



Initiation/Tyke Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Program Structure

Q. What age groups does Initiation/Tyke encompass?

Initiation and Tyke encompasses all players aged of 7 and under.

Q. What are the different levels in Initiation/Tyke?

Initiation I - Intro To Hockey (5 & Under)

Initiation II - Mite (6 year olds)

Tyke (7 year olds)

Q. What is the cost for each level?

Initiation I - \$250

Initiation II - \$475

Tyke - \$550

Q. Are there any additional fees?

Tyke teams may collect a team fee to pay for tournaments or other events. This depends on the level of fundraising each team completes.

Q. Can a child play above their age group?

Yes. Capable 5 year olds will be invited to join the Initiation II program and capable 6 year olds will be invited to join the Tyke program. This may occur prior to the initial skate for returning players or may occur following the first two skates of the year that will act as evaluation skates for any player movement.

Any player that moves up at the beginning of the year will be required to pay the full registration fee of the age group they are moving to by Oct. 1 or they will be returned to their registered age group.

There is also an exceptional player movement clause in the Program outline for players looking to move ahead two levels.

Q. Can a child play below their age group?

Yes. If a player is still developing and would receive more appropriate programming from a lower level than their age group, they will be asked to possibly move to a lower level for part or all of the season. This will be discussed between the parents of the player, the tyke convenor and the head coach of the level they would be moving from.

If a player does move below their age assigned level, then it is the goal of the PMHA to provide them every opportunity to develop the requisite skills to rejoin their age level before the end of the year or for the following year.

Q. Can a child move up a level mid year?

Any players who develops quicker than their peers during the year and is ready for the next level will be given the opportunity to join a higher level. The deadline for movement into the Tyke program is Nov. 15. The deadline for movement into the Initiation II level is Dec. 31.

If a player moves to Tyke from Initiation II mid-year, they will be asked to pay an additional \$75 and their Tyke team fees (if any).

If a player moves to Initiation II from Initiation I mid-year, they will be asked to pay an additional \$100 and their Initiation II team fees (if any).

Ice Times

Q. How much ice time does each level receive?

Initiation I - 1 hour per week on average

Initiation II - 2 hour per week on average

Tyke - 2.5 hours per week on average

Note: Numbers based on 1 Tyke LL team and does not include skill development (SD) sessions

These numbers are averages and may be accomplished by having more ice time one week and less ice time the next week.

Q. How often will each level be on the ice?

Initiation I

- Prior to Dec. 1 - 1 session per week of 1 hour
- After Dec. 1 - 1 session per week of 1 hour

Initiation II

- Prior to Dec 1 - 2 sessions per week of 1 hour
- After Dec. 1
 - Week 1/3/5/7...: 1 session per week of 1.5 hours
 - Week 2/4/6/8...: 2 sessions per week of 1.5 hours and 1 hour respectively

Tyke

- Prior to Dec 1 - 2 sessions per week of 1.5 hours and 1 hour respectively
- After Dec. 1
 - Week 1/3/5/7...: 2 sessions per week of 1 hour plus 1 game
 - Week 2/4/6/8...: 1 session per week of 1 hour plus 1 game

Note: Numbers based on 1 Tyke LL team and does not include skill development (SD) sessions

Q. What is the breakdown of the ice time each level receives?

Initiation I

- 100% practice

Initiation II

- ~85% practice
- ~15% cross-ice games

Tyke

- ~70% practice
- ~10% cross-ice games

- ~20% full-ice games

Note: Excludes tournaments & exhibitions w/ other centers.

Note: Numbers based on 1 Tyke LL team and does not include skill development (SD) sessions

Q. When is each level on the ice?

The entire Initiation/Tyke program receives 4 ice times:

- Fri 5:00pm to 6:00pm
- Sat 7:00am to 8:30am
- Sat 11:55am to 12:55pm
- Sun 2:00pm to 3:00pm

The ideal schedule is broken into two parts with the first half including the first 12 weeks of the season and the second half including the final 14 weeks of the season. Each session is either Practice (P), Game (G), or a practice followed by a game (P/G).

Initiation I

- 1st Half
 - P - 1 hour on Sat 11:55am to 12:55pm
- 2nd Half
 - P - 1 hour on Sat 7:00am to 8:00am

Initiation II

- 1st Half
 - P - 1 hour on Sat 11:55am to 12:55pm
 - P - 1 hour on Sun 2:00pm to 3:00pm
- 2nd Half
 - P - 1 hour on Fri 5:00pm to 6:00pm
 - P/G - 1.5 hours on Sat 7:00am to 8:30am every other week;
 - or P/G - 1 hour on Sat 11:55am to 12:55 am every other week

Tyke

- 1st Half
 - P - 1 hour on Fri 5:00pm to 6:00pm
 - P/G - 1.5 hours on Sat. 7:00am to 8:30am
- 2nd Half
 - P - 1 hour on Fri 5:00pm to 6:00pm
 - G - 1 hour on Sat 11:55am to 12:55pm every other week;
 - or G - 1 hour on Sat at another center every other week
 - P - 1 hour on Sun 2:00pm to 3:00pm

Note: Numbers based on 1 Tyke LL team and does not include skill development (SD) sessions

Coaches & Volunteers

Q. How many coaches and volunteers are needed?

The short answer: LOTS!

The long answer:

Initiation I needs:

- 1 head coach
- 1 team manager
- LOTS of on-ice volunteers

Initiation II needs:

- 1 head coach
- 1 team manager
- LOTS of on-ice volunteers

Tyke needs:

- 1 head coach per team
- 1-2 assistant coaches per team
- 1 trainer per team
- 1 team manager per team
- LOTS of on-ice volunteers

Q. What are the requirements for being a volunteer?

To volunteer with the PMHA, you must complete a criminal records background check (any fees associated with this will be reimbursed by the PMHA). To hold any of the bench staff or team manager positions, you must also complete your Respect In Sport - Activity Leader online training module.

Q. What are the bench staff requirements for Initiation II & Tyke?

To hold any of the bench staff positions on an Initiation II team, you must also complete your Level I coaching certification (for coaches) or your training certification (for trainers).

To hold any of the bench staff positions on a Tyke team, you must also complete your Level II coaching certification (for coaches) or your training certification (for trainers).

Q. How does one volunteer to be an on-ice helper?

At the beginning of the year, the Tyke convenor will send out a request for volunteers likely via email. Simply indicate your desire to help out and bring your skates to the next practice along with your background check.

Q. What is a team manager?

A team manager is a very important off-ice role. They are responsible for doing a lot of the behind the scenes work that makes a year a successful one. This includes:

- Helping to roster the team with OMHA
- Filling out paperwork for registering in tournaments
- Helping collect background checks for the teams' volunteers
- Ensuring all parents have completed the Respect In Sport online training module
- Collecting and tracking team fees (tyke only)
- Filling out game sheets (tyke only)

Q. Can an older sibling volunteer?

Yes. An older sibling can act as an on-ice volunteer if they are a PMHA member. If they are under the age of 14, they must wear full equipment when on the ice.

If a sibling comes on the ice, it is important that they understand they are there to help with the delivery of the program and not to fool around or shoot pucks. The head coach will assign them responsibilities that often include helping to run stations or modelling the skills the players are practicing.

If a sibling is found to be disruptive and not aiding in the practice, they will be asked not to return for future practices.

Q. Can a high school student volunteer?

Yes. Working with the PMHA is a great way to earn volunteer hours. On-Ice support is always needed and if students are able to commit to attending practices regularly and aiding with the delivery of the program, then they can earn their volunteer hours with us.

Program Delivery - Evaluation Sessions

Q. What are evaluation sessions?

During the first two Initiation sessions, the Tyke Convenor and possibly other coaches in support of the convenor will be evaluating the players for placement in the proper group. This includes moving players up levels as well as moving players down levels. It is the goal of the PMHA to put players in a position to succeed to the best of their abilities. While age is often a good general indicator of the levels in our program, there are situations where players would benefit from being placed at a higher, more challenging level and where players would benefit from being placed at a lower, more appropriate level for their current skills.

Q. How will players be evaluated?

Players will be evaluated on a variety of skating and hockey skills. The final details of these evaluation plans and checklists are being finalized and will be available prior to the first evaluations in Sept. 2017.

Program Delivery - Practices

Q. What are practices?

Team practices are the majority of the ice time that our Initiation/Tyke players will receive. During these sessions players will work on a variety of individual skills either as a large group or broken into smaller groups. These skills often involve various drills or small area games. These

sessions are the best opportunity for your child to develop their hockey skills and we encourage players to attend as many practices as they can throughout the year.

Q. What is the purpose of practice?

The primary purpose of practice at this age is individual skill development. This typically includes skating, stickhandling, passing and shooting. In tyke, the concept of individual tactics will be introduced in addition to the skill development. Team tactics **WILL NOT** be practiced at the Initiation or Tyke levels and will only be introduced and discussed during the Tyke season at games.

Q. How are practices planned?

The head coach at each level will plan the practice following the Hockey Canada guidelines for Initiation and Tyke. At the Initiation II and Tyke level, these practices generally involve a segment of full-ice skating followed by multiple small area stations and concluding with a fun activity/game. Each coach will receive a set of skills to be developed throughout the year that will act as a benchmark for the player's progression and help guide the design of drills.

All coaches should share their practice plans with the on-ice volunteers at least 24 hours prior to the practice. Additionally, all on-ice volunteers should share their availability for practices with the head coach so that he/she may assign roles prior to arriving at the rink.

Q. What if I can't make a practice?

If a player cannot make the practice, they should let the coach/team manager know in advance. Many teams will use the TeamSnap app to track availability and this makes notifying your coach of an absence extremely easy.

Program Delivery - Skill Development Sessions

Q. What is a Skill Development Session (SD)?

New to the PMHA, a Skill Development Session (SD for short) is an innovative new way to increase the ice time for players in our program without actually increasing the amount of ice time allotted to the Initiation/Tyke program.

SD sessions are scheduled in addition to already planned practices and involve splitting 1/5th of the ice from a previously planned practice and using rink dividers to create a small area where coaches from another team can provide small group instruction to a portion of their team.

Q. What is the purpose of skill development sessions?

Skill development sessions allow coaches to work with small groups of players for long periods of time so that they can work on skills that players are struggling with or give more reps to skills that are still being developed. The very small amount of ice being used lends itself strictly to skill development including edge work, balance, crossovers, stickhandling, passing and shooting.

Many elite hockey training facilities and programs utilize rinks of similar size for their instruction. By splitting a small area away from another group, we are able to add an extra hour of on-ice programming for our players without significantly impacting the planned practice.

Q. What if I can't make an SD?

If you can't make an SD, it is very important that you notify your coach in advance. SD sessions provide a great opportunity for coaches to work in small ratios with their players and if you can't make it, the coach will want to invite another player out to the SD session in your place.

Program Delivery - Cross-Ice Games

Q. What are cross-ice games?

Cross-Ice games are a great way for children in Initiation and Tyke to experience the game of hockey in a fun, stimulating environment. Utilizing a smaller ice surface of either cross-ice or half-ice allows the rink to better match the size of the players resulting in more touches, more passes and more shots.

In the PMHA, we deliver cross-ice games using the following format:

- 24 minute run time clock with 1:30 line changes (on the buzzer)
- 3-on-3 or 4-on-4 depending on numbers
- No more than 2 lines per team
- No referees or official timekeeper
- No offsides or icing
- No faceoffs other than to start the game
- No record tracking or standings will be kept

Q. What is the purpose of cross-ice games?

Cross-ice games allow players to utilize the skills they developed and honed in practice, in a dynamic environment that more accurately mirrors the game of hockey. While practices are great at teaching fundamentals, cross-ice games are great at teaching creativity, problem solving, and decision making. With a smaller ice surface to work with, players will experience more decisions to make and have less time to do so. Therefore, they will develop the skills necessary to be successful in a full-ice game when their body size is more apt to play in one.

Q. What if I can't make a game?

If a player cannot make the game, they should let the coach/team manager know in advance. Many teams will use the TeamSnap app to track availability and this makes notifying your coach of an absence extremely easy.

Program Delivery - Full-Ice Games (Tyke Only)

Q. What are full-ice games?

Full-Ice games are a natural progression for our older kids as they move up through Initiation and into Tyke. Unlike cross-ice games, our full-ice games utilize standard rules such as offside and icing. They also involve referees, timekeepers and are played as part of a league called the GBTLL.

Q. What is the purpose of full-ice games?

While full-ice games in Tyke may look a lot like games played at older levels, the important part to remember is that they are for the development of all the players. In other words, the final score of the game **DOES NOT MATTER**. We play full-ice games in Tyke to prepare our players for moving into Novice. This includes teaching them about the rules of the game, how to play as part of a team, how to play fair and sportsmanlike, and how effort is the key to all success. The games also act as a barometer for the coaches to see how our player's skills measure up to those of similar age in other centers.

Q. What if I can't make a game?

If a player cannot make the game, they should let the coach/team manager know in advance. Many teams will use the TeamSnap app to track availability and this makes notifying your coach of an absence extremely easy.

Goalies

Q. Can my child be a goalie?

Yes. We highly encourage goalies in the Tyke division and every cross-ice game will see 2 goalies dressed and every full-ice game will see 1 goalie dressed. If any players on the team are interested in being a part-time or full-time goalie, please let your head coach know. If no goalie steps forward, then players will all get a turn to play net.

Q. Does PMHA have goalie equipment?

Yes. The PMHA currently has 3 sets of full goalie equipment. This does not include goalie skates or a helmet though. Players use their regular skates and helmet (with a PMHA supplied neck protector). We also have goalie sticks for players to use.

Q. What is the commitment for being a goalie in Tyke?

We highly recommend that players who are interested in being a goalie commit to playing net only half the time. At this age, players often change their mind and unless there is good reason

to believe the player will definitely be a goalie long term, then we prefer to see a goalie practice as a skater at least half the time.

Q. Can my child receive additional goaltending instruction?

Yes. The PMHA offers special goaltending clinics open to all age groups. These sessions typically occur on Saturdays throughout the first half of the year. At these sessions, goalies receive specific training on technique and tactics from highly knowledgeable goaltending coaches.

Special Events

Q. What is 'King for a Day'?

The 'King For a Day' event is open to the Tyke (and possibly the Initiation II team depending on numbers) for a day in December each year. The players from the Penetang Kings take over the practice from the coaches and run the players through a set of fun drills and games.

Q. What is 'Elmvale Anti-Bullying Challenge Cup'?

The 'Elmvale Anti-Bullying Challenge Cup' is a one-day cross-ice tournament held by the Elmvale Tyke program. Last year, the Penetang Tyke teams competed in six 30 minute games in 7 hours. With the highlight on bullying prevention and creating new friendships in our community, this event is a clear favorite of the coaches and the kids.

Q. What is the end of year 'Bowling Party'?

The end of year 'Bowling Party' acts as the final banquet for the Initiation I and Initiation II divisions. Bowling, pizza and prizes provide all the fun that is needed to make this a special day.

Q. What is the 'Mother/Child Tyke Game'?

The highlight of the year in Tyke is without a doubt the 'Mother/Child Tyke Game'. We're still not sure who had the most fun last year: Was it the kids facing off against their ankle biting moms, the dads shooting video from the stands, or the Moms who couldn't stop laughing and smiling the whole the time. This now annual event is part of the final banquet for the Tyke division that also includes a pizza party and end of year awards.

Tournaments

Q. How many tournaments will each team play?

The Initiation I level does not play in any tournaments.

The Initiation II level plays in 1 tournament.

The Tyke level plays in 2 tournaments.

Q. When and where will the tournaments be?

The suggested tournament for Initiation II is the Innisfil cross-ice initiation tournament in January/February.

The suggested tournaments for Tyke are the Schomberg Family Day tournament in February and the Lincoln Tyke tournament at the end of the year in March.

These are subject to change and are only recommendations until the team registers in them.