

March 2018

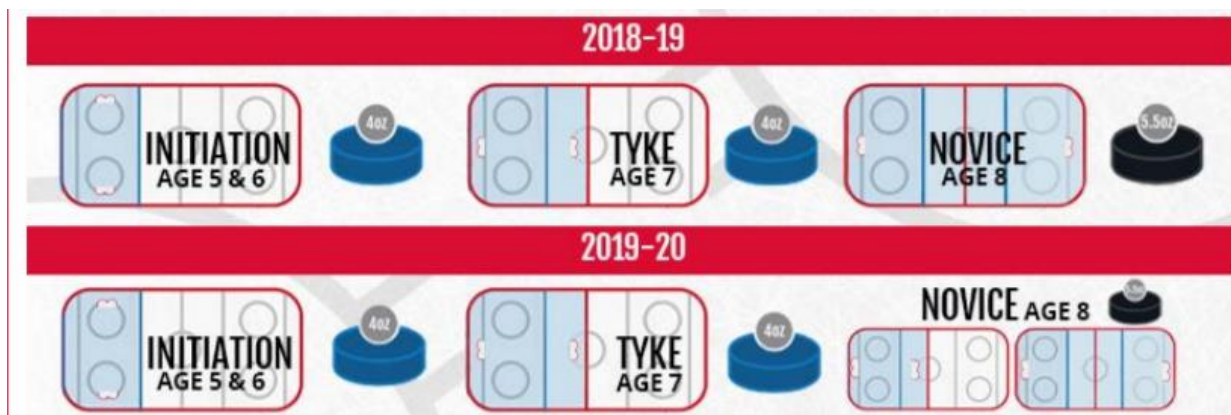
Exciting changes are on the way for our Initiation and Tyke programming in the 2018-19 season as well as further changes for our Novice aged players in the 2019-20 season. RMHA is committed to a smooth transition using the plan mandated by Hockey Canada which will ensure stronger development for our players.

The focus of these changes is the PLAYERS! Their development, their awareness of the game and their adoption to hockey rules and regulations in an environment that is more suitable to their age and skill level.

Some immediate changes that we'll see in RMHA include:

- Changing our naming conventions for the younger age groups.
 - o Starting in the 2018-19 season we will no longer use the Tyke 1 or Tyke 2 names for our younger divisions.
 - o Starting in the 2018-19 season we will use Initiation for our 6U players and Tyke will be for our 7yr old players. Our very young Rangers will be Mites (4U) 😊
 - o NOVICE Houseleague for the 2018-19 season will be restricted to players 8yrs of age.
- It is important to note that RMHA **may choose to move a player into a younger age group** if the current skill of that player would be better served in the lower division. Changes such as this would be done after discussion with the parent.
- RMHA **cannot move a player aged 7 & younger to a higher age group** until a full evaluation has been completed as mandated by Hockey Canada. Requests to move up one division will be at the discretion of the League and its Convenors only.

The graphic below outlines the requirements that are in place for the affected ages. (**NOTE:** our Mites will also participate with the Initiation players).





Additional FAQ's:

1. Will there still be a Novice AE travel team?

- a. No. The Bluewater league will no longer provide a travel division for the Novice AE group since that was comprised of 7yr olds who are ineligible for travel / Rep hockey going forward.

2. Will there still be a Novice Major travel team?

- a. Yes. For the 2018-19 season. In 2019-20 that will likely change however. We'll address that going forward.

3. If my player is highly skilled can he / she move *up* into a higher division?

- a. The answer is "maybe". Movement up one division is allowed however there will be strict criteria which RMHA already has in place and it will be augmented by additional Hockey Canada criteria to ensure that players are in fact put into the proper division based on their current skill level.

4. Can my player move *down* into a lower division?

- a. RMHA has always allowed for players to be put into a lower category if the VP Houseleague and the Convenors believe that player would be better served in a lower division.

5. Will my 6yr old play a full season of games?

- a. NO. The mandate by Hockey Canada will be adopted by *all* Essex County associations and that mandate includes a full season plan which incorporates some games later in the year. Development is the priority and can only occur during practices. Our coaches will be supervised and provided with the appropriate programming to lay out their practices in accordance with Hockey Canada.

6. I heard rumors that some associations are going to enter their Tyke teams into the Essex Local League for more games. Will RMHA do that?

- a. At this time RMHA is not interested in putting our Tyke players into a Local League but will consider some ex-games with other associations as we progress through the season's development plan.

7. What is tiering?

- a. When our Tykes or Initiation players begin to play games some coaches may decide to tier their teams to ensure that players of equal skill are together. This will ensure that all players are provided with the same opportunities such as puck touches, and positional play.

RMHA will continue to provide you with information going forward or you can visit the omha.net website and read all about the Initiation Programming.