



Pre-Season FAQ's

1. Will there be “Bust the Rust” or “Prep” skates this season?

Yes, **prep-skates will be offered prior to rep tryouts and before local league evaluations.** Players who register for rep tryouts are welcome to attend rep prep skates in late August/early September and players who plan to play local league can register for local league prep skates at the end of September. The OMHA determines the number of prep skates for each age division

2. How do I register for prep skates and tryouts/evaluations?

Boys (OMHA) register for all pre-season skates via your Spordle account and Girls (OWHA) will need to register for all pre-season skates via your RAMP account. Registration will open on **Monday, August 12** and everyone is strongly encouraged to register by **Monday, August 19, 2024** so our SSMHA calendar can be finalized. TIA for your cooperation.

3. Who will run the prep skates?

SSMHA is looking for volunteers with some hockey experience to run the prep skates. SSMHA will provide practice plans for these sessions. There will be NO EVALUATIONS conducted at the prep skates.

If you're willing to volunteer to run a prep skate for your child's age division, please contact President Matt Allen: president@ssmha.com or Director of Development, Steve Hare: development@ssmha.com before August 9, 2024.

4. Do I have to register for prep skates or do I just show up?

Yes, you **MUST** register through Spordle (boys) or RAMP (girls) and pay in full to participate. The preferred method of payment is credit card. If paying by e-transfer kindly send a screenshot of the transfer to the appropriate girls or boys registrar ([Dorothy or Becky](#)) to help track payments and ensure the accounts are paid before hitting the ice. Cash will not be accepted at the door.

5. How much does an evaluation/tryout cost if my child wants to play on a rep team?

OWHA (GIRLS)	U9 prep skates and tryouts	\$100 (4 prep skates + tryouts)
	U11C (2 nd entry rep) prep skates and tryouts	\$100 (4 prep skates + tryouts)
OMHA (BOYS)	U9 MD prep skates and tryouts	\$100 (4 prep skates + tryouts)
	U11 prep skates and tryouts	\$100 (4 prep skates + tryouts)
	U13 prep skates and tryouts	\$80 (2 prep skates + tryouts)
	U15 prep skates and tryouts	\$80 (2 prep skates + tryouts)
	U18 prep skates and tryouts	\$80 (2 prep skates + tryouts)

*The number of prep skates per age division is determined by the OMHA

6. Do I have to attend rep tryouts in order to be eligible for AE/2nd entry rep tryouts?

No, you do not *have* to attend tryouts for the Tier 1/1st entry rep team in order to be eligible to participate in the AE/2nd entry tryouts. However, prep skates and rep tryouts are sold as a package and you will pay one fee for all prep skates and tryouts. This fee guarantees a minimum of 3 evaluation skates for the Tier 1 /1st entry rep team and all additional evaluations/tryouts for the AE/2nd entry team (assuming there are enough players & talent demonstrated to warrant a second entry team.)

7. How come some age groups get 2 prep skates and some age groups get 4 prep skates?

The OMHA dictates how many prep skates must be offered at each division. U11 must be offered (4) prep skates, U13, U15, and U18 must be offered (2) prep skates.

8. Are we going to make prep skates available for U9 even though OMHA only mandates prep skates for U10 and up?

Yes! The OMHA suggests that U9 players need to be offered at least (4) prep skates before they can be evaluated. Since U9 OMHA players need to be evaluated before teams can be made, they will be offered prep skates, towards the end of September. After prep-skates, evaluation skates will be scheduled. Players wishing to be evaluated for the U9 MD team (OMHA only) must register online and pay \$100 for prep skates and MD team tryouts/evaluations. It is not necessary to register for U9 local league evaluations since all players that aren't

on the MD team will be expected to participate as part of our regular programming. There is no cost associated with local league evaluations .

9. What is a U9 MD Team?

The U9 MD (minor development) team is treated similar to a rep team. There will be prep skates and tryouts offered for the U9 MD team. Families considering participation in MD tryouts need to be aware that they will experience significantly more travel and costs. (OMHA only)

10. How come there are no prep skates for the girls?

Rep tryouts/evaluations for the U11, U13, U15 and U18 OWHA teams (with the exception of U11C and U9) took place earlier this year in May 2024. SSMHA will offer prep skates to U11 players who wish to be evaluated for the U11 C Team, and girls registered in U9 who wish to tryout for the U9 rep team. Please note, U9 & U11 girls wishing to participate in these prep skates and tryouts/evaluations will need to register through RAMP.

11. Is it mandatory for me to attend prep-skates and evaluations/tryouts?

No, if your child wishes to try out for a rep team they will need to register and pay for Rep prep skates and tryouts. If they are not interested in playing on a rep team, prep skates will be offered prior to local league evaluations. You will be required to register and pay for Local League prep skates. Local league evaluations will take place at the end of September in order to build balanced teams. You do not need to register for local league evaluations and there is no cost associated with local league evaluations.

12. What development skates are being offered by SSMHA?

The following development skates are being offered to SSMHA players: New to Hockey (U9 and above), Body Checking (OMHA players), Introduction to Goaltending, and Body Positioning (OWHA players). Please note: some of these programs are only available to those registered in OMHA and some are only available to those registered in OWHA. For more information, see program descriptions in Spordle or RAMP, August 12-16.

13. How do I know when my prep skates and evaluations/tryouts are?

The [SSMHA calendar](#) will be uploaded by August 12, 2024. Please note that this schedule is subject to change based on registration numbers for prep skates and evaluations. Please consult the SSMHA website often for confirmation of dates and times.

14. My child wants to participate in the prep-skates and evaluations/tryouts, but I don't have the extra money right now. Is there a subsidy or payment plan available?

Yes, thanks to our generous sponsors, SSMHA has set aside some money to help subsidize players whose families might be struggling financially. We don't want any child to miss out due to financial reasons. If your child wants to participate in any of our September development opportunities but you just can't afford it, please contact our Treasurer, [Meghan Kronister](#) to access the subsidy and get your child registered before August 16, 2024. All requests will be kept confidential.

15. I want to volunteer as a coach, an assistant coach, a trainer or a manager. What do I need to do before the start of the season?

First, contact the appropriate Director to express your interest in volunteering ASAP. Next, gather the following documentation and have it ready to upload to the OHF portal.

- PDF of a vulnerable sector check completed for SSMHA during the 2022/23 or 2023/24 seasons. Vulnerable sector checks completed for another organization or completed prior to 2022/23 will not be accepted. If you need a new vulnerable sector check, visit your local police station and give them this [form](#).
- Complete the screening process using the [OHF portal](#)
- You will be able to see if it was approved by logging into your Spordle account a few days later.

16. I have questions about prep-skates or evaluations/tryouts. Who should I contact?

If you have questions, please don't ever hesitate to contact the appropriate Director or any member of our [Executive Team](#). We are here to help and genuinely want this to be a positive experience.

OWHA Director: [Mike McNabb](#)

OMHA Rep Director : [Matt Willis](#)

Director of Local League Hockey: [Kerri Burns](#)

Director of U9 and Below: [Ashley Tuttle](#)

Coordinator of U7: [Amy Shute](#)

17. Where will preseason activities take place?

All preseason activities will take place at the PLEX in Port Elgin.