

U9 SEASONAL STRUCTURE

Hockey Calgary's U9 Intro to Hockey program for 7 and 8-year-olds is progressive, age appropriate, and thoughtfully designed to introduce the FUNdamentals of hockey in an environment that will allow participants to foster a love for the game. The program has various gameplay formats and structures that are designed to develop skill, challenge players, build confidence, and build capacity to experience success at older, age appropriate formats. The skills of skating, puck control, passing, and shooting are introduced and refined one step at a time.

On-average, Hockey Calgary's U9 team's play 30 games over the course of the season. Exact game numbers will vary depending on the team. Teams will start with with a Development Phase heavily weighted towards practices and skill acquisition. From there, they will play approximately a ¼ of the season in each of the following game play formats: (1) Half-Ice, (2) Half-Ice Modified Rosters, (3) Three-Quarter Cross-Ice, and (4) Full-Ice.

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Phase 1: Development Phase

September - Mid October Teams are permitted to play half-ice exhibition games	Development is at the core of the U9 program and continues throughout the year. The beginning of the season is heavily weighted toward practices and skill aquisition, while the later stages include more gameplay and skill application
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Phase 2: Half-Ice Phase - *Seeding Round Games*

Mid October - Mid November Half ice exhibition games Half ice tournament games beginning Nov 1	Teams may continue this format in Exhibition and Tournament games
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Phase 3: Half-Ice Modified Rosters Phase - *Regular Season Games*

December - January 14 Half ice exhibition and tournament games	Teams may continue this format in Exhibition and Tournament games
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Phase 4: Three-Quarter Cross-Ice Phase - *Regular Season Games*

January 15 - End of Regular Season Exhibition and tournament games	Teams may continue this format in Exhibition and Tournament games
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Phase 5: Full-Ice Phase

February 1 - End of Season Exhibition and tournament games	Maximum 8 Full-Ice Games
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