



LMML Season Structure – 2025/2026

Last Updated: Sept 1, 2025



Season Structure – Decision Topics

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 by August 29 . Adjustments no later than September 5 .	TO BE VOTED ON 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>	TO BE VOTED ON Decide on season dates and structure
March Break	Proposed no league play March 9-15	TO BE VOTED ON
Play-off Winners	What physical memento will be awarded to winner teams and what dictates a “winning” team	TO BE VOTED ON (LATER DATE) Prizes for each tier (1 st -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>	TO BE VOTED ON Tournament scheduled for March XX-XX 2026 run by a volunteer on behalf of LMLL
U7	U7 scheduling and league structure with optional additional gameplay supported by the league	TO BE VOTED ON



Overall Season Structure

Summary of LMLL Structure for 2025-2026

Division	Competition Mechanism	Season Format
U7	• “MD” teams are not permitted • Teams to be placed into tiers due to centre programming	Geographically created divisions to limit travel Centres can opt into scheduling or request match-ups for manual scheduling
U8/U9	• All centre's teams balanced • Teams pre-seeded into 2 divisions for Half-ice and Full-ice season	Half-ice: 12 games, Sep 29 to Jan XX Full-ice: 12 games, Jan XX to Mar 31 st
U11	• All centre's teams balanced • Teams pre-seeded into 2 divisions • Re-seeding after both Fall and Winter seasons	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 8th Playoffs Round 2: Head-to-head best of 3, Mar 16th to 31st
U13		
U15		
U18		



LMML Season Structure - Details



U7 Season Structure

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. Re-tiering can occur over Christmas break.**
- All centres are to remind coaches to try to play balanced games. All blowouts **MUST** be reported to stats@lml.ca

Electronic Scheduling

Dates	League Setup	Games
November - December	2 divisions geographically situated based on 3 Tiers (i.e. East/West within all 3 Tier levels)	2 home and 2 away
January - March	2 divisions geographically situated based on 3 Tiers (i.e. East/West within all 3 Tier levels)	4 home and 4 away

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



U9 Season Structure

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 ¹	Games	Ranking	Outcome
Sept 29 – Jan XX	XX 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 ²	League Structure ¹	Games	Ranking	Outcome
Jan XX – Mar 31	XX 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.

¹League 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

General approach for the U11-U18 Season

- Pre-seeding approach to increase competitive playing environment (see below)
- 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

- 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

Structure

Fall Season

Dates	League Structure	Games	Ranking	Outcome
Sept 29 – Dec 23 (U18 starts Oct XX)	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 (XX) Tier 3 (XX) U13 Tier 1 (XX) Tier 3 (XX) U15 Tier 1 (XX) Tier 3 (XX) U18 Tier 1 (XX) Tier 3 (XX)	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



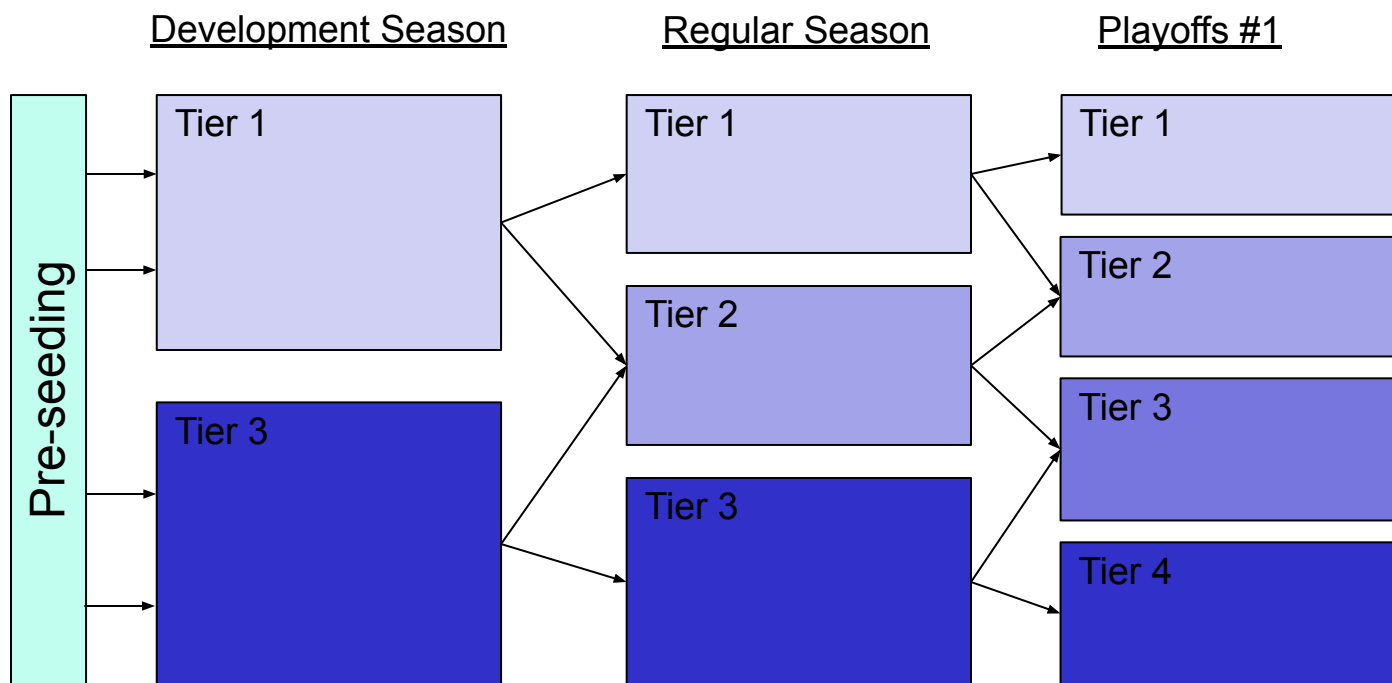
U11-U18 Season Structure - Playoffs

Structure

- Teams will be divided into 4 Tiers based on the results of the Fall and Winter seasons
- Playoff Round #1: Feb 15 – March 8
 - Randomly scheduled games in 6 game round-robin
 - Requested no curfew
 - No overtime for tied games after regulation
- Playoff Round #2: March 16 – 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



Playoffs #2

Example

- Tier 1 1st vs 2nd
- Tier 1 3rd vs 4th
- Tier 1 5th vs 6th vs 7th
- Tier 2 1st vs 2nd
- Tier 2 3rd vs 4th
- Tier 2 5th vs 6th
- Tier 3 1st vs 2nd
- Tier 3 3rd vs 4th
- Tier 3 5th vs 6th vs 7th
- Tier 4 1st vs 2nd
- Tier 4 3rd vs 4th
- Tier 4 5th vs 6th

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

Development Season

Regular Season

Playoffs #1

Playoffs #2

DIVISION WEST

Tier 1

DIVISION

Tier 3

Tier 4

24/25 MODEL (NOT USED)

Pre-seeding

Example

- Tier 1 1st vs 2nd
- Tier 1 3rd vs 4th
- Tier 1 5th vs 6th vs 7th
- Tier 2 1st vs 2nd
- Tier 2 3rd vs 4th
- Tier 2 5th vs 6th
- Tier 3 1st vs 2nd
- Tier 3 3rd vs 4th
- Tier 3 5th vs 6th vs 7th
- Tier 4 1st vs 2nd
- Tier 4 3rd vs 4th
- Tier 4 5th vs 6th

Yellow = Prize awarded

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