



Welcome Letter



To: Lambeth Minor Hockey Local League Parents
From: Local League Convenors
Date: September 17, 2024
Re: **2024/2025 Lambeth Minor Hockey Local League Season**

My name is Mandy Humphrey, and I have been the Local League Convenor in Lambeth for the past 7 seasons. After many years, I am now passing the puck to a new Local League Convenor! My son has recently aged out of Local League hockey after 12 awesome years in Lambeth. Fortunately, he will be returning to play on our new U21 House League team. I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved in my son's hockey experience in this role. I will miss working alongside the many volunteers who help to run our hockey program. I want to take a moment to thank all the amazing parents and players that I have met during my time as your Local League Convenor. I have appreciated your friendship and your encouraging words over the years. I wish you all the best in hockey and I will miss my time at the rink watching our Lambeth Lancers!

This season I am sharing the position of Co-Convenor with Marcel Rintoul who will take over for me as the season progresses. Marcel's son is heading into his 3rd season as a Lambeth Lancer. We will continue to work together this season to get all our Local League/House League teams on the ice for another great year of hockey! Marcel is looking forward to taking on the role of Local League Convenor and upholding the high standards of our Local League program in Lambeth. He is passionate about Local League hockey, and he will do an amazing job as your new Convenor!

Please take the time to read the information below as this will help you to be prepared and informed about the upcoming hockey season.

Overview of the Lambeth Local League Hockey Program

The Minor Hockey Association of Lambeth (or MHAL) is governed by the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) and non-Rep team players participate in the Lambton-Middlesex Local League (LMLL). We have three teams participating in the Alliance House League program this season as LMLL does not offer programming for those specific age groups. Most of this information will apply to LMLL players, as the House League program may differ slightly. House League U16 and U21 parents and players – stay tuned for more information!

Season Structure

In the LMLL, each team will play approximately one game per week, either home or away, between October 2nd and approximately March 31st. In the LMLL, you should expect to travel to "Away Centres" for at least half of the games during the regular season, and any additional exhibition games or tournaments your team may wish to participate in. In all divisions, there will be no scheduled League games from December 24th to January 1st or during the March Break (March 10-16). Teams may choose to schedule games during the March Break if both coaches agree to do so.

U9 Division

For the U8/U9 combined division (U9LL), players will participate in 12 half-ice games from October 2nd to January 10th. From January 11th to March 31st, this division will play 12 full ice games. There are no playoffs for this division. A year-end U9 LMLL league event will be scheduled in March. Stay tuned!

U11 to U18 Divisions

In U11 and above, teams will be pre-seeded and placed in either Tier 1 or Tier 3 for the Fall Season, which runs from October 2nd to December 23rd (12 games). Based on historical results, there is a pre-determined skill level based on the representative and LL team structure within a Centre. Teams are pre-seeded based on this ranking. After the Fall Season, teams will be placed in either Tier 1, 2 or 3 for the Winter Season, which runs from January 2nd to February 16th (8 games). Playoffs will begin on or after February 17th and run until approximately March 31st.

U11 Playoff Format: Round-robin format (within tiers), 8 games from February 17th to March 31st.

U13-U15 Playoff Format: Round #1 – 6 game round-robin Feb. 17th - Mar. 9th. Round #2 – Teams ranked for a best of 3 final series (1v2 for 1st, 3v4 for 3rd, etc.) March 17th - 31st.

U18 Playoff Format: Round-robin format (within tiers) Feb. 17th to March 31st (Final Series TBD)

Local League Schedule

In general, expect one practice and one game per week (U9-U18). There will be biweekly Home and Away games, depending on scheduling availability. Practices will take place at Lambeth Arena, Farquharson Arena, Nichols Arena or Bostwick Arena. Games and practice times may change from week to week based on ice availability. Please check the calendar often. Practices begin after Local League Opening Weekend (Sept. 21st-22nd) and games will begin on or after October 2nd.

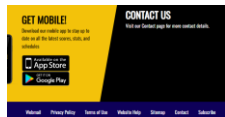
Let's stay connected and informed!

Game and practice times are always subject to change as the season progresses with league games, tournaments, and playoff games being scheduled. **Please check the website calendar regularly and plan to subscribe to the notification options described below.**

MHAL offers three ways to stay informed about team schedules and events:

1. Email notifications
2. Text messages
3. Calendar imports

Email notifications and **text messages** can be set up by clicking on the link "Subscribe" found on the bottom blue bar on the right of the MHAL home page.



Calendar Imports can be set up by clicking on the *subscribe* button at the bottom of the association calendar or by clicking on the link given below. Detailed instructions are provided on the MHAL website. <http://lambethminorhockey.com/Webcal/>

Jerseys and Equipment

Team jerseys are provided to each player but must be returned at the end of the season. **Teams will choose to have jerseys kept as a set by a team volunteer or have each player responsible for their own personal jersey.** Wet jerseys should never be stored in jersey bags. Name bars are permitted but **all name bars are to be sewn on and removed by London Sports Excellence.** Parents/players are responsible for all associated costs with purchasing, attaching, and removal of the name bars. Players are responsible for their own **practice jerseys** unless teams choose to purchase their own. They cannot wear their game jerseys for practices.

At the end of the season, the jerseys must be returned to the equipment manager in the team jersey bags provided, as a complete set with hangers, clean and in the condition that they were received.

Both light and dark socks will be provided by the Association and are yours to keep. OMHA requires that all players wear **mouth guards** for practices and games. You will also need full hockey equipment including **neck guards**. A player will not be permitted on the ice without full equipment.

Tournaments

All Local League teams are required to participate in a minimum of two tournaments this season but may participate in more depending on team interest. Tournaments are at an additional cost to players but are often the most memorable part of the season. They can be local tournaments, while others may require hotel accommodations. Your coach will have further information as teams are formed and plans are made for the upcoming season. Please stay tuned!

Coaching Staff and Volunteers

Every year we are very fortunate to have parent volunteers help coach our players in mastering skills and providing encouragement and direction on the ice. We also have many parents who volunteer behind the scenes as team managers, parent reps, and timekeepers. We are very appreciative of these parents as our organization is entirely run by volunteers. **Please inform me by email or connect with your player's Head Coach if you are interested in volunteering this season, as we are still looking for volunteers.** I am sure you will find volunteering to be a very rewarding experience and a great way to become a part of your child's sport. In addition, you will receive a \$100 refund cheque (from your volunteer fee – one per registration) at the end of the season.

Let's get this season started...

To kick off this season, we offered Development Skates/Pre-skates to all teams. We hope that your player used these skates to prepare for the season ahead! This year we will have one U9 team consisting of both U8 and U9 players, one or two U11 teams, one or two U13 teams, one U15 team and two U18 teams. We will also have one U16HL team and two U21 HL teams that will play in the Alliance House League program in London. **Local League Opening Weekend is scheduled for Saturday, September 21st and Sunday, September 22nd.** Please check the calendar for your team's ice time. Sorting skates will take place during opening weekend for the divisions with multiple teams. Regular team practices will begin in October, so be sure to check the website calendar for your player's schedule. Games are scheduled to begin on or after October 2nd and will be scheduled very soon! **Don't forget to check the calendar often for last minute changes to ice times!**

Team Calendar Links:

[U9 LL](#)

[U11 LL](#)

[U13 LL](#)

[U15 LL](#)

[U16 HL](#)

[U18 LL1](#)

[U18 LL2](#)

[U21 HL1](#)

[U21 HL2](#)

Picture Day: October 20th – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm – Lambeth Community Centre Gym

Teams will be given a time during these hours to have their photos taken together as a team. The schedule for picture day will be shared at a later date. Stay tuned for more details!

We are looking forward to a fun hockey season and it is so great to be back on the ice! Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email us. Thanks again to all those parents who have volunteered for this season, your help is much appreciated!

Regards,

Mandy Humphrey and Marcel Rintoul

Local League Convenors, Lambeth Minor Hockey

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