

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
ABOUT
THUNDER BAY MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

How much will it cost to play hockey in TBMHA?

The registration fee paid to the **TBMHA is \$350** (down payment). Once your player is drafted, your new hockey team will require a second payment of \$600 to \$850, payable in October. **The total fees paid is in the range of \$950 to \$1200.** The fees vary by club, by what is offered, and by skill level (ie. AA teams tend to travel more, further). Equipment and personal travel expenses on tournaments are extra.

What is the refund policy?

If your player decides not to play, notify the TBMHA as soon as possible to maximize your refund. If a player quits before the first evaluation session, you may be eligible for a full refund. If the player quits after the first evaluation session, but before being drafted, your refund will be reduced by \$50 for the evaluation skates. Players quitting after being drafted are deducted an additional \$100. The refund is therefore \$200 (\$350 less \$150).

After the start of the season (Thanksgiving), any refund is at the discretion of your new team/club, not TBMHA. Since the team budgets are based upon the roster (ie. number) of players, the team may not be able offer a refund if it cannot replace a player that quits.

For similar reasons do not expect a refund for serious injuries that may prematurely end your season. Again, it is at the discretion of the club affected.

Why is hockey so expensive?

TBMHA fees cover league expenses for the upcoming regular season including twenty-eight games (ice rentals and officials' salaries), office expenses, Hockey Canada dues, insurance premiums, playoff games and awards, and league player awards. Player fees are TBMHA's primary source of revenue, but is also supplemented by revenue from bingos and two tournaments. The season includes playoff games (for qualifying team), All-Star weekend activities, season awards and trophies, evaluations, and draft.

What do the teams charge fees for?

Each hockey club runs its' own affairs so fees vary from **\$600 or more**. Teams provide practice ice (25+ hours), coaching expenses, tournament registrations, awards, banquets, equipment, jerseys, socks, pucks, etc. Some clubs subsidize bus transportation, team meals, clothing, or hotel rooms for players at tournaments. This is highly variable.

At the start of the season, teams convene parent meetings to discuss the upcoming season. Don't miss this opportunity to voice your opinion on team activities such as tournaments, and fundraising. If a team budget isn't presented, ask for one. Many clubs work bingos, and conduct other fundraising activities (meat orders, raffles) to reduce the overall cost. Some may require parents to secure a sponsor for your player, but the money may go towards the team expenses, not player fees which are kept lower by the total sponsorships. Some organizations don't fundraise which means less work for you, but that comes at a higher cost.

What is registration all about?

Both you and your player are required at registration since both parties' signatures are required at registration. It must be signed by both the player and the parent or guardian. Due to the Privacy Act, all cards must be checked to permit release of personal information to the teams (address, phone number, birth dates). This information will not be used for any other purposes outside of administering the sport of hockey. This permission must be given or the player cannot register for hockey with TBMHA.

If your player has never played with TBMHA before (ie first year Bantam or moved here), we also require a photocopy of the player's birth certificate at the time of registration. A copy can be made at registration.

Why is the evaluation jersey worth \$25?

An evaluation jersey is assigned to each player at registration for use during the evaluation skates. It is on loan, and must be returned to your new team's coach at the first team practice. Failure to return these jerseys to TBMHA by club means the club is charged \$25 for each missing jersey. In turn, the club will seek reimbursement from the player.

What is "B" hockey?

TBMHA provides three levels (AA, A, B) of hockey to permit players to play competitively with their peers. All three divisions are treated equally by TBMHA. Although some parents criticize the division, the players do have fun competing with one another. Without these divisions, players could find themselves receiving less ice time were they placed in a higher division.

My player wants to play on a team with his friends/relatives.

TBMHA runs a city wide draft to promote a balanced league. The only exception to placing players together is brothers and sisters, provided they are of the same skill level. If siblings are not equal in talent, then they will play in different divisions, and drafted by different teams.

Why didn't my player make Bantam AA although he/she played 12AA last season?

Lakehead Minor's PeeWee programme has six 12AA teams (single age) while TBMHA has six Bantam AA teams that includes both 13 and 14 year olds. Two-thirds of the BAA players will likely be returning 14 year olds so well over half of the 12AA players cannot be drafted into AA in their first year of Bantam hockey. Probably only the first liners of the 12AA clubs might be drafted into BAA.

How does the draft work?

*After two evaluation skates, TBMHA convenes the AA draft. Undrafted players skate again, followed by the A draft. A fourth skate of the remaining players is followed by the B draft. If your player is not notified by a team immediately after a draft, the player must attend the next evaluation skate to be drafted at the next level. **All players must attend all evaluation sessions until they are called (ie. drafted).***

When do the teams play?

TBMHA uses ice at nine different arenas averaging six games played most nights (except Fridays). Each division tends to play at certain rinks, on specific evenings, but variations exist throughout the season. The schedule is issued after the final draft.

The season starts after the Thanksgiving Weekend, ending just before March Break. All teams have practice ice during March Break, and the playoffs start on the final Sunday of March Break. The championship series should finish during the second week of April.

Team practices are dependant upon ice availability, level, division, etc., and vary throughout the season.

How to register a complaint.

If you have a complaint about an organization or coach, and can't get it resolved with the team manager, contact the team's club president. The TBMHA office can direct you on this issue. If you have serious concerns about the league, game incidents, officiating, etc., submit a written complaint to the office (mail, fax, or e-mail). TBMHA investigates all matters, but needs specifics before it can be initiated.

What happens if my player is injured?

Any injury that removes a player from a game prematurely must be reported immediately. All teams should have Hockey Canada injury report forms (also available on this website). Insist that the team completes one for your incident. It is imperative that you document the injury while memories are fresh. Injuries may have repercussions that emerge later on, and you don't want to be told that the incident isn't covered by insurance because a form wasn't completed and submitted within 60 days.