



Minor Atom Tryout Information

Tryout Information

The Leagues

The 2009-2010 season marks the debut of the Minor Atom “A” program which will differ in a number of ways from the Minor Atom “B” program. These differences are:

- The “A” League structure will be District based and will be similar to the existing AA/A Leagues. The League will consist of teams from Nepean, Ottawa Silver Seven (Stittsville), Gloucester (Ottawa), Ottawa Sting (Ottawa), Jr. Grads (Cumberland), Eastern Ontario Cobras (St. Isidore), Seaway Valley (Maxville) and RSL Kings (Spencerville). The level of competition will be somewhat higher for the “A” Division.

Further information on the “A” League can be obtained at:

http://oemhlaa_a.pointstreaksites.com/view/oemhlaa_a

- The “B” League is Association-based and will contain teams primarily from the Greater Ottawa area. Depending on how the league is structured this year, it may consist of teams from Kanata, West Carleton (Carp), Almonte-Pakenham, Ottawa West, Ottawa Sting, Osgoode, Gloucester Centre, Gloucester (Blackburn), Orleans, Russell, and Cumberland.

Further information on the “B” League can be obtained at:

http://www.ottawaminorhockey.com/Pages/League/league_sort.php?league=4

Both leagues will operate with 50-minute games. Additionally, it is expected that both will have a 30-game schedule. Playoffs start in early February.

The “A” league playoff format operates with 5-point elimination rounds and a 7-point final. The “B” League’s playoff format is under review by the “B” League Executive and will be announced when available.

The Minor Atom program operated by the NMHA will allocate a similar amount of practice time to all three teams over the season. Additionally, all the teams will share the Power Skating/Goaltender Instruction program.

Player Selection

Players will be evaluated by a committee that includes James Hanlon, NMHA Technical Director, the 3 Atom Competitive coaches and several other independent evaluators.

The top 17 players will be selected to the “A” team. Subsequently, a draft will be conducted by the “B” coaches based on the evaluation and final ranking of each player. The Minor Atom “B” teams are currently planned to operate with a reduced roster of 13 skaters and 2 goaltenders.

For further information regarding operational policies of the NMHA Competitive program, please check the following on the NMHA website:

http://www.nepeanhockey.on.ca/Comp_Policies.htm

Goaltender Selection

Goalies will be selected by the evaluation committee and the NMHA goaltending consultants and will be ranked 1-6. The evaluation will consist of the separate goalie evaluation night as well as the player’s performance during the other tryout sessions. The two highest-ranked goalies will be assigned to the “A” team and the two “B” teams will be assigned 3-6 and 4-5.

Tryout Organization

The NMHA will publish the first three ice times on the NMHA website. As part of the published ice times, there will be Session Number and Group Number. Each player will be assigned a Session and Group Number. Notification of Session and Group Number will be sent to you via email and you are requested to appear at your scheduled time.

There is a separate session published for goaltender evaluation. All goalies are expected to attend.

Email notifications of the player’s session and groups will be sent during the week of August 15. This information can also be obtained at the Tryout Information Night, Monday August 10.

If you are unsure or did not receive an email, please contact the Atom Director, Melissa Klaus prior to the start of tryouts September 1.

After the published ice times, parents can expect the tryouts to continue until the teams are announced September 11. Players will be informed of subsequent ice times via letter from the Evaluation Committee.

Tryout Attendance

All players (including goalies) are expected to attend every tryout session until the rosters are finalized or the player is released.

All goaltenders are expected to attend the goalie evaluation session.

We do recognize that there are conflicts with other sports at this time of year and we are flexible on this to a certain extent. Accordingly, players must attend two of the first three tryout sessions. Notification of absence must be directed to the Atom Director (Melissa Klaus). After the first three sessions, other absences can be obtained on an exceptional basis can be made by the parents contacting the Atom Director (not the three coaches or anyone else) with a legitimate reason. Failure to attend two of the first three sessions will result in the player's automatic release.

Should a player receive approval to miss the third scheduled session, the player must make arrangements for someone to pick up his release/continue letter as noted below.

Releases

After the third on-ice session, further evaluation is by invitation only. This will be communicated to the player by letter. All players will either be released or invited back to the next session as stated on the letter. Tryouts will continue until the teams are announced September 11.

All releases/invitations to continue will be by letter until the final set of releases or the player has been placed on a team. For those players affected by the final set of releases, the release will be by letter with an explanation of areas where the player needs to improve. All released players will be given an opportunity of affiliation as per the NMHA Tryout policy.

Any questions regarding releases can be directed to the Atom Director (Melissa Klaus) whether by email or telephone. Melissa will consult with the evaluation committee and coaches and will respond on their behalf.

Other Information

Players can try out both as skaters and goalies. After the goalie evaluation session, the player must declare their preference and will make a team or be released based on that decision. Should they then make one of the rosters, they will then play that position for the season as they will be registered in that position. Each team must have a goalie and backup for each game.

Good luck to all players.

Greg Clarke

VP, Competitive Chair, NMHA