Tyke Games



- Games may start as early as mid-late October.
- Formal Games:
 - Referees are required
 - Timekeepers are required
 - Formal games sheets are required
 - NO Coaches on the ice during games
 - These games follow all requirements and rules set out by the OMHA
 - All coaching staff **MUST** have the proper certification to be on the bench during a game and sign the game sheets
 - Games are subject to curfews
 - Full ice & full size nets
- Game Structure
 - 3 PERIODS – 10 MINUTES IN DURATION EACH
 - Change on the fly or with whistle

Tyke Games



- Dressed goalies
 - The preference of S.D.M.H.A. is to have 1 or 2 goalies per team
 - It may be on a rotational basis between three or more players if there are no players interested in being goalie

Just a Start



- The changes that have come about have been done so in an effort to enhance our program and players' experience. It is based on the feedback that we have received over the years about our Tyke program. Considering the feedback we have received over the past few years, examining all the strengths of the current Tyke program and reviewing the programs developed by Hockey Canada, USA Hockey and the IIHF, we came to the Tyke program document recently developed.
- These changes are just a start. In order for this program to grow and evolve, it requires feedback and input from coaches, parents, players, executive members and all those involved with this program. Please provide this feedback to those who are running this program in the coming season. It is critical for the continued improvement and growth of this program.
- Please give the changes a fair shot. The true test of whether these changes will be successful or not will come from our players over the years to come.