



WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2026/27 SEASON

The **NHL/NHLPA First Shift** is an introductory program that makes hockey fun, safe, accessible, and affordable for children wanting to try hockey and their families.

Since 2014, more than **1,900 programs** have been delivered across Canada, welcoming over **68,000 young Canadians** to try hockey through the **NHL/NHLPA First Shift**. First Shift is committed to ensuring the program and the sport of hockey welcomes everyone, no matter your race, gender, religion, ability, or sexual orientation. A more inclusive future creates avenues for new players across all backgrounds, the chance to inspire the next generations on and off the ice. We believe diversity makes us all stronger and want to ensure opportunities are available for everyone to be welcome into the hockey community!

Program Overview

Your program will include:

- **A Welcome Event - Offering Head-to-Toe BAUER Equipment** - Fitted by experts for all participants.
- **6 on-ice sessions** - once per week on the same day, at the same time to make it convenient for parents to schedule. The focus of the on-ice sessions is fun, teaching kids basic skating and fundamental hockey skills.
- Following the on-ice sessions, participants have the option of **participating in their minor hockey association-managed Transition Program** or in some communities, the local hockey association can place NHL/NHLPA First Shift on to a minor hockey team.





WHY HOST A FIRST SHIFT?



- 1. GROW YOUR MEMBERSHIP** 
- 2. PROVEN SUCCESS** 
- 3. BUILD COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS** 
- 4. SIMPLE TO RUN** 
- 5. MAKE HOCKEY ACCESSIBLE** 
- 6. INCREASE LONG-TERM RETENTION** 
- 7. PROMOTE INCLUSION & DIVERSITY** 





FUN

On-ice curriculum focused on fun games.

ACCESSIBLE

Open to ages 6-10 that have never previously been registered in local hockey.

1:4 instructor to skater ratio.

AFFORDABLE

Full equipment + 6 on-ice sessions.

Low cost for families.

SAFE

Hockey Canada provided insurance through Pathway to Hockey Coverage.

Proper-sized Bauer gear fitted by fit experts.

Program Support

- Support with logistics, shipments and equipment.
- Support for any questions related to hosting, insurance, on-ice curriculum and next steps into minor hockey.
- Interactive website containing all the information and dates regarding the program.
- Online management portal through the Hockey Canada Registry, enabling hosts to view all aspects of their program and registration in real time.
- NHL club support may include; alumni participation, building use, mascot participation and limited gifting.
- Strategy to promote the registration of girls.

Apply to Host

Local Hockey Associations interest in hosting a program can visit: www.FirstShift.ca/for-hosts
If you have any additional questions, email TheFirstShift@HockeyCanada.ca

