



# Moving from Sr. Timbits to U9

There are many changes for kids and parents entering the U9 world of hockey. This is where our more formal program begins.

## What Stays the Same

### Half-Ice Play

- Players will play (and often practice) **half ice for 2/3 of the season**. This format supports puck touches, decision-making, and builds confidence for every player. Teams will be split in two (in a different way each game so kids can all play with each other on their team). The 'away' team in each game will switch sides to the other half of the ice when the buzzer sounds at the end of the first half.

### Full-Ice Introduction

- Each team will play **6 full-ice games**. These usually begin in **February**.

### No Score

- U9 teams do not keep score during half-ice, full-ice or tournament play.

## What is Different in U9

### Evaluations

Mark your calendar for the first two weekends of September – this is when evaluations are held, usually in the mornings for U9 kids. The purpose of evaluations is to create teams of kids who are all at approximately the same skill level. This allows the Hawks to play other associations around the city who are all “tiering” a similar way. Evaluations are done by a third-party evaluator. Read more about it on our website under “Parents” and “Evaluations”.

### Arena Locations

Your practices and games can be located anywhere in Edmonton or the surrounding community, though you will definitely see some locations repeating more than others. Castledowns traditionally makes up about half of the game locations.

### Formal Team Staff

U9 opens the door to the world of tournaments, fundraising and real Hawks jerseys. Keeping track of all of this takes a village, as they say.

Every team will have designated parent roles:

- **Treasurer** – Manages team finances and reporting.
- **Manager** – Coordinates communication and logistics.
- **Jersey Parent(s)** – The home and away Hawks jerseys reside with the jersey parent(s) for the duration of the season. Kids do not take them home after games, nor do they keep them at the end of the season. Jersey parents wash the jerseys after each game and bring them back for the next game.
- **Fundraising Coordinator** – Leads fundraising efforts. Pro tip: **Save your bottles now.** Bottle drives are simple, effective, and act as an effective “season kick off” team-building event to boot.
- **Tournament Finder** – Researches and organizes tournament opportunities. In U9, we recommend local tournaments that don’t involve the added cost of travel and hotels.
- **Parent Liaison** – If there is an issue or a dispute between the coach and parents on the team, the parent liaison would participate in mediating this.

### **Team Bank Account**

Each team will operate a **team bank account** and is expected to participate in **fundraising efforts**. Fundraising helps cover tournament entry fees, extra practice ice, team-building events (on or off the ice, and team merchandise (if desired).

### **Cash Calls**

Your team will first decide what they would like to see for the team this season and will then do a “cash call” to parents to help get the bank account started. Cash calls are simply an ask for a dollar amount from the parents and are usually between \$100 and \$200 here at the Hawks.

**Should you have any questions over the summer about U9, don’t hesitate to email us at [u9@hawksathletics.ca](mailto:u9@hawksathletics.ca)**