



## INFORMATION BULLETIN

BULLETIN #: 230308-036-I  
DATE: March 8, 2023  
TO: OMHA Associations; OMHA Leagues  
CC: OMHA Board; OMHA Convenors  
FROM: Ian Taylor – Executive Director  
SUBJECT: **2023-24 PROGRAM MODEL & SEASONAL CALENDAR – U9 & BELOW**



Please note the following programming updates applicable to the previously issued bulletins:

- **OMHA Bulletin 220324-028-I - 2022-23 Seasonal Structure & Programming Update**
- **OHF Bulletin 22-09 – 2022 Notice of Amendments issued March 21, 2022**

### **U9 & BELOW PROGRAMMING UPDATE – 2023-24**

As communicated previously via the two bulletins noted above – effective 2023-24, the only categories permitted at U9 will be House League (HL) and Local League (LL).

At the OHF Semi-Annual Meeting on February 25, 2023, a Notice of Amendment was presented regarding OHF Regulation C4 - Recognized Divisions & Categories at U9 and U7. This amendment was carried.

**Therefore, effective the 2023-24 season, Minor Development, Select, House League, Local League will be the recognized categories.**

U9	<b>Minor Development, Select,</b> House League, Local League - Tiering of Players with no Streaming of Players in accordance with the U9 Player Pathway	Under 9 years of age as of December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the current season
U7 (Initiation)	<b>Minor Development, Select,</b> House League, Local League - Tiering of Players with no Streaming of Players in accordance with the U7 Player Pathway	Under 7 years of age as of December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the current season

### **Definitions:**

1.26. Minor Development (MD) – A Category of Minor Hockey that is residency compliant with no body-checking that is not competitive (i.e. AAA, B, D, etc.) but is not House League.

1.40. Select Hockey – A Category of Minor Hockey which in order to be eligible, a Player must be Registered with a recognized (sanctioned) House League organization and accordingly be an active participant in the corresponding Division in a recognized schedule of House League programming. Select Hockey Players are not required to abide by residential regulations unless otherwise indicated by the Member.

## **OPPORTUNITY-BASED PROGRAMMING**

**A key philosophy in the Canadian Player Pathways at U9 and below is to provide equal opportunity to programming based on the desire of the player versus the skill of the player.**

All players regardless of skill level must have the same access to ice if they desire to develop in the Hockey Canada system.

This means that any Association offering Minor Development (MD) or Select in these age groups must provide an equal programming opportunity for any HL/LL player who wishes to participate at that frequency, regardless of that player's skill level.

For example, if Minor Development (MD) teams receive three (3) ice times per week, HL/LL Players must have the same opportunity to have access to three (3) ice times per week if they desire.

### **Programming Benefits:**

- Customer focused program offering
- More players developing, creating larger talent pool.
- Greater retention of participants.
- Meaningful competition - Like-skill players playing against like-skill players
- Better partnerships between MHA's in geographic areas.
- Ability to counter entrepreneurial hockey.

## **SEASONAL CALENDAR**

<b>Prep Phase</b>	May begin Aug. 28 through Sep. 10
<b>Evaluation Phase</b>	All Players must have at least three (3) evaluation sessions (one skills, one small area games, and one game) prior to tiering of Players. No Evaluations the first week of school Evaluations may begin Sep. 11
<b>Development Phase</b>	May begin Sep. 18 2 exhibition games 1 tournament *Development Phase must be a min. of 14 days regardless of start date.
<b>Jamborees &amp; Tournaments</b>	May begin Sep. 22
<b>Regular Season Phase</b>	May begin Oct. 2 All teams must be engaged in meaningful competition until March 1, 2022

## **OMHA U9 PROGRAM MODELS – SQUARING THE PYRAMID**

Enclosed in this bulletin

### **HOCKEY CANADA PLAYER PATHWAY - RESOURCES**

[U7 Player Pathway](#)

[U7 Prep Phase Session Plans](#)

[U9 Player Pathway](#)

[U9 Prep Phase Session Plans](#)

Please contact your Regional Director if you have any questions or require additional clarification.

Encl.



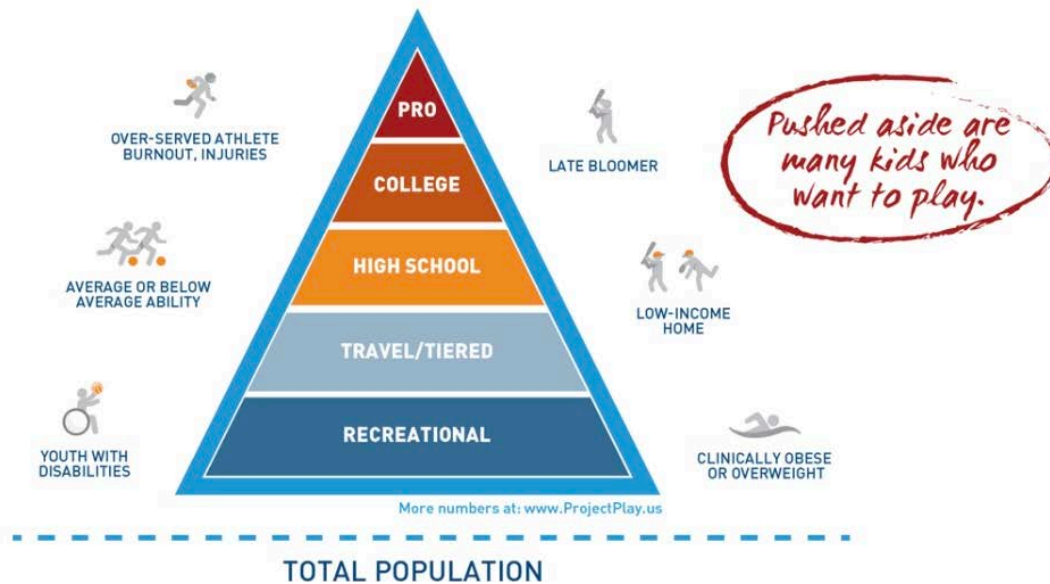
# SQUARING THE PYRAMID

## U9 & Below Program Model

The Pyramid: the sporting model for generations. A wide base of new participants narrows quickly, and only the elite competitors climb to the top of the pyramid.

### TODAY'S BROKEN MODEL

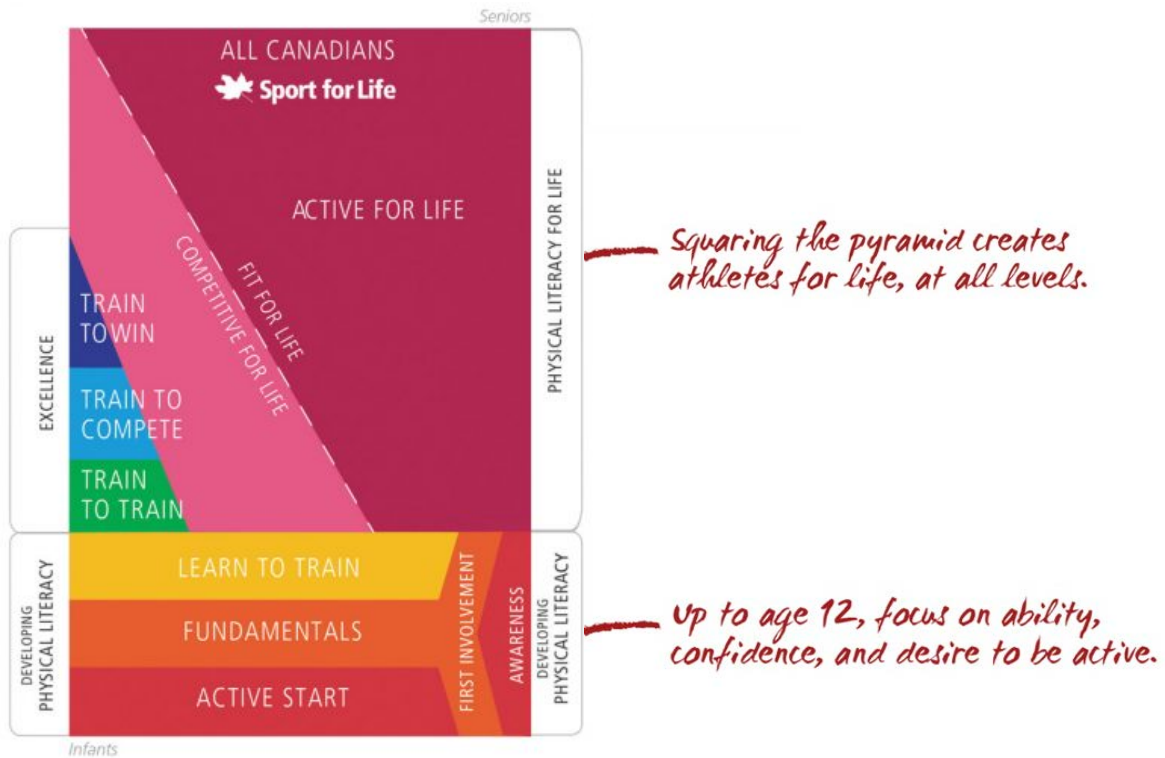
PYRAMID DOES NOT MAKE ROOM FOR ALL CHILDREN



But what about everyone else? The pressure to climb the pyramid, at the expense of long-term participation and well-rounded skill development, has parents, coaches, and program leaders looking for guidance and a different approach. They've seen too many kids drop-out, and they're not alone.

This concern exists in almost every youth sport and the impact is real. Sports participation is declining. Without positive sport experiences, we see less demand for sport programming, fewer opportunities to participate, declining activity, and the absence of valuable life lessons that kids learn through sports.

**SPORT FOR ALL, PLAY FOR LIFE MODEL**  
 BROAD ACCESS LEADS TO SUSTAINED PARTICIPATION



\*Source - Canadian Sport for Life-Long-Term Athlete Development

**OPPORTUNITY-BASED PROGRAMMING**

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If Minor Development (MD) teams receive three (3) ice times per week, HL/LL Players must have the same opportunity to have access to Three (3) ice times per week if they desire.

**Programming Benefits:**

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- Ability to counter entrepreneurial hockey.

**OHF REGULATION C4 - RECOGNIZED DIVISIONS & CATEGORIES**

Effective the 2023-24 season, Minor Development, Select, House League, Local League will be the recognized categories.

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## PROGRAM MODELS

Associations will determine their overall capacity for programming and establish a programming model based on the highest frequency of activity. Where necessary, Associations are encouraged to share and maximize resources.

If Minor Development (MD) teams receive three (3) ice times per week, HL/LL Players must have the same opportunity to have access to three (3) ice times per week if they desire.

### Model 1 – Base Program – HL/LL

1-3X per Week – One program available to all players

#### **1-3X per Week**

1X - 1 development session with scrimmage or;

2X - 1 practice / 1 game

3X – 2 practice / 1 game

Tier by skill level

- Players are then tiered within their group to ensure meaningful development/competition

### Model 2 – 1-3X per Week – HL/LL/Select

#### **Base Program – HL/LL**

##### **1-2X per Week**

1 game / 1 practice

Tier by skill level

**CHOICE** →

#### **Optional Skill Development**

##### **1X per Week**

Opt-in Program available to all players

Focus on Individual skills – Skating & Puck Development

**OR**

**CHOICE** →

#### **Select**

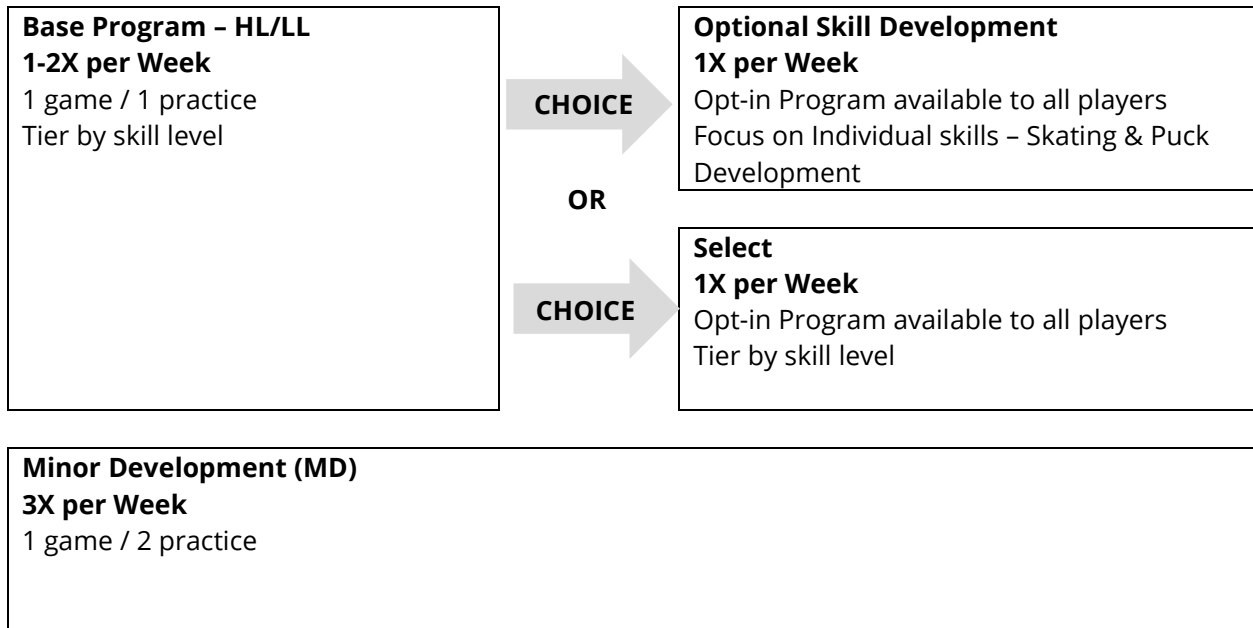
##### **1X per Week**

Opt-in Program available to all players

Tier by skill level

- Players choose between the two Program Options based on desired frequency of activity
- Players are then tiered within their group to ensure meaningful competition

### Model 3 - 1-3X per Week - HL/LL/Select/MD



### Model 3b - Additional Skill Development (AAA Zones)

- Same model as above with Programming delivered by AAA Zone
- All Players participate in Base program with Home MHA
- All Players in Zone (Feeder MHAs) have the opportunity/option to opt-in to additional Skill Development session(s)

### HOCKEY CANADA PLAYER PATHWAY - RESOURCES

[U7 Player Pathway](#)

[U9 Player Pathway](#)

### ASPEN INSTITUTE - PROJECT PLAY

[Sport for All, Play for Life: A Playbook to Get Every Kid in the Game](#)