

## WHITECOURT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

**Date** December 4, 2013

**Policy** Initiation Program

**Purpose** To set direction for the operation of the Initiation Program.

The Initiation Program is a comprehensive skills development program developed by the Canadian Hockey Association (CHA) to teach young players the basic skills of hockey. The focus of the Initiation Program is on skill development in a safe, positive and fun environment without the pressures of competition. Whitecourt Minor Hockey Association (WMHA) has adopted the Initiation Program for use in the Initiation age group (5 and 6 years of age as of December 31).

1. All WMHA Initiation Program coaches shall complete the Coach Stream & RISC and follow the Initiation Curriculum as specified by the CHA.
2. Initiation teams may scrimmage with other WMHA Initiation teams prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> each year provided they maintain a minimum 3:1 ratio of practice time to scrimmage time, but shall not participate in games with out of teams until after December 31<sup>st</sup>. During scrimmages coaches are allowed on the ice to help direct the players, referees are not required, the score clock is not used to record the score and no record of wins or loses or individual player stats is kept.
3. Initiation teams may participate in games against out of town teams after December 31<sup>st</sup> each year provided they maintain a minimum 2:1 ratio of practice time to game time. During these games coaches are not allowed on the ice during the game, referees are required, the score clock may be used if both coaches agree prior to the game but no record of wins or loses or individual player stats is kept.
4. Initiation players shall play no more than 12 games per year including participation in tournaments, but not including their play in a windup tournament.
5. Initiation teams shall follow the "3 goal rule" limiting players to scoring a maximum of 3 goals in any game regardless of other team or tournament rules that may permit the scoring of more goals. Players who have scored 3 goals in a game shall be encouraged to develop other skills such as passing, defense or goaltending.
6. WMHA will not affiliate Initiation players with Novice teams but will affiliate Initiation players on a team to team basis with other Initiation teams.

Original Policy Date: February 2, 2005

Revision Date: December 4, 2013