

September 23, 2015



INTRODUCTORY LETTER

Dear Parents of the 5/6 and 7/8 House League hockey players:

We are anticipating another fun filled year and I would like to pass on some important information as the season get underway.

1. EVALUATION SKATES

At the beginning of the season all players are invited to attend Evaluation Skates or IP SKATES. These sessions are used to introduce and practice fundamental hockey skills - skating, stick handling, passing, shooting. Where registration numbers allow for more than one House League team in a particular age group, these sessions are also used to evaluate a player's hockey development for the purpose of forming balanced teams.

Staff from Hockey Manitoba will be leading the sessions. Parents who have the proper coaching certification, (or are in the process of obtaining such) may join the kids on the ice. You will require a helmet and skates.

All evaluation skates takes place at Corydon / River Heights Community Centre, 1370 Grosvenor Avenue, and the schedule for your child is below. Please arrive with plenty of time to get your child dressed.

5/6 AGE GROUP					
Oct 03, 2015	Saturday	River Heights CC	12:40 PM	1:40 PM	5/6 Tuxedo
Oct 04, 2015	Sunday	River Heights CC	4:10 PM	5:10 PM	5/6 Tuxedo
Oct 10, 2015	Saturday	River Heights CC	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	5/6 Tuxedo
Oct 11, 2015	Sunday	River Heights CC	4:10 PM	5:10 PM	5/6 Tuxedo
Oct 17, 2015	Saturday	River Heights CC	11:30 AM	12:30 PM	5/6 Tuxedo
Oct 19, 2015	Monday	River Heights CC	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	5/6 Tuxedo
7/8 AGE GROUP					
Oct 03, 2015	Saturday	River Heights CC	1:50 PM	2:50 PM	7/8 Tuxedo
Oct 04, 2015	Sunday	River Heights CC	5:20 PM	6:20 PM	7/8 Tuxedo
Oct 10, 2015	Saturday	River Heights CC	9:10 AM	10:10 AM	7/8 Tuxedo
Oct 11, 2015	Sunday	River Heights CC	5:20 PM	6:20 PM	7/8 Tuxedo
Oct 17, 2015	Saturday	River Heights CC	12:40 PM	1:40 PM	7/8 Tuxedo
Oct 19, 2015	Monday	River Heights CC	7:15 PM	8:15 PM	7/8 Tuxedo

You are strongly encouraged to attend as many of the IP sessions as possible. Your child will benefit greatly from the time on the ice, getting to know other players and coaches and a fun beginning to the season.

2. EQUIPMENT

For parents new to hockey, the following equipment is required:

- skates
- shin pads
- hockey socks
- groin protection
- hockey pants
- elbow pads
- shoulder pads/ chest protector
- neck guard
- helmet
- gloves
- mouth guard
- stick
- water bottle

3. PARENTS

Parents - you have a number of responsibilities that will improve the experience for your son or daughter as they learn the game of hockey.

- **Complete the Respect In Sport Course and follow the Sport Parent's Commitment! Start here: <https://hmbparent.respectgroupinc.com/secure/>**
- Please make every effort to get your son or daughter to scheduled games and practices so that they are dressed and ready at the start of the ice time. This may mean arriving 30 minutes or more in advance of the scheduled start.
- Please let the coaches know when your player will be or won't be in attendance at a game or practice. Most teams will use the "Team Snap" application (or others similar such as RosterBot, etc., etc.) to make this process easier.
- Help out with various roles and tasks related to your son or daughter's team. Every team needs certain positions filled and your contribution will help ensure a successful season.

4. COACHES

To those people who have already volunteered to fill coach or assistant coach positions, thank you in advance. Sheldon Nelson has forwarded me your information. If you would like to help, but have not yet put your name forward, please send me an email.

All coaches and assistant coaches must be certified by Hockey Canada and must complete the process by December 1st in order to remain eligible for the remainder of the season. The three step process is comprised of:

- complete on-line modules through Hockey University
- complete on-line course Respect In Sport (Coach). Note this is different than RIS (Parent).
- attend a one day Clinic in person



All the relevant information can be found at: <http://www.hockeymanitoba.ca/coaches/requirements>

IMPORTANT NOTE: For first time coaches, the In-Person Clinic is an excellent introduction to coaching and each participant receives a Coaching Manual specific to your child's / team's age group. You must complete HU Online and RIS Online before registering for your clinic. Don't wait until late in November to start the process.

The coach is responsible for the following:

- Selects (and searches out if necessary) assistant coaches
- Selects (and searches out if necessary) a team manager and parent liaison
- Understands the rules of hockey
- Prepares for practices
- Holds meetings with parents as necessary, typically at the beginning of the season, mid season, and the end of the season.
- Displays appropriate behaviour at all times
- Determines the positions of the players and encourages equal participation from all players

4. TEAM MANAGERS

The team manager may be selected by the coach, and has the following responsibilities:

- Fills out the team roster to be submitted to Hockey Winnipeg.
- Set up a Team Snap account to notify players of games, practices, events and schedule changes.
- Secures indoor practice ice time as required in addition to outdoor ice at Tuxedo.
- Coordinate tournament entries with direction from coach and parents.
- Collects team fee from each player's family for practice ice, tournament entry fees, other team equipment or costs.
- Maintains and administers the finances of the team and issues a statement to all parents at the end of the year.

- Submits a sponsorship application to Dodge Caravan Kids Hockey. (7/8 age group only.)
<http://www.dodgecaravankids.ca/en/sponsorship/>
- Secures the team's equipment from Tuxedo CC; supplied equipment includes sweaters and goalie equipment for the 7/8 age group.
- Organizes team photographs.
- Coordinate with the Tuxedo Community Center Winter Carnival Hockey tournament committee.
- Organize a team windup and provide individual "participation" awards to every player.

5. TEAM SAFETY

Each team needs one person to volunteer to be the Team Safety. This person helps to identify and prevent accidents on the ice and in the dressing room. There is a course that needs to be completed and more information can be found at the Hockey Manitoba link:

<http://www.hockeymanitoba.ca/coaches/safety-level-1>

6. TIMELINE

Evaluation skates conclude on October 19th and team rosters will be distributed to all parents by the end of that week. At that time, other team positions such as coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, and team safety can be finalized.

In 2014, practices were scheduled beginning shortly after the evaluation skates concluded and the first games were played on November 8th. It's likely this year will be similar.

7. HELPFUL LINKS

- Tuxedo Community Centre <http://www.tuxedocc.ca/>
- Assiniboine Park Hockey Association <http://aphamb.ca/>
- Hockey Manitoba <http://www.hockeymanitoba.ca/>
- Respect In Sport <http://respectinsport.com/>

Mark your calendars for the first on ice sessions October 3rd and 4th and I hope everyone is looking forward to a fun and exciting year of hockey.

Regards,

Sean McKiernan, Tuxedo Community Centre House League Convenor

seanmckiernan@shaw.ca / 204.226.5506