

# VANCOUVER-THUNDERBIRDS

U7-U9 Season Overview





# YOUR T-BIRDS SUPPORT TEAM

**PHIL  
KINNINMONT**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
PKINNINMONT@VANCOUVERTBIRDS.CA



**RHIANNON  
WONG**

U7/U9 DIRECTOR  
RWONG@VANCOUVERTBIRDS.CA



**MIKE  
BECIR**

U7/U9 DIRECTOR  
MBECIR@VANCOUVERTBIRDS.CA





# DIVISION OVERVIEW

- U7 is of 5-6 year olds, formerly U6 and U7
- U9 is of 7-8 year olds, formerly U8 and U9
- Hockey Canada recommends that like skilled players be grouped together to maximize puck touches by all players.







# 2023 DIVISION AMBASSADORS (DA'S)

A Division Ambassador is your first point of contact for any questions about the season.

Each division has a team of 4 parent volunteer DAs who coordinate and oversee your child's age group on behalf of the Tbirds.



U9 (2015)

**Leslie Teramoto**  
u9-lteramoto@vancouverbirds.ca  
**Stephanie McCardle**  
u9-smccardle@vancouverbirds.ca



U9 (2016)

**Camille Wenner**  
u9-cwenner@vancouverbirds.ca  
**Mandi Derry**  
u9-mderry@vancouverbirds.ca



U8 (2017)

**Claudia Cravino**  
u7-ccravino@vancouverbirds.ca  
**Jessica Lee**  
u7-jlee@vancouverbirds.ca



U8 (2016)

**Emily Zhong**  
u7-ezhong@vancouverbirds.ca  
**Chao Hon**  
u7-chon@vancouverbirds.ca



2023-2024

## SEASON START

### Start of Season:

U7: week of September 13th

U9: September 10th

## U7

- Players born 2017 and 2018
- Two streams: Major and Minors
- 10 Teams
- 2 Ice times
- Cross Ice format
- Games within Association start November 1st, 2023
- Games start January 1st, 2024
- 4 vs 4 games with goalies

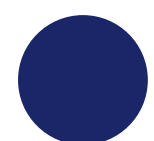
## U9

- Players born 2015 and 2016
- Two streams: Majors and Minors
- 12 Teams
- 3 Ice times
- Half-ice games within Tbirds start October 15th, 2023
- Half-ice games inter-association games start December 1st, 2023
- Full-ice games start January 15th, 2024
- 4 vs 4 games with goalies until full ice transition.
- Goalie Development





# PLAYER PLACEMENT PROCESS



## PRE-PLACEMENT PATHWAY SKATES

Players will participate in 2-3 Pathway Skates to ensure all players have the opportunity to be on the ice before the player placement process.



## PLAYER PLACEMENT PROCESS

Player placement assessment skates will be a minimum of 3 sessions.

- one skills session,
- one small-area games session, and
- one cross-ice game for U7 and one half-ice game for U9.

3 external assessors will evaluate each player for transparency, fairness, and consistency.

**All spring hockey and other MHA gear, jerseys and decals are not permitted at player placements or league games**



## PLAYER PLACEMENT

Assessments are used to determine:

- U7 Minor (development stream)/ U7 Major (proficient stream).
- U9 Minor (development stream)/ U7 Major (proficient stream).
- Skills development groups.
- Balanced Teams.

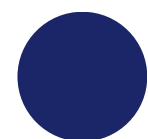






# SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

One ice session will be dedicated to skills development.



These sessions are led by volunteer parent Head Coaches and Derek Popke from Vancouver Hockey school



U9: 6 Skill Groups.  
U8: 5 Skill Groups.

Players will be placed in Skill Groups with players of similar skill level.





# TEAMS

PCAHA Rule Book:

*An Association forming teams shall divide all players within each of U7 and U9 into equally balanced teams prior to commencing inter-Association play.*

*“Equally balanced teams” shall mean teams which are balanced on the basis of the skill levels of the players and competitive strength.*

Associations having multiple teams in a category (Major or Minor) must balance their teams.

- Approximately 15 players per team
- U7 equal goalie rotation
- U9 one round of goalie rotation
- No minimum # of players per birth year.
- Both Minor and Major groups will have equal ice time.





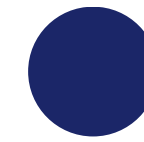


# VOLUNTEERS

Each parent has paid \$150 refundable volunteer fee

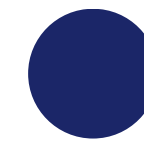
More information here:

<https://www.vancouverbirds.ca/tbirdsvolunteerprogram/>



## REQUIRED VOLUNTEER HOURS

- 3 hours for the Association
- 3 hours for the Team



## IN NEED OF:

- 11 Skill Group Managers
- 22 Team Managers
- 44 Hockey Canada Safety People
- Family Day Tournament Committee Volunteers



## REFUND

- Refunds will be reimbursed at the end of season





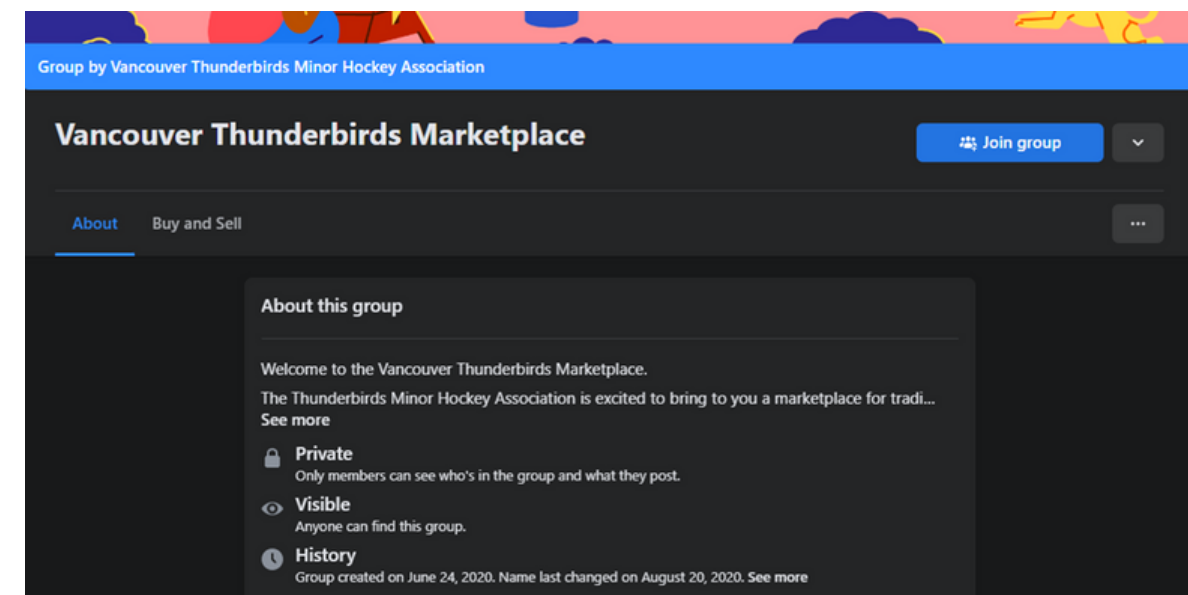
# OTHER TIDBITS

## Tournaments:

- U7 max 25 games including tournaments; max two tournaments including Tbirds Family Day Tourney.
- U9 max 35 games including tournaments. This will include Tbirds Family Day Tournament.

## Uniform:

- Players will receive Timbits Practice Jersey and Socks.
- Tbirds will provide Home and Away Game Jerseys.
- Players must purchase Tbirds game socks from Cyclone Taylor.
- Tbirds helmet colour is Royal Blue.







## GEAR UP *WITH BAUER*



© 2016 BAUER Hockey, Inc. and its affiliates. All rights reserved.

# TBIRDS DISCOUNT AT CYCLONE TAYLOR

Mention that you play for the Vancouver Thunderbirds and get 10% of your new gear!

- Players do not need a mouthguard.
- Tbirds Helmet colour is ROYAL BLUE.
- Players will receive a Timbits practice jersey and socks.
- Game socks will need to be purchased at Cyclone Taylor at a later date.



# SAVE THE DATE

- Team Photo Day- November date TBA
- Tbirds Nite Out at Vancouver Canucks Game: Saturday December 9th
- Family Day Tournament: Friday Feb 16-19th, 2024

Tbirds host this tournament:

- All families must volunteer at minimum of one shift.
- All Tbirds teams will play in this tournament.







## EMAIL

[rwong@vancouverbirds.ca](mailto:rwong@vancouverbirds.ca)

[mbecir@vancouverbirds.ca](mailto:mbecir@vancouverbirds.ca)

[pkinninmont@vancouverbirds.ca](mailto:pkinninmont@vancouverbirds.ca)

## PCAHA RULE BOOK

<https://pcaha.ca/rules/>.

## WEBSITE

<https://www.vancouverbirds.ca/belowatomdivision/s>.