



What to expect....

U8 Division

Let the *players play*
Let the *coaches coach*
Let the *officials officiate*
Let the *spectators be positive!*

in Skill Groups
22-26

Team Roster #
14-15

How will the season be structured?

- 1) Skill Groups: Players will be assigned to one of three U8 skill groups. Many will be with the same players they were with in U7, however there may be some new friends to make as well. Players must attend the skill group session they are assigned to.
- 2) Teams: "Balanced" teams will be formed in late September with players from all skill groups on all teams. Half-ice balancing games will start in early November against other TBird teams. During games, two half-ice scrimmages will take place where players on both teams are split so they are playing against similar skill players. Games are played against other associations after December 1 either at home or teams can arrange away games. Most teams will play between 8-12 league games plus 1-2 tournaments.
- 3) Goalies: all players will play a minimum of one game with those who want to play more getting the chance to do so. Opt-in goalie training will occur bi-weekly on Tuesdays @ 4:30 at UBC (Sept 14-Dec)

First Session
Sept 12

Skills Challenge
Sept 18

Winter Break
Dec 20-
Jan 2

Family Day Tourney
Feb 18-20

Last Session
Mar 6

2021-22 Season

Skill Development Focus

Edge work, stride, starts, crossovers, intro to small area games, skating with puck.

Coach Responsibility

Developing hockey skills is something we look for in all our coaches, but it is not what we value the most. We want every coach to focus on ensuring ALL players are in a safe environment where they ALL can learn to love hockey. It is expected ALL coaches will be part of ensuring every player is included.

Parent Involvement

There will be lots of opportunities for parents to be more than chauffeurs to and from the rink. Coach, be the team manager, help with the tourney, work the clock, take pics for the TBirds website, but most importantly, be a supportive parent and remember we want our players to love coming to the rink.

Schedule Overview

Assessments: Sept 12 & Sept 18

All players will be on the ice for our Hockey Advisor to assign them into their initial skill groups. The goal is to have players of similar skill level be assigned to each group, and players may be further grouped within each group. This model allows each player to be challenged and continue developing their skills in each session. Movement between groups may occur mid-season by the Hockey Advisor to ensure all players continue to develop in an appropriate grouping.

Regular ice times:

Start of season: all players will participate in two skill group sessions each week. Once teams are formed, ice times on Saturdays will remain as skill groups, Sunday times will move to teams as game slots, and a weekday time will rotate between skill groups and team practices.

Schedules are expected to be:

- #1: Saturdays from 8:15-9:15 am OR 9:30-10:30 am OR 2:30-3:30 pm (Kerrisdale)
- #2: Sundays from 2:30-3:30 pm OR 3:45-4:45 pm OR 5:00-6:00 pm (Kits)
- #3: Wednesdays 4:15-5:15 pm (UBC) OR Thursdays 5:45-6:45 pm (Hillcrest) OR Fridays 4:00-5:00 pm (Kits)

On-ice Coaches:

Vancouver Hockey School will provide on-ice leadership ~every third skill group session. For skill group #3, a skill lead will attend all skill group sessions early in the season to provide mentorship to those parent coaches who will gain skills and confidence to begin leading some sessions from November onward. Team coaches will lead all team practices with support from the Coach Development lead, U7-U9 Teams.

Division Ambassadors

Kristen Snyder (email)
Anita Gee (email)

DAs will help pass along information and support team/skill group staff.

SKATE. SHOOT. SOAR.

For more information, go to www.vancouverbirds.ca