



# INFORMATION BULLETIN

**Bulletin No: 14/37**

Date: April 21, 2015  
To: Minor Hockey Associations  
From: Justin Fesyk  
Senior Manager, Hockey Development

**SUBJECT: Hockey Delivery Model – Initiation Hockey**

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Hockey Alberta will be developing program guidelines and resources to support and provide direction for our Minor Hockey Associations to implement and operate a skill development program for players six years of age and younger -- the Initiation Program.

Based on Hockey Canada's Long Term Player Development (LTPD) model, players who are six years old and younger should be focusing on having fun, learning skills and developing physical literacy. The ultimate goal of this level of hockey is to make the first impression of hockey a positive one for all players and parents.

Aligning with the LTPD model, Hockey Alberta will be developing a formal set of guidelines for Initiation-aged players based on the following principles:

1. The technical curriculum should focus on physical literacy and having fun.
2. The official playing surface for practices and games should be reduced to one-half, one-third or one-quarter the size of the regulation playing surface.
3. The equipment should be amended to fit the size and skill level of the players.
4. Registration and regulation should not be the same as for higher levels or older age divisions.
5. Instructors should be trained in an appropriate manner to teach players of this age and level of development.

Hockey Alberta will be developing a manual that will consist of the Initiation Program guidelines, technical curriculum and other resources and will make this manual available to our member Minor Hockey Associations prior to the start of the 2015-2016 season.

For any further information or questions please contact:

Justin Fesyk  
[jfesyk@hockeyalberta.ca](mailto:jfesyk@hockeyalberta.ca)