

OWHA U9 Player Pathway Implementation Policy Amendment Highlights

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The Player Pathways provide local minor hockey associations a framework of age appropriate development guidelines which includes an optimal seasonal structure.

The Hockey Canada/OWHA Player Pathway Policy can be found [here](#)

Key Amendments to U9 Player Pathways are:

1. **Playing Surface**

- All U9 (Novice) will be played at half-ice or a maximum size of 100 x 85.

2. **Player Evaluations/Tryouts**

- No tiering or evaluations during the off-season phase (previous season, including March through August). All players play all positions
- Must offer a minimum of four (4) practice/skill sessions prior to formal tiering or evaluations beginning. Full-time goaltender allowed.
- Must have a minimum of three (3) formal evaluation sessions.

3. **Half Ice Game Play Rules**

4. **Fair and Equal Ice Time**

5. **Coach Education**

6. **Seasonal Structure**

The Policy and Recommendations for the U9 (Novice) Pathways have been identified with the parent and player in mind; allowing families to have their summer break back while still providing on-ice opportunities ahead of evaluations, giving players key seasonal breaks to allow for holidays and the chance to play other sports throughout the year and establishing consistent age appropriate programming that is in line with the Long-Term Player Development model.

The transition from Spring to Fall evaluations at these age groups allows the Local Hockey Associations to provide sanctioned non-traditional hockey programming (i.e. 3-on-3, 4-on-4, or skills clinics) beginning any time after the conclusion of the OWHA Provincial Championships.