



YOUR TEAM SCENE

by Scotiabank

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Minor Novice Orientation Day September 26



Get Ready!

ARE YOU READY FOR THE HOCKEY SEASON?

September is almost upon us - have you arranged your child's hockey for the upcoming season?

Our "A" teams hit the ice on September 20th and Saturday, September 26th is the start of games for house league players. If you have not yet enrolled your child with your Area Association, please do so NOW! Your child must be registered online in order to participate in evaluations, which take place in early September (see your Area Association website for dates and times). By enrolling late, you may have missed out on spots where spaces are limited not to mention that it is difficult for associations to plan coaches, uniforms and practice ice without clear indication of their enrollment numbers. MHL hockey registration opened May 1st – please make it a priority to register for your local hockey program.

On the MHL opening day for House League hockey, **Saturday, September 26th**, the Minor Novice teams will be participating in a special event to introduce them to their first year of league hockey.

The event will be held at **Meadowvale Four Rinks Arena** between **12:30 and 6:15 p.m.**

All teams will participate in games (White/Red/Gold level) or practices (Green/Blue) with post-game refreshments. Parents will have the opportunity to speak with MHL Directors who will be on-hand to distribute information about the league and to answer any questions.

CONVENING

The purpose of the MHL convening period is to review all players and teams in each House League division and age category with a view to **ensuring the best possible scenarios for fair playing levels between teams.**

Convening will occur from Sept. 26 to November 8 for the 2015/16 hockey season and will involve all House League players.

Each age division is handled by a separate committee comprised of an MHL Director as Committee Chair and a representative from each Area Association. The committee will determine movement of teams or players up or down within their respective skill categories. The goal is to provide a fair and balanced schedule for each division.

Should you have any questions during convening about the process, you should contact your Area Association division representative or Area Association Head Convenor. Contact information should be available on your Association website.

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September is almost upon us - have you arranged your child's hockey for the upcoming season?

Our "A" teams hit the ice on September 20th and Saturday, September 26th is the start of games for house league players.

Does the equipment from last year fit? Now is the time to look into proper fitting equipment for both safety and comfort!



The MHL is proud to once again be partnered with **Pro Hockey Life (Heartland).**

That said, the staff at PHL look forward to helping with your equipment needs for 2015-2016 and are offering a couple "exclusives" for MHL registrants.

- For players **new** to the MHL, a **VIP Fit Night on Sunday, August 30th.**
- For **returning** players, a **week of exclusive MHL "shopping days" during the week of August 31st to September 6th.**

For details re these "shopping days", please see the MHL website.

Ice Hockey Equipment List



MHL Equipment Exchange!

**DONATE,
BUY or
EXCHANGE**

**Outfit a player for under \$100...
including skates!**

**Tomken Saturday August 29th
Tomken Saturday September 12th**

Important Dates for 2015-2016

2015

- September 16 Deadline for House League Team entries
- September 20 "A" games begin
- September 26 House League games begin
- October 11 Thanksgiving Sunday... MHL games WILL be scheduled
- October 12 Thanksgiving Monday... No MHL games scheduled
- October 31 Halloween (Saturday)... MHL games WILL be played
- November 8, End of Divisional Convening
- November 15 Final date for acceptance of player releases
- November 20 Sports Jersey Day
- November 21 RBC Sports Day in Canada
- December 1 Deadline for return of MHL Championship Cups
- December 24 Christmas Break... No MHL Games scheduled
- To January 1

2016

- January 2 Schedule resumes.
- January 10 After this date, a player may only be used a maximum of 5 times as an affiliated player (i.e. "call-up")
- January 15, Final date for player registration
- January 31 Final date for Tournament Exemptions
- February 1 Approximate start date for "A" Playoffs
- Deadline for entry of "A" teams for the 2016-17 season
- February 6 Scotiabank Hockey Day in Canada
- February 15 Family Day... No MHL games scheduled
- March 12-20 March Break... No MHL games
- March 21 Playoffs resume
- March 25-27 Easter Weekend... No MHL games
- March 28 Playoffs resume
- April 1-3 House League Championship Weekend
- March 31 Deadline for recommendations to the Rules Committee for amendments to the MHL Rules & Regulations
- March 28-31 GTHL "A" Championships – Major Divisions
- April 6-10 GTHL "A" Championships – Minor Divisions
- April 7-10 MHL Challenge Tournament
- April 8-10 OHF "A" Championships
- April 20 Deadline for submission of nominations for the MHL Board of Directors
- April 21-25 "A" team tryout period
- May 4 MHL Annual General Meeting
- May 5 MHL Awards Banquet
- May 10 MHL Annual Charity Golf Tournament

MHL REFERRAL PROGRAM

Did you know that ***you could earn a \$50 credit*** toward your registration fee at your association, by referring a brand new player to the Mississauga Hockey League. Eligible players must be a new player ages Tyke to Bantam, not a family member or resident with an existing registered player/family, must be a Mississauga resident and must never have been registered with the MHL before. An individual can sponsor more than one new player. To download a New Player Incentive Program application form, please check on the MHL website.

Referee's Corner



Your MHL Officials will be ready for the start of the 2015-2016 season.

Every season under the auspices of Hockey Canada and the Ontario Hockey Federation, all officials must certify or re-certify by taking a Hockey Canada Referee Certification clinic. Each clinic is approximately 8 hrs in length and all officials must complete a nationwide examination to maintain their current level.

In the MHL, we will have approximately 140 officials. Most of them also officiating in other Leagues such as the GTHL, OHA, OMHA, OWHA, Alliance. The MHL will be hosting certification clinics in September to prepare for the start of the MHL season on Sun Sept 20. In addition, referee supervisors conduct on-ice clinics with the "A" level teams to provide guidelines on Head Contact, Checking from Behind, Communication and Shared Respect. These clinics have an added benefit for our Supervisors to get to know players and coaching staffs as they head into the new hockey season.

On behalf of the MHL Officiating Department, I would like to wish the coaches, players and parents a fun and safe 2015-2016 hockey season.

Nick Mintsopoulos, Manager- Game Officials

Steelheads Announce NEW Primary Logo

The Mississauga Steelheads proudly launched a new logo for the 2015-2016 season last week. The logo as seen below retains the same colour scheme as the previous logo, with the Steelhead trout now in a different position inside a roundel with the City of Mississauga name. As a touch of Canadian patriotism the logo will also still include a small maple leaf within the name. The logo will act as the team's primary jersey logo during the season.



Steelheads owner Elliott Kerr, a proud Mississauga native, understands the importance of a local team that represents its home town. "We love our City and it was important for us to include the Mississauga name as part of our new logo. The Steelhead trout is native to Mississauga and we hope all residents of the City and fans of the team enjoy the new look."



1st Annual Steelheads 2K

is on Sunday, September 19th at 10:00 am. Calling all Mississauga Hockey League players, families, coaches and volunteers to come run or walk in the first annual Mississauga Steelheads 2K! Enjoy the beauty of Mississauga's Lake Ontario waterfront, while running or walking alongside some of the Mississauga Steelheads players and of course, Sauga, the mascot!

1st Annual Steelheads 2K

Cost to register is only \$35 and each participant will receive:

- Pair of tickets to the Steelheads Home Opener Friday, September 25th vs the Ottawa 67's at 7:30pm
- Limited edition race t-shirt with the Steelheads NEW logo on it
- Post-race food/beverages
- Opportunity to meet Sauga and Steelheads players!

Visit www.steelheads2k.com to register and for more information



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than you think.



MHL Discipline Emphasis

The Discipline Committee was formed to support the rules emphasis policy of Hockey Canada with a goal of reducing aggressive play that can lead to the incidence of concussions and other injuries.

A second purpose is to emphasise the importance of respect in sport and to stop physical or verbal abuse of players, coaches and officials.

The ultimate goal is to keep our children playing hockey, not sitting on the sideline with a suspension or injury.

Over the past 5 years, ***the number of suspensions received has dropped from just under 1600 per season to under 700.*** Although it is difficult to show statistically, we know that the number of injuries is down significantly.

Considering that the average suspension is 2 to 3 games, our children are ***sitting out 2000 to 3000 fewer games*** than before.

To reinforce the program, referee supervisors also meet with each "A" Team that plays checking hockey to review the rules and how they will enforce/interpret them. These clinics lead to increased positive dialogue between the coach, players and the game officials resulting in improved respect and safety.



MHL Manager, Game Officials Nick Mintsopoulos instructing an "A" team.

Building on the past success it was felt that one way to improve the system was to simplify it.

Players or coaches are required to appear before the MHL Discipline Emphasis committee if:

1. If they receive **ONE Match Penalty** or
2. If they receive **TWO Gross Misconduct penalties in a season** or
3. If they receive **THREE Aggressive play suspensions in a season.**



MHL Referee Supervisor Antonio Cacciaccarro leading a training session.

Teams that show a higher than normal aggressive play penalty history are required to take a Discipline Emphasis training program which is an on ice session with an MHL Referee Supervisor. Its purpose is to educate players and coaches in the application of rules related to Checking from Behind and Head Contact and to promote player safety.

For more information see the MHL Discipline Emphasis Policy in the MHL Yearbook.



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