



2021/2022 TASA Initiation Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When does the Under 7 (U7) season start?

The season typically starts in mid-October. Please check the TASA website under the U7 tab for specific start-up details.

2. How long is the season?

The season runs from mid-October until mid-March ~ approximately 40 practices.

3. Are practices held over the Christmas holidays?

No, practices are not held between Christmas and New Year's.

4. Are all practices held at the St. Margaret's Centre (SMC)?

Although TASA does have ice rental contracts at several facilities in HRM, the U7 practices are *typically* held at SMC.

5. What day and time are the U7 practices?

The practice schedule can vary each year, but typically the practice days are Saturday and Sunday mornings. Typically, each group will practice for one hour each weekend day.

6. Is the St. Margaret's Centre run by TASA?

No, they are separate entities. TASA is one of several user groups that have ice rental contracts at SMC. Other groups include HSM Ringette, SMB Skate Club, etc.

7. Does TASA have control over ice cancellations at SMC?

No, ice cancellations are determined by SMC. For weather cancellations, TASA practices run if the SMC remains open, and likewise will be cancelled if SMC is closed due to weather. Ice cancellations at SMC for tournaments or other events are at the discretion of The St. Margaret's Centre.

8. What happens when practice is cancelled due to weather, tournaments or other scheduled events?

TASA will ensure that the cancelled practice is made up at the end of the season.

9. Will my child's practice times remain constant throughout the season?

Practices for the most part will remain at the same time each week. However, if any additional practices need to be added at the end of the season for make-up practices, these may be at a different time.

10. Do I have to remain at the rink while my child is on ice for practice?

Yes. A parent/guardian must be available at all times during practices. Often, a child may need to use the washroom, or have issues with their gear that requires off-ice attention. Coaches will not leave the ice with a child for a washroom break.

If anything is updated provincially by Dr. Strang this will be communicated with you. You can check the TASA website for the most up-to-date information that we have. [SMC Covid-19 Update](#)

11. Can I be on the player bench or open the door if I need to talk to or assist my child?

Due to liability and insurance reasons, we ask all parents & spectators (non-registered coaching staff) not go on the bench and the doors/gates to the ice surface are NOT to be opened during the ice time. It may be tempting to step on the bench to help your child get a sip of water, or to say hello, but this can disrupt the flow of the practice. The registered coaches are there to assist your child. Should the coaches require assistance from a child's parent, they will bring them off-ice and seek you out. The small children will often want to go to their parents when they are on the ice if they feel uncertain. We want to encourage the children to remain on the ice and go to their coaches if they need help. Water bottles should be placed on the bench and coaches will help the kids with their water when needed.

12. What is the format of a typical U7 practice?

They are station-based practices. Typically, there are four color groups of kids on the ice at one time. The four groups rotate through four stations. Small scrimmages are incorporated later in the season. This may vary slightly due to Covid-19 rules and guidelines.

13. My child has never skated before, or has very limited skating experience. Will this be an issue?

No, this will absolutely NOT be an issue. The main focus, as set forth by Hockey Canada Development Guidelines, is to develop the child's skating ability first. Do not get discouraged at first if you see your child struggle as you will be amazed by how quickly they pick it up.

14. Will my child play real hockey games in U7?

There will be small scrimmages incorporated into the practices, but these are only limited. The main focus, as set forth by Hockey Canada Development Guidelines, is to develop the child's skating ability first. The development progression then expands to include puck handling and individual skill development.

15. My child is very excited to play goalie. Can he/she do that in U7?

The priority of the U7 program is to develop strong hockey skaters. As a result, the opportunity to try playing goalie is only introduced to U7 children in their last year of the U7 program (6 years old). Goalies are incorporated into practices in the second half of the year for this age group. The Lead Instructor may select players who have expressed interest each week after the Christmas Break. Only selected players may dress as a goalie.

16. My son/daughter has a good friend who plays hockey in U7 as well. Can my child be placed in the same group as his/her friend?

The kids are divided based on skating ability in order to effectively develop skill specific practice plans. Therefore, requests to keep friends together may not be honored.

17. My child has been placed into a smaller group on ice distinguished by jersey color. Is this group my child's team for the year?

You may hear these smaller groups referred to as a team (i.e. Blue team), but they are more accurately just a group for the purpose of practicing. When playing in Jamborees, the children will be mixed up to form a team for the Jamboree.

18. What is a "Jamboree"?

A "Jamboree" is a non-competitive tournament where the children play teams from other associations. There is no score kept, and no specific positions played. Goalies are not part of the Jamboree. It is a fun event where the kids play between two to four short games in a day. The Jamboree usually includes other activities and culminates with a medal for the kids.

19. Are the costs of Jamborees included in my child's registration fees?

There is a cost to enter a Jamboree and that fee is not covered by your registration. The average cost per player is \$50 per Jamboree. The only exception is the annual Moosehead Jamboree at the Metro Centre sponsored by Tim Hortons. This Jamboree is complimentary for players born in 2016 and 2017. In the past years, every player will have the opportunity to play in two annual Moosehead Jamborees (i.e., one while in U7-1 and one

while in U7-2). This jamboree did not happen last year and we are still unsure of the Covid rules for this coming season.

20. Can I enter my child in as many Jamborees as I want, or is there a limit?

There is a limit (set by HNS) of three Jamborees during a season. Once your child has played three Jamborees, he/she is not eligible to play in any more for the season.

21. Does TASA supply a jersey?

Yes, your child will be given a Tim Hortons sponsored jersey and socks to wear for the season. However, all players must be prepared to have their own jersey and socks for the first practices when evaluations take place.

22. Do we get to keep the jersey?

Yes, the jerseys and socks are yours to keep.

23. Can we affix my child's last name onto the jersey with a name bar?

Yes, you are welcome to affix a name bar to the back of your child's jersey, but it **cannot** cover the Tim Hortons logo or the "STOP" sign.

24. Will there be photographs taken of my child and their group?

Yes, each year TASA coordinates a photographer to take the pictures of all U7 players. Your registration fees do not cover this cost and participation is optional.

25. What are all the extra costs not covered by the registration fees?

Additional costs include Jamborees, photographs, potentially the cost of a year-end scrimmages, and the mandatory HNS "Respect in Sport Parent Program" (details below).

26. I have heard about a mandatory TASA fundraiser. Is this fundraiser still ongoing for the 2021/2022 season?

Yes, when you registered your child for IP, you paid a \$50 fundraising fee - that goes toward the major TASA fundraiser for the year - raffle tickets. Since you have already paid for these tickets, you can just put your name on the tickets and hand them in. You may, however, wish to sell them to recoup the money you paid which is fine. You may also sell extra tickets and for each extra book you sell, you receive a percentage discount on next year's registration.

27. Who do I contact with questions regarding U7?

Krista Murray is the **U7-1 Director**. You can contact her at u71director@tasa.ca

Lise Batherson is the **U7-2 Director**. You can contact her at u72director@tasa.ca

Anjelica Frankland is the **U7 VP**. You can contact me at under7vp@tasa.ca

Please contact the directors with any questions you may have.

28. I wish to Coach my child in U7. How do I apply?

A coaching application is on the TASA website. Once you complete the application the VP of U7 will be notified of your information. Coaches selected to assist will be provided with opportunities to take the necessary training after the start of the season.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1DTtInHvScgHhtzMpbXnJVvvpYE9Bif164ddHHrOqHoE/viewform?ts=613e740c&edit_requested=true

Please still reach out to me if you are interested in coaching so I can make sure I have record of your interest.

29. I would like to assist on ice, but I would prefer to coach only my child's group. Is that possible?

Coach volunteers are assigned to the same ice time as their child, but they are required to coach all players on the ice. Staying solely with your child's "team" is not permitted. A coach is assigned one station for each practice and remains with the station as the players rotate through the stations.

30. What qualifications do I need to be an on-ice assistant?

You do not need high-level hockey experience. You just need to be a strong skater, and have a helmet, gloves, and a stick. There are mandatory certifications required by Hockey Nova Scotia in order to be on ice. Selected coaches will be advised of the requirements and the timelines to obtain them.

31. I have submitted a coaching application. Doesn't that mean I am guaranteed to be an on-ice assistant?

We have a limited number of assistant coaches that can be on ice with the group, so every coach applicant may not be accepted for the season.

32. When filling out my child's registration form, I selected the option asking to be a volunteer coach. Does this guarantee me a spot on ice with my child?

No. A coach application form must be filled out in order to be considered for a coaching position. Once the coaching applications are received, they will be accepted based on the number of coaching positions available.

33. I am interested in volunteering, but not on ice. Is there any other way I can offer my help?

Absolutely! TASA is completely volunteer run, and we can always use additional help off-ice. In particular, U7 takes a lot of off-ice management in order to be successful. Please contact the VP U7 to offer your assistance. Potential volunteer opportunities include: Jamboree Coordinator, Group Coordinators, etc.

34. What is the Respect in Sport Parent Program?

Effective with the 2012-2013 hockey season, ALL PARENTS of U7 and U9 aged players must take the “Respect in Sport Parent Program” at their cost. Further information can be found under the Risk Management tab on the Hockey Nova Scotia webpage (www.hockeynovascotia.ca). Further questions can be directed to the Hockey Nova Scotia office by phone (902)454-9400

35. Can children born in 2017 participate in Jamborees?

Yes, with the exception of the Moosehead Timbit Jamboree. All players have an opportunity to participate in the Moosehead jamboree twice in their U7 years. Players born in 2017 will have the same opportunity in their last two years of U7.

36. Why is there a “STOP” sign on my child’s jersey?

The Safety Towards Other Player (STOP) Program teaches participants about the dangers of checking from behind and other safety tips as well as values such as sportsmanship. The STOP Patch is the focal point of the program. It is a three inch wide patch that is applied to the back of the jersey, centered just above the numbers and below the name patch. It is a reminder for the players to STOP when they see the patch to avoid a dangerous check from behind.

In 1996, Kevin Stubbington of Windsor Minor Hockey Association developed the Safety Towards Other Players (STOP) Program in hopes of raising awareness of the dangers of checking from behind in the game of hockey. Since 1999, over 700,000 patches have been distributed. (Source – STOP Program Website).

37. My child has an allergy, should I inform his Lead Coach?

Because a parent must remain in the arena during the practice, it is not necessary to notify coaches of any allergies a player may have. However, if a parent wishes to notify the Lead Coach of a severe allergy, this may be done in person before or after a practice. Knowledge of a potential severe allergic reaction while on the ice may help the coaches recognize one and allow them to notify the parents present in the arena.

COVID QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

This season will ultimately look a little different than a “regular” season and we are not exactly sure of the specifics yet. Hockey Canada, Hockey Nova Scotia, TASA and the SMC are all having to adapt and modify what has been running smoothly for years. Saying this is an adjustment is an understatement. TASA has some amazing volunteers who work many hours on making sure that your children have the best hockey experience. We are often working parents who also have concerns and frustrations like you. This season is going to look different and we are learning the new ways at the same time you are. With that said, we are committed to having another amazing year with our TASA families!

******There will be a Covid-19 person who will be overseeing TASA as a whole. We are also going to need a parent volunteer for each ice grouping to be a liaison/monitor between the Covid-19 support, the VP and the parents. If you are interested in helping out with this please contact the U7 VP, Anjelica Frankland at under7vp@tasa.ca