## 2026/2027 PCAHA U9 Requirements

Development streams include – U9 Minor (developing) and U9 Major (proficient)

Each MHA will determine the number of U9 Minor (developing) and U9 Major (proficient) teams they will ice each season, using the table below. All teams within each development stream must be balanced as per PCAHA rules.

| Total # of U9 Teams within MHA | Min. # of Major Teams Declared |
|---|---|
| 0 to 2 | 0 |
| 3 & 4 | 1 |
| 5 to 7 | 2 |
| 8 to 10 | 3 |
| 11 to 12 | 4 |
| 13 to 17 | 5 |

## Game Play Fundamentals

- All players will rotate through forward, defence, goaltender
- Coaches must accommodate players interested in the goaltender position regardless of how this will impact the team's competitive play
- Players are to split time evenly between forward and defence throughout the season
- Fair and as close to equal ice time as possible, shortening of the bench is not permitted
- Referees will be used, coaches, players and referees will work together to expedite game play as much as possible.
- No score shall be kept in games
- The roster size should be between 14-16 players

U9 Full Ice

- Smaller nets (if available) until January 15
- 3 stop-time periods, games not to exceed 75 minute time slot
- The 2-minute buzzer will not be used
- Icings and offsides will be called
- Penalties will be called; the offending player will return to their bench for an approximate 2-minute "time out" from playing and will be replaced on the ice by another player

U9 Half Ice

- Reference APPENDIX #1 CROSS-ICE HOCKEY GUIDELINES

U9 may play half or full-ice games within their Association from October 15th until November 30th. Inter-Association exhibition or league games may be organized starting December 1st.

U9 Minor teams should start with half-ice games on October 15th and gradually provide a transition to full-ice games by November 30th.

For Associations only registering one U9 team in a stream, inter-Association exhibition games may be arranged with another Association in that stream between October 15th and November 30th, with the approval of the applicable Managing Director.