



### **\*\*\* NEW \*\*\* U9 RED program announced:**

With the on-going success of the RED program from U10 thru U18 the Mississauga Hockey League (MHL) along with the 6 MHL member associations are excited to announce the new U9 RED program starting the 2026-27 season.

The U9 RED program will be the lead division in the MHL next season. Player evaluations will be held in April. Please check in with your local MHL association for times and locations.

The MHL U9 RED program will run a slightly higher game count compared to the U9 House League divisions and will allow the team to enter “Select” tournaments to further challenge this group of players.

Highlights of the program:

- Players eligible to play on the MHL association RED teams will be from the local & GTA area only (Brampton, Halton Hills, Milton, & Oakville residents are ineligible) to play in RED until U10 age.
- Teams will be entered into the first tier of the MHL, so they are playing against other teams of similar ability.
- Teams will be playing according to the Hockey Canada approved pilot project – see Seasonal Calendar below...
- Teams will have a 2:1 practice to game ratio set forth by the U9 Hockey Canada pathway

## **U9 Seasonal Calendar Red or Select Teams**

*Applies to U9 Red or Select teams (highest tier within the MHL)*

### **2026-27 Under-9 Seasonal Calendar**

**Player Evaluations** Spring evaluations for U9 Red and Select hockey (highest tier within the MHL) can begin at the direction of each MHL association, starting as early as April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

# Under-9 Spring Player Evaluation Seasonal Calendar

**Player Evaluations Requirements:** U9 hockey player evaluations provide a fair and consistent assessment of each player's skills during skating sessions and on ice games, with scrimmages played in a **half-ice** format to better observe skill, decision- making, and engagement. The goal is to create balanced, competitive teams where players can develop, participate equitably, and enjoy the game.

## Development Phase

**Teams selected in the spring must run a Development Phase between:**

**Start:** September 8<sup>th</sup>

**End:** October 31st

**Requirements:**

U9 programming **must** maintain a minimum 2:1 practice-to-game ratio

### **September 8 thru to September 30th**

Following Labour Day Monday, teams may only practice and play a maximum of two (2) **half-ice** exhibition games.

### **October 1st thru to October 31st**

Teams may only practice and play a maximum of Four (4) **Full-Ice** Exhibition games or Two (2) **Full -Ice** Exhibition games and one (1) Full-ice Tournament

## Tournaments

Tournaments for all Divisions and Categories of U9 permitted to start **October 23, 2026**.

## Regular Season

The Regular Season for the Red Division permitted to start **November 1, 2026**.

## Players playing up:

**U9 Red or Select teams** (highest tier within the MHL) to participate in full-ice play following a defined development phase.

- Playing up is governed by the OHF "[Playing Up for Players 8 and Under](#)" Policy. All eligibility, affiliation, and approval processes remain in effect.

## MHL

