

Dear Hockey Parents ...

As we are in the midst of summer fun, we wanted to give you an update on the fast approaching hockey season. We understand that there are many questions concerning the programs for children 8 and under and we wanted to address those questions for you and ensure you have the information you need.

As an organization, Plattsville and District Minor Hockey is working within the direction from Ontario Minor Hockey Association with respect to the new guidelines on developing ice hockey players 8 years and below. These guidelines can be found on the OMHA website for anyone who wants to understand the direction that Hockey Canada is taking with regards to player development.

As an organization, following the changes to player development and the input from parents on the program in 2017-2018, we created a committee to review and focus on what we believe is the most important age group in our organization, Novice and Below. Several passionate parents stepped forward and are developing an integrated program for this group.

The Committee is working on 3 key areas to ensure that we have the best program in place for 2018 and beyond. The key areas are as follows:

1. Player Development – This area will outline a comprehensive player development program for players in a structured 5 level program. The 5 levels are:
  - i. Learn to Skate
  - ii. Learn to Play 1
  - iii. Learn to Play 2
  - iv. Tyke
  - v. Novice
2. Coach Development – This area will develop the coaching requirements, tool-kit and tools required by each level of player development so the coaches will be set up for success at each level and be able to assist with player development.
3. On Ice Tools – This area is recommending the tools that will be needed for the success of the program based on the direction provided by Hockey Canada. It includes the recommendation for creating an effective half ice environment for the players.

All these areas will be presented to parents on August 16, 2018, 7:00 p.m., at the arena in an open presentation where interested parents can understand the program and ask any questions.

We look forward to working with you and your players in creating a fun, dynamic and learning environment to enjoy the great game of hockey.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to assist with creating the best program for Novice and below, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Thank-you.

**NOVICE & BELOW COMMITTEE.**

Gerry Bes, Lance Buchholtz, Shawn Crozier, Paul deMarco, Geoff Dow, Joe Frayne, Jeremy Goodfellow, Brad Smith