



# LMML Season Structure – 2025/2026

*Last Updated: Nov 20, 2025*



# Season Structure – Decision Topics

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Topic	Details	Decision
OMHA Restrictions for U11+	U8 & U9 – Pathways U11-U18 – Head-to-head permitted only as final series with a max best-of-3	N/A – shared for informational purposes only
Team Submission	All centres must submit their team numbers and pre-seed recommendations <b>by August 29</b> . Adjustments no later than <b>September 5</b> .	<b>APPROVED</b> Confirm team submission date
Season Framework	Fall Season: Sep 29 to Dec 22 (~11 weeks) Winter Season / Playoffs: see slides 4 & 5  <i>Note: Booking beyond March 31 subject to centre ice availability</i>	<b>APPROVED</b> Decide on season dates and structure
March Break	Proposed no league play March 14-20 unless both teams agree to play	<b>APPROVED</b>
Play-off Winners	What physical memento will be awarded to winner teams and what dictates a “winning” team	<b>TO BE VOTED ON (LATER DATE)</b> Prizes for each tier (1 <sup>st</sup> -vs-2nd) for Champions (hats) and Finalists (pucks)
U8 & U9	U9 are not permitted to operate in any elimination play-off format;  <i>(Note: style of event does not count towards Hockey Canada Pathways tournaments)</i>	<b>APPROVED</b> Tournament scheduled for April 10-12 2026 run by a volunteer on behalf of LMML
U7	U7 scheduling and league structure with optional additional gameplay supported by the league	<b>APPROVED</b>



# Overall Season Structure

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## Summary of LMLL Structure for 2025-2026

Division	Competition Mechanism	Season Format
U7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “MD” teams are not permitted</li><li>• Teams to be placed into tiers due to centre programming</li></ul>	Centres can opt into scheduling or request match-ups for manual scheduling
U8/U9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All centre's teams balanced</li><li>• Teams pre-seeded into 2 divisions for Half-ice and Full-ice season</li></ul>	Half-ice: 12 games, Sep 29 to Jan 10 Full-ice: 12 games, Jan 11 to Mar 31 <sup>st</sup>
U11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All centre's teams balanced</li><li>• Teams randomly placed into 2 divisions</li><li>• Re-seeding after both Fall and Winter seasons</li></ul>	Fall Season: 12 games, Sep 29 to Dec 23rd Winter Season: 8 games, Jan 2nd to Feb 15th Playoffs Round 1: 6 round-robin games, Feb 16th to Mar 13th Playoffs Round 2: Head-to-head best of 3, Mar 21th to 31st
U13		
U15		
U18		



## LMLL Season Structure - Details



# U7 Season Structure

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## General approach for the U7 Season

- Hockey Canada pathways limits the number of games for U7 teams and general guidance recommends most games against other centres occur after the Christmas break (note: internal games/scrimmages are permitted so long as pathways are adhered to)
- All games must be operated in a cross-ice setup
- All games scheduled outside of OneDB/LMLL will require travel permits for both centres
- Note: WOGHL is running a U7 division for centres wanting to form girls-only teams

## Survey Results

- MD teams will not be scheduled as part of LMLL for 2025/2026
- Centres had various approaches for U6/U7 programming which resulted in unbalanced match-ups
- **Teams will be pre-seeded into 3 Tiers.**
- All centres are to remind coaches to try to play balanced games. All blowouts **MUST** be reported to stats@lmll.ca

## Electronic Scheduling

Dates	League Setup	Games
November - December	Divisions based on 3 Tiers	2 home and 2 away
January - March	Divisions geographically situated based on 3 Tiers	4 home and 4 away

**Note:** U7 are not permitted to operate playoffs and no scores are kept



# U7 Season Structure (cont'd)

## December 14, 2025 Modification (as approved by electronic vote)

### Fall Season

- All games requesting cancellation must be made within 24hrs of approval of this agreement
- All cancellations will be reviewed by Exec for appropriateness and determination if \$25/\$50/\$100 fines are applied dependent on the situation
- Additional match-ups can be added on a best effort basis to address short falls

### Winter Season

- All games between centres in green drive must be met, cancellation is \$100 fine but accepted. If teams still want to cancel then 2 wks notice is required to avoid additional fines
- All games between centres in yellow cancelled less than 2wks still \$100 fine
- All games between centres in yellow cancelled by December 31 will be approved

	Aylmer	Belmont	Dorchester	East Lambton	Ilderton	Lambeth	Lambton Shores	Lucan	Mt Brydges	North Middlesex	Point Edward	Port Stanley	South Huron	St Marys	St Thomas	Strathroy	Thamesford
Aylmer																	
Belmont																	
Dorchester																	
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Lambton Shores																	
Lucan																	
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North Middlesex																	
Point Edward																	
Port Stanley																	
South Huron																	
St Marys																	
St Thomas																	
Strathroy																	
Thamesford																	

*Note: that the board by-laws allows the board the right to issue, modify, or forego fines on a situation-by-situation basis*



# U9 Season Structure

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## General approach for the U9 Season

- LMLL will operate a combined U8 and U9 division due to low number of centres willing to run separately
- Pre-seeding approach to increase competitive playing environment for Half-ice and Full-ice Season
- All teams have sufficient players to split and play two half-ice games; If both teams have low numbers then 1 half-ice game can be played with both centres agreement (Note: 3/4 ice games are not permitted)
- Fines will be considered for forfeit scenarios

## Half-ice Season – Half-ice

Dates	League Structure <sup>1</sup>	Games	Ranking	Outcome
Sept 29 – Jan 10	Teams pre-seeded into Tier 1 and Tier 2 divisions	12 ( <i>where possible centres not to play themselves</i> )	N/A – scoring not used	N/A

## Full-Ice Season – Full-ice

Dates <sup>2</sup>	League Structure <sup>1</sup>	Games	Ranking	Outcome
Jan 11 – Mar 31	Teams pre-seeded into Tier 1 and Tier 2 divisions	12 ( <i>where possible centres not to play themselves</i> )	Win % Head-to-head Goals Ratio (GF/GA)	N/A

**Note:** U9 are not permitted to operate playoffs. An optional year-end league event will be run for the end of March.

<sup>1</sup>League Structure: Teams within OneDB are considered sufficient to play two half-ice games at once; Team #'s pending final confirmation from centres



# U11-U18 Season Structure - Overview

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## General approach for the U11-U18 Season

- Pre-seeding was attempted but didn't create sufficient division sizes and was cancelled following a LMLL Board vote in September 2025
- Fall Season: 12 games running from September to Christmas
- Re-seeding and scheduling for Winter Season to occur during Christmas break
  - Bottom teams in Tier 1 and Top teams in Tier 3 will form a new middle Tier
  - Exceptional teams may be bumped from Tier 3 to Tier 1, or conversely from Tier 1 to Tier 3 at the discretion of LMLL board
- Winter Season: 8 games running Jan 2 – Feb 15
- Playoffs: Feb 16 – March 31

## Pre-seeding Approach - NOT USED FOR 25/26

- Based on historical results, there is a pre-determined skill level based on the representative+LL team structure within a centre
- Lower ages are more impacted by a few strong players
- LMLL will host a seeding vote by late September, 1 week after all teams are submitted
- Fall Season will include Tier 1 and Tier 3 divisions
- Winter Season will include Tier 1, 2, and 3 divisions
- Playoffs will include Tier 1, 2, 3 and 4 divisions
- General Ranking of teams
  - 1 Rep, 2+ LL
  - 0 Rep, 1+ LL
  - 1 Rep, 1AE, 2+ LL
  - 1 Rep, 1AE, 1LL





# U11/U13/U15/U18 Season

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## Structure

### Fall Season

Dates	League Structure	Games	Ranking	Outcome
Sept 29 – Dec 23	Each age group has 2 randomly divided divisions with roughly half of the teams	Round-robin 12 games	Win % Head-to-Head Goals GF/GA	Each team ranked within division. New divisions created as Tier 1/2 with teams divided evenly between the 2 tiers while taking into consideration the results.

### Winter Season

Dates	League Structure	Games	Ranking	Outcome
Jan 2 – Feb 15	U11 Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 U13 Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 U15 Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2 U18 Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 2	Round-robin 8 games	Win % Head-to-Head Goals GF/GA	Each team ranked within tiers to create play-off match-ups

*1Dates: see slide #1; 2Structure: pending final confirmation of team #'s by centres*



# U11-U18 Season Structure - Playoffs

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## Structure

- Teams will be divided into 4 Tiers based on the results of the Fall and Winter seasons
- Playoff Round #1: Feb 16 – March 13
  - Randomly scheduled games in 6 game round-robin
  - Requested no curfew
  - No overtime for tied games after regulation
- Playoff Round #2: March 21 – March 31
  - Ranked teams play best-of-3 finals for each position (i.e. 1v2 for first, 3v4 for third, etc)
  - Higher ranked team will host 2 games; Each centre should host one of the first two games unless both reps agree due to ice availability challenges
  - Required no curfew
  - Games will have 1 Overtime period, 10 minute, 4-on-4, sudden victory; If no winner then shootout
    - 3 shooters from each team, shooting at the same time; if tied are 3 shooters then
    - 1 shooter from each team, shooting at the same time; continue until a winner
    - Shooters cannot shoot again until all other players have participated
- *Games can be booked into April with approval from the Statistician*
- Winners: 4 sets of hats and 4 sets of pucks (1 set of each for each tier at each age group)
- Odd numbers will require a round-robin for the bottom 3 teams for round #2 (i.e. home-and-home)



# Season Structure – Tiering Visual

## Development Season

## Regular Season

## Playoffs #1

## Playoffs #2

~~Pre-seeding~~

DIVISION WEST

DIVISION EAST

Tier 1

Tier 3

Tier 1

Tier 2

Tier 3

Tier 4

### Example

- Tier 1 1<sup>st</sup> vs 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Tier 1 3<sup>rd</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup>
- Tier 1 5<sup>th</sup> vs 6<sup>th</sup> vs 7<sup>th</sup>
- Tier 2 1<sup>st</sup> vs 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Tier 2 3<sup>rd</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup>
- Tier 2 5<sup>th</sup> vs 6<sup>th</sup>
- Tier 3 1<sup>st</sup> vs 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Tier 3 3<sup>rd</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup>
- Tier 3 5<sup>th</sup> vs 6<sup>th</sup> vs 7<sup>th</sup>
- Tier 4 1<sup>st</sup> vs 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Tier 4 3<sup>rd</sup> vs 4<sup>th</sup>
- Tier 4 5<sup>th</sup> vs 6<sup>th</sup>

**Yellow** = Prize awarded

In divisions with odd numbers, the bottom 3 teams will play a Home-and-Home round-robin series



# Season Structure – Tiering Visual

