

Moving from U7 to U9 Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Are there tryouts for the U9 age group?

Yes, we are aiming to offer a U9B, U9C and 2 U9 Local League teams for the 2026/2027 season.

2. When do tryouts occur at the U9 age?

Tryouts for U9 players occur in September 2026 following the first week of school. Following Hockey Canada guidelines there will be 4 developmental skates that are not evaluated. There will be 3 evaluation skates after that. These skates generally occur within 2 weeks.

3. Will there be different evaluation skates for U9B and U9C?

Due to the timing of developmental skates, evaluation skates, scheduling meetings and start of the season, players will be evaluated for both U9B and U9C at the same 3 skates.

4. Does my player have to attend tryouts?

No, tryouts are not mandatory to play hockey. Tryouts are only if your player wishes to play on the B or C team. If you wish to play at the local league level your player will be placed on one of those teams.

The 4 developmental skates are open to all registered U9 players, this is not part of the evaluation process.

5. Who are the coaches?

Next season's coaches will be Bryan Kazarian U9B and Kevin McArthur, U9C. Local League coaches are still TBD.

6. How do I know what level my player should try out for?

OSGH encourages all players to attend tryouts at the highest level they are eligible for. Even if the player doesn't make the highest-level team, the experience gained from the additional ice time and tryout process should be a positive one.

7. Do I need to register for tryouts?

Yes, there will be a registration package set up for 2026/2027 tryouts through RAMP.

8. Is there a fee to try out?

Yes, there is a fee to try out. This fee is to cover the cost of ice during the tryout process.

9. How is the level of the team determined?

The organization is committed to ensuring that all teams are placed in divisions that reflect their collective skill level and foster healthy competition. This approach promotes player development and enjoyment.

Team categorization levels are posted with coaching applications and used as the basis for coach selection, player registration, and tryouts

Actual team categorizations cannot be confirmed until teams are selected. In some cases, teams should be moved up or down to ensure a suitable competitive fit with the group of players.

10. What league does each level play in?

B plays in the Ontario Women's Hockey League (OWHL), we are currently talking with the WOAA and hope they will add a U9B division.

C & Local League play in the Western Ontario Athletic Association (WOAA)

11. What do the loops look like for each league?

Loops will vary slightly year to year.

Examples of loops from 2025/2026 season:

B Loop (OWHL) – Grand River, Ayr, Waterloo, Woolwich, Brantford, Guelph, Huron Heat (Blyth) ****If WOAA creates a B loop travel will look the same as our C & LL divisions****

C and Local League Loop (WOAA) – Port Elgin, Kincardine, Walkerton, Mount Forest, Upper Maitland, Bruce Peninsula

12. What happens if my player makes the tier 1 team but wishes to play on a lower tier team?

Having an open and honest conversation with the head coach prior to try outs is important. If your intent is not to play tier 1 but your player wishes to gain experience reach out to the coach and let them know.

13. How many games are played for the season? Are there playoffs?

The season is generally 22 games. For U9 it is a split season, up to January 15th the teams play a half ice game 4 v 4 with a goalie. After January 15th the teams move to full ice. The WOAA runs a year end tournament, all teams are included in this tournament.

14. How many tournaments does each team register for?

There is no set number of tournaments for each team. The number of tournaments vary from season to season depending on the coach. In past years the U9C team entered 3 tournaments including the year end tournament. Plus, the Owen Sound Jingle Jamboree.

15. How much is registration for U9B, U9C and U9LL?

The 2025-2026 registration cost was \$675.00 for all U9 teams. This fee covers practice and game ice, referees, socks for each player, year end tournament registration fee, insurance for staff and players. Fees have not been set for 2026/2027.

Note that the \$100.00 fundraising fee is in addition to the registration fee

16. How much are team fees for U9B, U9C, U9LL?

Team fees will cover any “extras” for the team. For example, tournament fees, gifts for players, practice jerseys, water bottles, stickers, etc. These are determined by the coach and manager and will vary year to year. Budgets will be shared with parents prior to being approved by the executive, once the budget is approved fees can be paid through RAMP. Amounts will vary, this past season U9 team fees ranged from \$195 - \$500. Team fundraising can help subsidize team fees.