August 2017

Dunnville Minor Hockey Association

Tyke Level Overview, Goals and Structural Changes

**Overview**

The Dunnville Minor Hockey Association Tyke program is changing in an effort to standardize with the Hockey Canada Guidelines and to focus on player development. The Hockey Canada Guidelines allow us to provide a program that better suits the needs of our players and most of all make the experience more positive for all our Tyke players and parents. Our intent as an Organization is to provide a better overall experience while our players learn the basic skills and build a foundation for years to come. ***The newest changes to the program beginning September 2017 is the mandate for cross ice hockey for all players 6 yrs of age and under.***

***Cross Ice hockey offers our players more puck touches, shots, pivots, passes and puck battles in comparison to full ice hockey. Below is a link to assist with the cross ice hockey concept.***

Dunnville Minor Hockey will have 3 levels within the Tyke Program:

1. Skills Initiation Program I (Tyke IP I) Timbit Hockey
2. Tyke Initiation Program II (Tyke IP II) Timbit Hockey
3. Tyke

All of our Tyke level hockey players ages 4-7 yrs old will be evaluated at the beginning of each season to determine level of play. It is important to note that not all 7 year olds will play Tyke. All of our 7 year olds will be evaluated to determine if they play in the Tyke Initiation Program II level, Tyke level or the Novice level. Priorities will be to ensure player development.

There will be more flexibility to move kids between the IP Programs and Tyke levels, based on the player’s skill level to better aid their development throughout the season.  All player movement must be completed prior to December 1st.

The Dunnville Minor Hockey Tyke Initiation Program is open for Girls and Boys ages 4 to 7 years old. This is an Initiation Program (IP) based on the recommendations and IP programing guidelines by Hockey Canada.

Above all else, the main focus of our program is to ensure that all players have **FUN**.

**Goals and Objectives of the Skills Initiation I, Tyke Initiation II and Tyke Programs**

The IP and Tyke Programs have 5 key goals and objectives:

1. Teaching basic skills with progressive development so players can play and enjoy the game.

2. Assisting in development and enhancement of basic motor patterns and hockey skills

3. Developing and encouraging the concept of team, through player participation

4. To implement fitness, work ethic, fair play and co-operation aspects within the fun of the game

5. Develop player’s confidence

**Program Levels and Structure**

The Dunnville Minor Hockey Association Tyke program will consist of the 3 levels as detailed in this section.

Skills – Initiation Program I (Timbit Hockey)

* The focus is to teach fundamental, individual skills with a focus on skating, agility, balance, hand eye coordination, passing and stick handling. Practices will be prepared using the station format as directed by Hockey Canada guidelines
* Skills Initiation I level consists of practice time only
* There are no formal games , cross ice hockey formats will apply to promote small area play
* The Skills Initiation I level will be a House League Program Only with the potential of playing in a one day, FUN, cross ice hockey tournament.
* Geared towards 4 & 5 year olds
* 4 year old players will automatically be placed in this group
* 5 year old players in their first year of hockey automatically be placed in this group
* Half ice practices with our Tyke Initiation Program II players will be expected

Tyke - Initiation Program II (Timbit Hockey)

* The focus is to build on the fundamental skills from the Skills Initiation Program, expand on these skills and introduce an informal and fun game setting, along with the introduction of the team concept
* Tyke Initiation II level consists of half ice practice times and a number of local exhibition

games with the potential of tournaments. **Mandated cross-ice hockey games will be implemented**

* Games will start after the first weekend in December
* A divider or barrier system will utilized to split the ice surface into two smaller practice areas to promote the small area play and cross-ice hockey format
* Travel will be expected to local centres
* 5 year old players in their second year will have preferred placement for this group pending evaluation
* 6 year old players in their first year of hockey will have preferred placement in this group pending evaluation
* 6 year old players in their second year may be placed in this group, pending evaluation
* 7 year olds in their first year of Hockey may be placed in the Initiation II level:

The preference is to start 7 year olds at the Tyke level. Rosters will be left open on the Tyke teams for all 7 year old players that start in the Tyke Initiation II Program. It is up to coaches to confirm that 7 year old players are ready to move from Tyke Initiation II to Tyke prior to the December 31 deadline.

* Half ice practices with our Skills Initiation Program I players will be expected

**Program Levels and Structure - Continued**

Tyke

* The focus is to continue building on the fundamental skills from the Skills Initiation I and Tyke

Initiation II programs, introducing basic positioning and continuing with the team concept with the

addition of formal hockey games.

* The Tyke level consists of practice time and formal games
* Games may start as early as the first weekend in November
* The Tyke level will be a Local League Program, playing local centres. This requires the

coaching staff to have proper coaching and training certifications

* Tyke will play surrounding centres. This is to be organized by the Tyke Coordinator and Coaches
* The teams may enter tournaments, will travel in the local area and may play exhibition games
* Tournaments: A team can only enter a maximum of two (2) Tournaments.
* Tournaments cannot be entered into prior to December 1
* The preference is to start 7 year olds new to hockey at the Tyke level, pending evaluations
* Only those 7 year olds who are deemed ready for Novice will be moved up, the remainder of 7 year olds will remain at Tyke so that they can better develop and learn the game at the Tyke level.
* The Tyke level is intended for 7 year olds who are not ready for Novice and will benefit from a

year at this level. Dunnville Minor Hockey does not want to push a 7 year old into Novice if they are not

ready for and will not benefit from playing in Novice.

**Teams and Level Sizes**

* Skills - Initiation Program I - One Team (Max 30 players)
* Tyke - Initiation Program II - Two Teams (Ideally 11-12 players per Team)
* 11-12 players allows games of 5 on 5, plus a goalie and one extra
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