

# Georgian Shores MHA

## New to Hockey? FAQ

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### General Information

[What kind of hockey does Georgian Shores offer?](#)

[What ages can play?](#)

[When does the season start and end?](#)

[When are practices and games?](#)

[Where will my player travel to for games?](#)

### Registration

[When do I register?](#)

[What is the cost of hockey?](#)

[Do you provide financial assistance?](#)

[The season is close to starting/has started, can I still register?](#)

[Can I play with your association if I don't live there?](#)

[What are the differences between Local League hockey and Representative hockey?](#)

[How does my player try out for the Rep team?](#)

[Can my player participate in an age group other than their own?](#)

### Getting Ready to Play

[What equipment does my player need?](#)

### During the Season

[How early should I be at the rink?](#)

[Can my player enroll in extra lessons?](#)

### Miscellaneous

[What is your refund policy?](#)

[Are there volunteer hours or bond cheque requirements?](#)

[How can I volunteer?](#)

## General Information

### What kind of hockey does Georgian Shores offer?

Georgian Shores MHA is a volunteer-operated member of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association.

For players U11 and older, Georgian Shores MHA offers both representative and local league team options. We are classified as Base Category D for our representative hockey teams.

For players U8 and younger, we offer cross-ice and half-ice hockey programs that are activity-station and mini-games based.

For players in U9, the season is split into two sections. The season will begin with half-ice activity-stations and mini-games and then transition to a more conventional full-ice hockey program with scheduled home and away games.

### What ages can play?

We offer teams for U7 up to U18. Finding which U-## category your player belongs to can be confusing, so the best way to know what age group your player will be in is to check the age reference chart here: <https://www.omha.net/page/show/865450-administration>

### When does the season start and end?

Typically our regular season begins October 1 and ends March 31. There is some flexibility in those dates as they depend on how soon and how long ice is available for.

### When are practices and games?

On average, a player should expect to be on the ice two to three times a week for practices and/or games. Since our association only offers representative league and local league hockey (no house league), game and practice times can be fluid due to the scheduling of games with other associations/centres.

Each team is assigned two or three usual ice times at the beginning of the season. Once league play begins, home and away games will be added to the team's schedule; with preference given to slotting them into a team's usual ice times. However, ice availability and the availability of the opposing team may result in games being scheduled at atypical times and dates and/or practices being rescheduled.

## Where will my player travel to for games?

This depends on which category your player is in (Representative or Local League). The associations that make up the Local League loop can be found at the top of the page for the [Georgian Bay Triangle Local League](#). The associations that make up our Representative League loop can be found under league associations on [Georgian Bay Minor Hockey League](#).

## Registration

### When do I register?

Registration generally opens in the late spring for the season beginning in the autumn of the same calendar year. (i.e. March/April 2022 registration opens for 2022/2023 season which begins in October). You will receive the best rates if you register early. Additionally, registering early locks in your priority placement in the event that teams fill up.

### What is the cost of hockey?

Registration costs may differ slightly from season to season and will be announced prior to registration (usually in March/April). In addition to the registration fee, there is a fundraising fee per family due at registration. A lottery program has been put in place that runs in conjunction with the fundraising fee. Each family is entitled to lottery tickets that they may keep or sell. This program was put in place to assist families to recoup the fundraising fee or if they choose to keep the tickets themselves, they have a chance to win one or more of the draws. You are not obligated to take the tickets; to sell or to keep; however, paying the fundraising fee is a requirement of registration.. Third player discounts are available and applied automatically to any families with three or more players. Financial aid is available, please contact the registrar for more information regarding fee subsidies or other aid.

Other costs of hockey that are not included with registration may be: tournament fees, hotel fees, etc. These optional, but fun, additions to the season are usually decided within each team and may vary depending on the individual team's preferences.

## **Do you provide financial assistance?**

Financial assistance is available through community organizations or through the association. Please contact the registrar for more information.

## **The season is close to starting/has started, can I still register?**

Please contact the registrar if you wish to register. If space allows and it is before the final rostering deadline (usually mid January), we will do our best to accommodate your player.

## **Can I play with your association if I don't live there?**

Generally speaking, for representative hockey there are residency rules governing where a player may try-out; whereas local league participation in areas beyond your residence may be possible. To find out for sure if your player is eligible to play with us, please contact our registrar.

## **What are the differences between Local League hockey and Representative hockey?**

Local League hockey is similar to house league hockey in that it is a fun league in which any player can participate without a try-out. There is no minimum skill level, though prior experience skating or playing would be an asset. Local League hockey teams are typically on the ice twice a week; once for a practice and once for a game (either home or away).

Representative hockey team players go through a selection process (tryouts) before being invited to join the team. The rep teams are usually on the ice three times a week; twice for practice and once for a game (either home or away). If selected for the rep team, an additional rep fee will be invoiced to the player's family to cover the additional ice time costs.

## **How does my player try out for the Rep team?**

To be eligible to try out for the rep team, please indicate that your player is interested in the rep team when filling out the registration form. Once try-outs are scheduled, your player will be

invited to the try out sessions. Registering for the rep team only saves your player a spot in the try-outs, it is not a guarantee that they will be selected for the rep team.

## Can my player participate in an age group other than their own?

There are different circumstances in which this may occur. The most common would be a player temporarily filling in as an Affiliated Player for an older team.

A player/player's family may also request to be evaluated to play "down" an age group for a variety of reasons (experience, developmental differences, etc). Please contact the association/member of the Executive if you need more information.

Players playing "up" an age group require special approval. Please contact the association/member of the Executive if you need more information.

## Getting Ready to Play

### What equipment does my player need?

Players will need full gear for every game and practice. This poster is a helpful resource: [https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Hockey-Programs/Safety/Safety-Program/Downloads/equipment\\_poster\\_e.pdf](https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Hockey-Programs/Safety/Safety-Program/Downloads/equipment_poster_e.pdf)

Players also need to provide their own practice jersey, socks and hockey water bottle. One pair of game socks will be given to each player per season. Game jerseys are assigned to players at the beginning of the season but remain the property of the association and are returned to the association at the end of the season. The exception to this is Timbits jerseys and socks, Timbits jerseys and socks are donated by Tim Hortons and are the player's to keep. (Please note: all players should still come prepared with their own jersey and socks for their first few practices as not all items are always available on the first day of practice).

## During the Season

### How early should I be at the rink?

This may vary depending on individual coaching staff preferences. Generally, you should plan to be at the rink with ample time to dress before practices (at least 15-25 minutes prior). You will want to have additional time prior to a game to allow your player to comfortably dress, convene with their team and coaches and work out any last minute issues. The exact arrival time prior to a game is usually specified by the coach but may be anywhere between 40-60 minutes prior to game time.

## Can my player enroll in extra lessons?

Typically the association will offer an optional, pre-season "Tune Up" camp for an additional fee. During the season, the association may contract outside professionals to provide additional on-ice instruction as time and funds permit.

Otherwise, GSMHA does not regularly offer any in-house lessons. In our immediate area, the Beaver Valley Athletic Association offers power skating lessons out of the Thornbury arena. More information can be found on their website.

## Miscellaneous

### What is your refund policy?

The refund policy can be found via the registration link on our website.

### Are there volunteer hours or bond cheque requirements?

GSMHA does not require a bond cheque but we do require that teams provide adult volunteers to assist in organizing and hosting our home tournaments and awards ceremony.

### How can I volunteer?

Volunteers are required at all levels of our association. All of our executive, bench staff, fundraising committee and tournament committee members are volunteers and it is through volunteerism that we are able to keep hockey affordable.

Volunteer opportunities include: coach, trainer, team manager, on-ice helper, fundraising committee, tournament committee, tournament welcome desk volunteer, year-end ceremony committee, executive board member ... or you tell us how you can help!