



HOCKEY SASKATCHEWAN

Membership Presentation

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

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Land Acknowledgement

Before we begin, Hockey Saskatchewan wants to start by acknowledging that we have viewers joining us from across the province whose work reaches lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Saulteaux peoples, as well as homeland of the Métis.

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Presentation Agenda

Hockey Saskatchewan Membership Presentation Agenda:

- Minor Hockey Association (MHA) Matching Grant
- Under-9 Hockey
- Culture & Inclusion Initiatives
- Registration
- Coaching Certification
- Officiating Development Program
- Grassroots Programming
- Sask First (High-performance Program)
- Hockey Day in Saskatchewan
- Community Rink Affordability Grant
- NHL/NHLPA First Shift
- Hockey Saskatchewan Awards

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MHA Matching Grant

4th MHA Matching Grant Program Closing Soon For 2025-26 Season

Hockey Saskatchewan's Minor Hockey Association (MHA) Matching Grant Program is back for the 2025-26 season. It will once again be in support of hiring power skating instructors or to have a local person trained to be a power skating instructor to assist in player development with a matching grant of up to \$1,000.00.

IMPORTANT:

- One application per MHA will be accepted and the MHA must match the grant received.
- Power skating services must be targeted towards the Under-7 to Under-13 age groups within an MHA and must have occurred from September to December 2025.
- Power skating certification must be obtained by December 31, 2025.
- Online grant applications **NOW** are open until February 28, 2026.

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MHA Matching Grant

Power skating instructors must possess the following certification in order for an MHA to qualify for the grant:

Required Training

1. Respect in Sport Activity Leader

Plus, one of the five designations below

a) Hockey Canada Certified Skills Coach (Level 3)

Delivered by Hockey Canada

Topics include: Skating, Skills, Defence, Shooting & Scoring

Hockey Network APP training

Application process to attend, hosted biannually by Hockey Canada

b) Hockey Saskatchewan Licensee

Recognized by Hockey Saskatchewan in these categories: power skating, skills, power skating, skills, checking, developing defence, goaltending.

Attend a Hockey Saskatchewan Professional Development training session

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MHA Matching Grant

c) CanPower Skate - Delivered by Skate Canada

d) Hockey Saskatchewan Skills Coach Level

e) Hockey Saskatchewan Skating Coach (**NOW CLOSED**)

Certification clinics held on September 27 in Saskatoon and on October 4 in Caronport.

Course material will be from Hockey Canada; Skating 1a, Skating 1 & Skating 2.

Ice sessions to target, edges, striding & transitions.

Additional class sessions include: use of technology, skill progressions & skill analysis.

10 lesson plans are being developed for attendees.

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Under-9 (U9) Hockey

The topic of Under-9 (U9) hockey has been one of a lot of discussion over the past number of years.

Across the country every Branch of Hockey Canada has had varying regulations to govern U9 hockey, and every Branch has unique features that differ from the recommendations of Hockey Canada. The main U9 areas of discussion are:

- The use of Half-ice all year or a transition at some point in the year to Full-ice.
- What is the better game structure option for the development of players aged 7 and 8 – Half-Ice or Full-Ice for games?
- When should games begin in the fall.

There have been a few pilot projects conducted across Canada to research what the best options are and there will be further discussion nationally regarding any potential changes to game structure however the research clearly shows that from a developmental perspective, the Half-Ice game structure is a better option for all players from the perspective of puck touches; passes attempted and completed; shots and shots on goal; less time standing around.

Hockey Saskatchewan is conducting its own review in regards regarding its regulations of when U9 and Under-11 teams can begin games. The current philosophy is to begin the year with a “development season” where the focus is not on games but rather skating and skill development. The problem throughout our province is hockey starts at different times in rural settings versus more urban settings along with communities with natural ice versus artificial ice which leads to various lengths of the “development season.”

We will be sure to update the membership on any changes to the current regulations, especially when it comes to when games can begin for the May Membership Presentation.

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Under-9 Hockey

For information purposes, the following are examples around the world of when Full-ice hockey is allowed within minor hockey:

Transition from Half-ice Hockey to Full-ice Hockey – International Standards:

- **Sweden:** Under-13 (12-year-olds)
- **Czechia:** Under-13 (12-year-olds)
- **Finland:** Under-13 (12-year-olds)
- **Switzerland:** Under-13 (12-year-olds)
- **Germany:** Under-13 (12-year-olds)
- **Denmark:** Under-13 (12-year-olds)
- **United States:** 10 and Under (10-year-olds)

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Culture & Inclusion

Minor Association & League Resources

Check out *Minor Association Toolbox* on our website! – [CLICK HERE](#)

1. [Safe Environments Intervention Planning](#)
2. [Tournament Host Resource Guide](#)
3. [In-Game Public Address Announcement Recordings](#)
4. Policy & Articles reviews and recommendations

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Culture & Inclusion

Building Resiliency in Today's Youth Through Sport

- Hockey Saskatchewan webinar series led by Kyle McDonald
- Designed for athletes, parents/guardians, coaches, officials, and sport administrators
- Focus on practical tools to manage stress, build confidence, and support positive sport experiences
- Progressive Zoom series with sessions recorded for later viewing

Module 1 | Mondays at 7:00 PM

- Session 1: January 19 – Video available for registrants
- Session 2: February 2 – Video available for registrants
- Session 3: February 16
- Session 4: March 2

REGISTRATION: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/xSD1pd_XQimKxstoGowB-Q#/registration

Making hockey even more fun by learning to manage stress, as families, and as athletes.

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Registration

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February 10th:

- All registration is closed for the 2025-26 season.
- Registration reconciliation will begin for all Minor Hockey Associations (MHAs) and depending on the outcome of the reconciliation, MHAs will either be invoiced for the additional registration owed or a refund will be provided.





Coaching Certification

Coach High Performance 1 (HP1)

Application portal is now open on Hockey Saskatchewan's website!

<https://hockeysask.ca/coaches/clinics/high-performance-1-certification-program>

Deadline for application is April 15.

Should you be successful, you will be contacted by April 17, and full payment will be due April 20.

Should you not be successful in the selection, you will be notified by email.

Hockey Saskatchewan-branch Coaches: \$1,000 (GST included)

2026 Seminar Schedule:

- May 20 – Virtual orientation & group session
- May 22 to 24 – HP1 national virtual weekend
- June 5 to 7 – HP1 in-person seminar at Regina

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Officiating Development Program

- **NEW: Officiating Buddy System**
 - Through this new program, “Buddies” are starting to be matched up with mentors to provide support for Level 1 officials. Please encourage officials interested to get signed up as soon as possible.

Official Buddy System: <https://hockeysask.ca/officials/programs/officials-coaching--mentorship>

- **2026-27 Official Clinic Host Applications**
 - Minor Hockey Association will receive information about applying and booking their Level 1 clinics and Level 2 ice sessions in March. Communities are selected on a 3-year rotation to host clinics.
- **2026-27 First Whistle: Officiating Support Program**
 - <https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/hockey-programs/officiating/first-whistle>

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Grassroots Programming

Developing Defence & Growing Goaltending Sessions

These programs are completed for the 2025-26 season; however, if you are interested in hosting sessions for the 2026-27 season, please email Hockey Saskatchewan's Grassroots Coordinator, Matt Miller, at mattm@hockeysask.ca.

Under-7 Cross-Ice Jamborees – [CLICK HERE](#)

Under-9 Half-Ice Celebrations – [CLICK HERE](#)

(Under-9/Under-11) Female Festivals

- Registrations are open for Davidson: March 13-14, 2026

(Under-13) Female Futures

2026 Confirmed Dates:

- Camp: April 24-26, 2026 (Regina)
- Tournament: May 8-10, 2026 (Regina)
- Registrations are open. Goalies are at maximum registrations. For Defenders, there are 4 spots remaining, and there are 21 Forward spots available.

Grassroots Event Facilitators – [CLICK HERE](#)

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Grassroots Programming

NEW: Male Under-13 Prospects

Another brand-new grassroots program will begin in the spring of 2026. Male U13 Prospects will mirror the Female Futures program with a camp and tournament weekend.

- Registration for this program is full; however, there is a waitlist available in all three positions.

Dates Confirmed:

- Camp: April 3-5, 2026 (Regina)
- Tournament: April 10-12, 2026 (Regina)

LINK → <https://hockeysask.ca/programs/development-programs/sask-first-male-under-13-u13-prospects>

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Sask First (High Performance)

Sask First Programming Dates For 2025-26 Season

- Top 136 Female Under-16 Selections - [CLICK HERE](#)
- Top 80 Female Under-18 Selections - [CLICK HERE](#)
- Top 80 Male Under-15 Selections - [CLICK HERE](#)
- Top 160 Male Under-18 Selections - [CLICK HERE](#)

February 2026:

- February 13-15, 2026 – Male U15 (born 2011) Top 80 Tournament in Balgonie.

April 2026:

- April 3-5, 2026 – Female U16 (born 2011/2012) Top 136 Tournament in Regina.
- April 10-12, 2026 – Female U18 (born 2009/2010) Top 80 Tournament in Balgonie.
- April 10-12, 2026 – Male U18 (born 2010, 2009, 2008) Top 160 Tournament in Regina.

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Hockey Day in Saskatchewan

Hockey Day in Saskatchewan (HDIS) took place in Avonlea from January 14 to 18, 2026.

The total funds raised was over **\$248,000**, which is the most ever raised at a single Hockey Day in Saskatchewan!

Since 2008: Over \$1.8 million raised across 19 communities.



Looking Ahead: 2027 HDIS to be hosted in Zone 7 (north-west); applications open February 2026.

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Community Rink Affordability Grant

Applications open now until February 27, 2026

Government of Saskatchewan has **doubled funding to \$5,000 per rink**

Supports operating costs of **indoor skating and curling rinks**

Eligible applicants:

- Urban / rural municipalities or First Nations communities

Program administered by **Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA)**

In 2024-25:

- **376 facilities**
- **576 ice surfaces** supported

Full guidelines and application available on the **SPRA website**

<https://www.spra.sk.ca/funding/spra-grants/>

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**Saskatchewan Parks
and Recreation
Association**



NHL/NHLPA First Shift

First Shift Program Summary

- National introductory hockey program focused on being fun, safe, accessible, and affordable for new players and families.
- Strong commitment to inclusion and diversity, welcoming participants of all backgrounds and abilities.

What First Shift Participants Receive

- Welcome event with head-to-toe Bauer equipment, professionally fitted.
- 6 weekly on-ice sessions teaching skating and fundamental hockey skills in a fun environment.
- Clear pathway to join their local Minor Hockey Association through a transition program or team placement.

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NHL/NHLPA First Shift

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What First Shift Hosts Receive

- Support with logistics, equipment shipments, insurance, curriculum, and transition planning.
- Access to an interactive website with program details and timelines.

FUN	ACCESSIBLE	AFFORDABLE	SAFE
On-ice curriculum focused on fun games.	Open to ages 6–10 that have never previously been registered in local hockey.	Full equipment + 6 on-ice sessions.	Hockey Canada provided insurance through Pathway to Hockey Coverage.
1:4 instructor to skater ratio.	On-ice sessions on same day of the week, same time, same arena.	Low cost for families.	Proper-sized Bauer gear fitted by fit experts.

How to Host First Shift

- Visit: FirstShift.ca/for-hosts
- Questions: TheFirstShift@HockeyCanada.ca





Hockey Saskatchewan Awards

Nominate for the 2025-26 Hockey Saskatchewan Awards!

The Hockey Saskatchewan Awards are given annually to volunteers, coaches and Minor Hockey Associations in recognition of their efforts in promoting and improving the game of hockey within the province.

The following four (4) awards are given out:

- Outstanding Coach - [Nomination Form](#)
- Outstanding North Volunteer (Zones 5-8) - [Nomination Form](#)
- Outstanding South Volunteer (Zones 1-4) - [Nomination Form](#)
- Minor Hockey Association of Distinction - [Nomination Form](#)

PAST WINNERS: <https://hockeysask.ca/about/awards>

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS APRIL 15th, 2026.

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THANK YOU FOR WATCHING!

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT

PHONE: 306-789-5101

EMAIL: VISIT THE HOCKEY SASKATCHEWAN STAFF PAGE AT
www.HockeySask.ca/about/staff

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