



**Saskatoon  
Minor  
Hockey  
Association**

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## SMHA / Saskatoon Blades Novice Hockey Program

### ***Are you 7 or 8 years old? If you said yes, you are eligible to become a Saskatoon Blade for the hockey season?***

The Saskatoon Minor Hockey Association (SMHA) and the Saskatoon Blades of the WHL are both excited to be partnering on a great program designed to assist with the development of our Novice Age hockey players, their coaches and their parents.

The goal of the 10-year partnership (first year: 2007-2008) is to offer developmental opportunities for all involved in Novice hockey in the SMHA system. The Saskatoon Blades have committed very generously to this new program, both in a monetary fashion and with time and goodwill.

The key components of the Blades Novice Program are as follows:

- All SMHA players participating in any level of Novice Hockey (Novice 1, 2, 3 or Novice Recreational) will receive professional skating instruction from certified power skating instructors as part of their regular Novice program. The funding for this program will be provided by the Saskatoon Blades.
- The power skating instruction will be of benefit to the coaches of the teams as well as they will be expected to participate with the Instructor and grasp the key teaching points. These key teaching points can then be emphasized to the Novice players by their coaches at subsequent practices.
- All Novice coaches will attend a coaching seminar provided by the Saskatoon Blades coaching staff at Credit Union Centre. The coaches will be shown a hands-on demonstration of drills that are effective for the Novice age group.
- Throughout the season, Saskatoon Blades players will be attending the practices of the SMHA's Novice teams to provide some fun and some role modeling for the youngsters in the program.
- All players in all levels of the SMHA's Novice teams will be provided with special Saskatoon Blades Novice jerseys that will be done in the traditional color of the player's zone but will feature the Saskatoon Blades logo on the chest along with the zone logo on the shoulders.
- All Novice players and their coaches will be invited to attend a Saskatoon Blades game on the Blades Novice Hockey Night. The tickets will be provided with compliments of the Blades.

For more information, please contact the SMHA office at 244-1363 or by e-mail at [smha@sasktel.net](mailto:smha@sasktel.net).

