



Policy Name: U7 Pathway/ Jamborees		Date of Approval Nov 1, 2025	Effective Date: Nov 1, 2025
Approved by: Board of Directors	Prepared by: Development Committee		Replaces Previous Versions April 26, 2025
Review Cycle Biennial			
Responsible Development	Accountable MHA's	Consulted Board of Directors	Informed HNO Members

A. GENERAL

1. Each association within HNO shall ensure that its Constitution, Bylaws, and/or Rules and Regulations include clauses covering the U7 Program, in accordance with Hockey Canada's (HC) direction.
2. All on-ice Coaches/Assistant Coaches involved in U7 must have attended and completed all applicable coaching certifications. There must be at minimum a 1:10 Qualified Coach to Player ratio on-ice at all times.
3. U7 Program On Ice Volunteers (older than 16 years of age) must have completed the Respect in Sport for Activity Leader, Gender Course, and have signed the Rowan's Law form.
4. All U7 participants **MUST** wear proper hockey equipment in accordance with Hockey Canada's Rules and Regulations governing the outfitting of players.
5. Players six (6) years of age or younger as of December 31 of the current season may be registered to and play for U7 program.
 - a) U7 Players that are deemed to be advanced by the local association are eligible to roster and play in the U9 division. Players can only be rostered to one age division at a time.
6. As per HC and HNO Rules and Regulations, for all U7 events there must be a registered Safety Person present and available (this includes all on and off ice events).
7. Each HNO member Association shall develop its own infrastructure for the delivery mechanism based on the number of participants, the HNO Rules and Regulations, and the HNO U7 Program Policy, however, it is required that all Associations use and follow HC's Initiation Program Skills Development Manuals and/or Network App to ensure players receive the best instruction. It should take a full season to properly complete the program.

B. POLICY GOVERNING U7 PRACTICE SESSIONS AND CROSS ICE GAMES

1. A normal practice session shall consist of a minimum of 40 minutes skill development and 10 minutes of cross ice or small area games (for example; freeze tag, red light/green light). After 15 practice sessions the minimum time for skill development may be decreased to no less than 25 minutes.
2. No U7 player/participant may play the entire season as a goalie. All players are to be given the opportunity to participate as a goalie should they so desire to do so.
3. U7 groups are permitted to play cross ice matchups against other Associations within HNO commencing no earlier than November 30th. U7 groups are not permitted to play against groups outside of the HNO jurisdiction.

4. 4-ounce (blue) pucks are to be used for all U7 activities. Smaller age-appropriate nets (where available) should be used for all U7 activities.
5. All U7 fun game match-ups and jamborees must be played in cross ice format.
6. One Coach/Assistant Coach, per group, is to be on the ice at all times during cross ice match-ups.
7. During fun game match-ups, all players are to be given EQUAL ice time during EACH cross ice game

C. JAMBOREES

Jamborees are fun games between groups from the same or different Associations/District. They are played in a cross-ice format only. When played the following apply; a) Each team shall have 3-5 skaters on the ice for each shift; b) Scores are NOT to be kept or recorded; c) the use of Goalies shall be in accordance with Hockey Canada on a rotation basis.

1. Jamborees shall not be held prior to November 1st.
2. Any Association or Organization wishing to host an U7 Jamboree must apply to HNO for a Sanction Permit (no charge) only the cross ice/Half ice game format is to be used for Jamborees.
3. Game sheets are not permitted during U7 Jamborees.
4. One U7 Coach/Assistant Coach per group must be on the ice at all times at all levels.
5. During Jamborees, all players are to be given EQUAL ice time. U7 teams may dress a player as a goalie.
6. Only group awards may be distributed for U7 Jamborees.
7. U7 teams are not permitted to travel outside of HNO boundaries.
 - a) Associations that reside in the Eastern and Western zones may apply for one out of branch jamboree, provided they are located a minimum of 250km from Thunder Bay. Teams will need to submit the HNO Out of Branch Travel Application Form.

Resources:

- Hockey Canada U7 Player Pathway