

TIMBITS - PARENT INFORMATION

IMPORTANT NOTE: WE ARE IN NEED OF ONE HEAD COACH, AS MANY ON ICE HELPERS AS WE CAN GET, AND FOUR TEAM MANAGERS. PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU ARE INTERESTED WE MUST FILL THESE POSITIONS TO BE ALLOWED ON THE ICE.

Welcome all new and returning Timbit players and parents! Thank you for being a part of the Medicine Hat Minor Hockey Association. I look forward to a great hockey season with you.

About Me

I'm a dad of three kids, one Timbit Senior player, one second year Atom player and a 4 year old who is pretty sure she wants to play hockey next year. My lovely wife Kristin keeps me organized, so generally I only have to run back to the house for a forgotten stick a few times a year. This is my third year on the MHMHA board of directors, during my tenure I have been the director of Novice 2 and Atom B, involved with two tournaments and a variety of other board duties. I am best reached by email kenzie@sunwise.ca or text at 403-866-0261, and I will try get back to you within 24 hours. I will introduce myself at your child's first practice so you can put a face to the name.

My role is to ensure the division philosophy is followed, organize the division, ensure ice scheduling is correct, act as a coach and team manager liaison, ensure the P3 program is followed and communicate relevant information to the division. As a parent your first point of contact is the head coach or the team manager. If your concern can't be addressed by your team officials then I will step in and give assistance to the team officials.

Philosophy

This level of hockey is all about FUN! We want your players to return next year and continue to play the game as long as possible, we believe the best way to accomplish this is to keep hockey positive and fun for the players. Timbits can be considered an introduction to hockey, players will improve in their skating ability, shooting and stick handling, but there will be little emphasis on team tactics or team play. The greatest benefits of hockey are the skills your child will learn in teamwork, leadership, accountability, work ethic, and discipline through playing the game.

Timbits will practice and play games generally on 1/3 ice but we will share some 1/2 ice this year with a Timbits Senior team. Here are the links to a couple of USA Hockey videos that help show why we practice and play at the younger ages on smaller ice surfaces:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXhxNq59pWg>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CB_Ygapyl7c

P3 Sports will be providing support to your child's coaches with development plans, fun drills, practice viewing and coaching feedback. This is the third year MHMHA has provided the P3 Development

Program to our coaches and we believe it has been a very positive step forward in player and coach development.

Generally the ice time will consist of fun drills for the first 45 min followed by a 15 min game where kids are split up on the ice and play against other teams. Teams will be provided goaltender equipment which will be rotated through the kids so they can all have a chance to try the position.

Equipment

Players are required to have the following equipment: approved helmet, neck guard, shoulder pads, elbow pads, hockey gloves, jock or Jill with cup, hockey pants, knee / shin pads, hockey socks, skates and a stick. If you aren't sure how something works ask the parent next to you or a coach in the dressing room, we all had to learn at one time. There are two critical items: skates that fit (aim for a fairly tight fit with no more than a finger width behind the foot) and a properly cut stick, these two items will greatly improve your child's experience on the ice. If you aren't sure how long your child's stick should be refer to this link <http://www.cuthockeysticks.com/> for some guidance.

Teams

We will have four Timbits teams this year and you should receive rosters by Sept 24th. The season will start on Oct 1st and end on February 26th.

New for this year is a girls Timbit Senior Wildcat team which any Timbit girl can also be a part of. This is the first year we have had all girl teams in Timbits Senior, Novice and Atom and it is part of our ongoing effort to improve the hockey experience for girls in our community.

Schedule

Players will have one hour ice slots on Saturday and Sunday which will normally be held at the Family Leisure Centre. Timbits will not skate on weekdays unless we have some unforeseen circumstances or receive some additional ice for use by the division. Parents will receive ice schedules on the 15th of every month for the next month, for instance around October 15th you will receive Novembers schedule, I will forward October's schedule as soon as I receive it. Timbits will not have ice over the Christmas and February break.

Special Events

Each Timbit team will have the opportunity to play a mini game during the intermission of one of the Tigers home games. Tim Hortons provides 15 adult and 15 child tickets free for each game and it is always an exciting experience for the kid!

We will also have an end of season jamboree on February 25th where the Timbits will play all the teams in the division and we will have our season wind-up.

Volunteering

Medicine Hat Minor Hockey runs on volunteer support and big thank you to all the coaches who have volunteered. Parents please treat your volunteers with respect! Coaches put a lot of their time and effort into helping your child on the ice and off the ice by creating practice plans, evaluating players to work on their weaknesses, and attending coaching clinics. Your team manager will spearhead the team functions such as photos, Tigers game tickets, and the Jamboree. Please consider volunteering your time as a coach or team manager, as these positions are critical to the success of any team and this is a great time to start if you haven't done this at any other level of hockey.

A BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE BELOW WHO HAVE STEPPED UP SO FAR:

Head Coaches

Mark Blenner-Hassett
David Sabados
Lee Sprunger

Assistant Coaches

Clayton Bastura
Mike Grasley
Jay Mook
Ryan Neefs
Jayson Schauerte

Team Managers

None

Hockey Alberta Rules for Coaches

Two coaches per team are required to have the Hockey Alberta Coach Level 1 this is a combined online and on ice clinic. The on ice portion will be run the evening of Friday Sept. 30 after the P3 Session and will be paid for directly by MHMHA this will likely be your most convenient way to get the on ice training. Two coaches per team are required to have this certification by Hockey Alberta, where as in higher divisions only the Head Coach is required to have this training.

All coaches and on ice helpers must take the online Respect in Sport – Coach your course costs will be reimbursed by minor hockey.