



Markham Minor Hockey Association  
Unionville Minor Hockey Association



*To: MMHA and UMHA Midget & Juvenile Players and Parents*

*Subject: Game Management Strategies*

Last year, there were a number of significant incidents and suspensions during Midget and Juvenile games. Although only a small percentage of players were involved, we want to reduce the occurrences and increase the enjoyment of the game for all participants.

In order to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment, both the Unionville Minor Hockey Association and the Markham Minor Hockey Association have adopted new Game Management strategies. Game management is more than dealing with player misbehaviour. We want to be proactive, not just reactive. Our goals are to:

1. Prevent incidents that could result in injury.
2. Increase the enjoyment of the game of hockey for players, parents, coaches and referees.
3. Provide an environment in which integrity, respect and sportsmanship is valued above winning.

We have devised the following plan to meet our goals:

1. There must be an appropriate number of coaches per team—**at least two adults, preferably three, are required on each bench**. Effective player management is directly related to the number of adults on the bench.
2. Each bench is required to have one fully certified coach and one fully certified trainer whose certifications are current. PRS/Speak Out (this course is called Respect in Sport if done online) is also mandated for any other team official on the bench, e.g., assistant coaches.
3. Certification is primarily about player safety and failure to meet these requirements can impact our insurance coverage.

Information about these courses is available on both the [UMHA website](#) and the [MMHA website](#). We can assist you in arranging to take these courses if you

contact us.

4. We will only run teams for which we have enough certified volunteers who commit to being on the bench on a weekly basis. What does this mean?

We will form as many teams as possible based on the number of dedicated, certified volunteers we have, not based on the number of players we have. Players will be placed on teams based on the order in which they registered.

5. The Board Members of the UMHA and the MMHA will be working with our respective Referees-in-Chief to review other on-ice measures, including but not limited to, stricter penalties and more immediate ejections from games.
6. Game management will start on the first day of the season.
7. We will work towards diffusing situations rather than reacting to them.
8. We will meet and review strategies with players, coaches, and conveners throughout the year.

***Please remember!*** Our leagues cannot be run without our volunteers. They donate countless hours to ensure your children can play hockey in a safe and enjoyable environment. Please support these measures and please consider volunteering your time.

### ***Goalies***

*In the past, we have had more goalies register than there were teams available. We cannot guarantee a full time goalie position to anyone. If there are more goalies than teams, we will approach all registered goalies to see if any want to share goaltending duties on one team. If this does not resolve the issue, then the UMHA and MMHA will jointly decide which goalies will share goaltending duties on one team based on, but not limited to, factors such as attendance at games in the previous season, evaluation ratings and registration date.*

Parents, please take a few moments and discuss this with your child(ren). We believe these guidelines will ensure everyone's safety and make this year one of our best yet.

*See you at the rink!*

Board of Directors  
MMHA & UMHA