

# South Muskoka Minor Hockey Association Monthly Newsletter

November 2023

## Ice Schedule

Hi everyone, we just wanted to take this opportunity to update you all on our Bears ice schedule. As hopefully most of you already know, Bayville's arena has been undergoing some renovations and installation of a new ice plant responsible for refrigeration. For various reasons beyond anyone's control this activity has bumped our start date later into the season than previous years. As a result, we have had to accommodate all South Muskoka teams practice and game ice on just two pads. Unfortunately, this has meant that most teams have had inconsistent practice schedules and less ice time than normal.

Baysville Arena anticipates that if all continues to progress well, the Bears can enjoy using their facility very soon. As always, it is very important to continue checking South Muskoka Minor Hockey's website and keeping in touch with your team manager for the latest updates on your player's ice times.

-Julie, Director-Ice Scheduler



**Need to Give Us Feedback?**



# Why the Switch from C to D?

You may have recently noticed a change in classifications of some of our rep teams. SMMHA C Rep teams were once called *Second Entry Teams* in the OMHA Rep Programs. These teams would only play other centres that had a Second Entry Team. Last season when the OMHA changed the name to Rep C, these Second Entry teams had to play against other true C Rep Centres (a centre where their highest classification is a C). This season, the OMHA made the decision to change the Second Entry teams to D Rep teams. This change aims to equal the playing field for the teams at this level.

## Player Fundraising

South Muskoka is proud to be partnering with Rich Hill Candles & Gifts this season to offer a great player fundraising opportunity. From its' origin in 1970 as a cottage industry, Rich Hill Candles & Gifts has blossomed into one of Muskoka's favorite family attractions. A perfect fundraiser leading into the holiday season, players can sell select products and get a return of the sales to help supplement player registration/rep fees for the 2023/24 season. Choose from some of Rich Hill's best sellers to offer friends, family, coworkers, and neighbours. This fundraiser will run from November 3 to November 24, with products available for pickup and distribution before the holidays.

Visit our website and navigate to the Fundraising tab to obtain more information on this great fundraising opportunity.

Information on how participating players can submit orders on the weekend of November 25-26 will be available on our website closer to the date. Orders will be due by Monday November 27th to be eligible.



## What's That Smell?

Have you ever caught a whiff of smelly hockey gear? Even for the seasoned hockey parents the smell can knock you off your feet! How can you minimize this? The name of the game is eliminating moisture. On your way home, try to leave the bag unzipped and roll your car windows down to increase ventilation- this helps more than you think! Remove hockey equipment from the bag immediately when you get home to begin the drying process. Tournament tip: an upside down ironing board in a hotel room makes a great drying rack for gear!

# Online Silent Auction

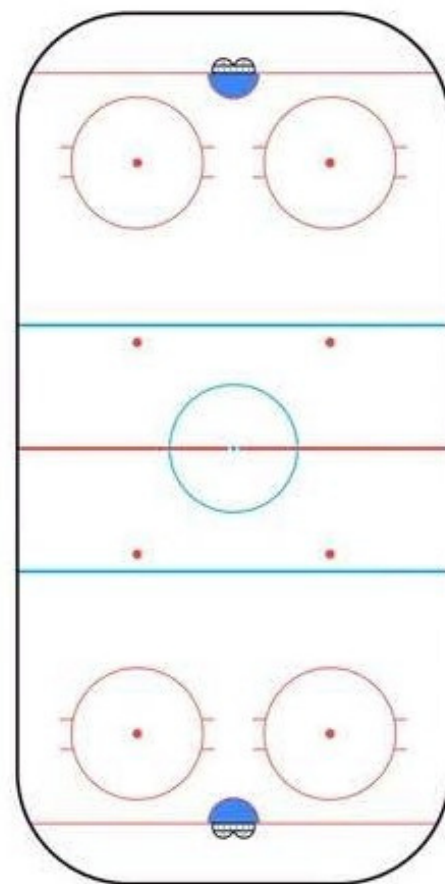
The 2023/24 season saw a hold on registration rate increases for players in SMMHA. A freeze on rate increases this season was important to the association as a means of keeping hockey affordable for families in South Muskoka. In order to account for this rate freeze, SMMHA took on an ambitious goal of raising funds through various fundraising initiatives which include this year's Online Silent Auction. Businesses from across Muskoka have stepped up and heard our call for assistance in keeping hockey affordable, a big thank you to all who have contributed so far! ❤️

The Silent Auction is a great way to 'shop' for the holidays, we truly have something for everyone. We ask that you share this auction as much as possible through your own channels so we can make this year a HUGE success!

**Online Silent Auction details can be found on social and SMMHA's website. Auction runs from Nov. 6th to 27th**

## U9 & Half Ice

Our U9 programming has reached a point where teams have been formed an inter squad and other center games are being played. This season we have more players then other seasons and have 5 teams. Our programming has included an extended program for U9 players seeking more ice time. With the changes in U9 over the past few years we have defined our programming to provide the most player development and meet players interest levels. In addition, and to provide another level of development we are about to form a U9 Select team. Over the next couple months all U9 teams will be continuing on their 1/2 ice programming while also preparing to move to full ice after January 15th. We are all looking forward to seeing U9 compete in full ice games and exhibition games with other centers in 2024.



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