



Sept, 2024

Welcome to Chebucto Minor Hockey, 2024-2025 Season! Whether you are a returning U9 player, a player moving up from U7, or a brand new hockey player, there's a lot to know about U9. The below information summary should be read thoroughly by all families to help understand the season, answer questions and clarify expectations. *Checking the website and your emails often is key to ensuring you receive up to date information; due to the nature of things there are sometimes last minute changes.

U9 – Player and Family Info

U9 2024-2025 Season

Some of this information is based on past seasons, and as such, is subject to change at any point.

REGISTRATION

Registration opened mid July and typically closes mid September. This allows time to ensure all players the opportunity to get on the ice practices before evaluations. Any registration inquiries should be directed to the VP of U9 at u9@chebuctominorhockey.com or the Chebucto Registrar at registrar@chebuctominorhockey.com. Chebucto welcomes all players, at all skill levels and all teams are co-ed.

PLAYER PLACEMENT / GROUPINGS

U9 is developmental hockey and the structure is to group like-skilled players together to ensure the most development for all players. U9 consists of 3 groups; **Advancing, Intermediate, or Developmental**. Based on evaluation results players will be placed in one of the 3 groups. Team configuration (number of teams within each group), within the division as a whole, is based on registration numbers and player evaluation results and can change from year to year. As outlined in Hockey Nova Scotia Regulations "All movement of the player within the U9 program shall be progressive", this means all returning U9 players will either remain in the same grouping as prior season, or be moved up either from Development to Intermediate or Advancing, or from

intermediate to Advancing. Player regression, going from intermediate to developmental, or advancing to intermediate or developmental is not permitted.

EVALUATIONS

Generally, evaluations take place at the start of each season and could be based on Hockey Canada's [National Skills Standards and Testing \(NSST\)](#) in addition to other evaluation and assessments. It is important that all players attend evaluations unless they choose to 'Opt Out', in which case they will automatically be placed in the Developmental grouping. Families will be notified of evaluation dates once determined, this has historically been early October. After evaluation sessions player groupings will be emailed to parents and available on the [Chebucto Minor Hockey Association](#) website under [News](#). Evaluations are not try outs, there is no draft and no one is cut, evaluations serve to balance skills.

Goalies are also evaluated and placed accordingly. Goalie evaluations are separate and will be communicated to those who indicated goalie positioning at registration. This pertains to non-rotating goalies. Players who would like to try goalie, or rotate as goalie should participate in player evaluations to ensure proper placement and then can rotate goalie within their assigned team, once assigned.

REGULAR SEASON

Once the season is underway, you can expect to be at the rink up to 3 times a week. Games and practices could be held at various rinks throughout HRM.

All U9 teams, regardless of level, will practices through October and November; games start December 1st. Games are half ice games for a portion of the year and then full ice games can be introduced, depending on Hockey Nova Scotia regulation and coaches discretion. Away games are played against TASA, Bedford, Sackville and Halifax; times and locations vary based on their schedule.

Jamboree participation varies by team throughout the season, by season.

Each player will be provided game jerseys and socks for when games starts.

Depending on the team, additional funds are typically requested early on (called seed money). This amount varies based on individual team needs (usually \$100-500 per player) and is used to cover the costs of jamborees/tournaments, additional ice times, team functions etc. Some teams may also choose to fundraise.

Corporate sponsorships are possible, but not mandatory, to help with players costs.

Chebucto works with a photographer each season for player / team pictures. More info on this will come as the season gets underway.

Chebucto as an organisation supports the use of the GrayJay Ap to facilitate team schedules, and communications. GrayJay is linked to the Chebucto website and Metro Minor Hockey but keep in

mind there are various levels of features and this may vary from team to team and some team managers and coaches may choose other means, so this could vary from team to team.

GOALIES

We need Goalies – especially since we are playing half ice games all season!

If there are committed goalies those goalies will be evaluated as goalies in a similar fashion as players and placed accordingly, these are typically second year U9 players as there is not much goalie exposure in U7 and almost none in-game experience. Those interested in goalie should ensure their head coach and the VP of U9 is aware as it is encouraged that U9 players interested in the position rotate to gain experience. No commitment to goalie is required at the U9 level. Chebucto has goalie equipment available for use as players determine their interest in the position.

COACHES and MANAGERS

Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Managers are volunteers, please be respectful of this. There is one Head Coach and Manager per team and usually 3-4 Assistant Coaches plus on ice helpers. Everyone interested in helping / volunteering is encouraged to do so.

Interest in volunteer positions can be expressed upon player registration or anytime prior to the season start by reaching out to the VP of U9. After player evaluations are complete the coaching committee will determine coaches and assistants for each team. Head coaches generally decide the team manager.

There are certifications required to coach / manage but Chebucto can guide parents through this process if they're interested in volunteering at this level, there is leniency at the beginning of the season to allow time to get this completed, it is not required prior to season start.

HAVE FUN AND FOSTER A LOVE FOR THE SPORT

At the U9 level the most important thing is that kids have fun, create friendships, and enhance their love for Hockey. The U9 level should be a positive experience for all; players and families. Good sportsmanship and respect in sport starts young and young players look up to their parents / guardians and others for guidance on this, parents and families are reminded to keep this in mind as it influences the player their child will become as they age.

RESOURCES

Chebucto game schedules and association information can be found on the [Chebucto](#) website. League game schedules and league information can be found on the [Metro Minor Hockey League](#) website.

[Hockey Nova Scotia Rules and Regulations](#) document is a great reference for more detailed information, U9 seasonal info starts on page 62.