GUIDE TO FEMALE HOCKEY IN CANADA
September 2018
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A HIGH PERFORMANCE HOW-TO: 
THE ROAD TO TEAM CANADA

CANADA’S NATIONAL WOMEN’S UNDER-18 PROGRAM CAMPS (INVITATION)
• Strength & Conditioning Camp
• National Team Selection Camp
• Goaltender Development Camp

CANADA’S NATIONAL WOMEN’S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CAMPS
• Strength & Conditioning Camp
• National Team Selection Camp
• Goaltender Development Camp

CANADA’S NATIONAL WOMEN’S DEVELOPMENT TEAM
Summer Series vs. United States
IIHF U18 Women’s World Championship
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CANADA’S NATIONAL WOMEN’S TEAM
4 Nations Cup
IIHF Women’s World Championship
Olympic Winter Games
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MARIE-PHILIP POULIN
A JOURNEY TO TEAM CANADA

September 2018 Guide to Female Hockey in Canada
Canada’s National Women’s Development Team
The second step in the Hockey Canada Program of Excellence, Canada’s National Women’s Development Team, meets three times a year, for a summer strength and conditioning camp and three-game series, typically against the U.S., in August, and again for an international tournament in January.

The participants of these camps are invited by the coaches, scouts and management at Hockey Canada. Having been through the U18 member program and fully knowledgeable of the expectations this program maintains, these players typically play at the university level throughout the year and take time for Hockey Canada camps and events.

Players from this team are individually selected to participate in national team camps and events. Over time, players may earn their spot on Canada’s National Women’s Team.

Canada’s National Women’s Team
Since 1990, Canada’s National Women’s Team has been a power on the world stage, winning 10 IIHF Women’s World Championship gold medals, four Olympic gold medals and 13 3 Nations/4 Nations Cups.

Players that have graduated from the U18 program to Canada’s National Women’s Development Team then work for the opportunity to be selected to Canada’s National Women’s Team, which is the final step in the Hockey Canada Program of Excellence.

It is every little girl’s dream to one day play on Canada’s National Women’s Team and represent the country on the world stage. Women are now being inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame for their amazing devotion to the game and achievements throughout their careers. Paving the way for the up-and-coming stars, female hockey has a short but rich history and a strong future. The rising stars of today’s team are growing to be household names and are role models for girls and women alike.

Throughout the year, members of Canada’s National Women’s Team play at the university level or are a member of the Canadian Women’s Hockey League (CWHL) and take time away from these programs to participate in Hockey Canada camps and events.

Females from all over the country dream of wearing the red and white and representing Canada on the world stage. The Hockey Canada Program of Excellence has three stages of progression. In order to be invited to the Hockey Canada POE, a player must first be part of their member program (see page 31). Earning an invite to be a part of the POE takes a lot of hard work and dedication starting in the early teenage years.

Canada’s National Women’s Under-18 Team
The first step in the Hockey Canada Program of Excellence, Canada’s National Women’s Under-18 Team meets three times a year, for a summer strength and conditioning camp and three-game series, typically against the U.S., in August, and again for the IIHF U18 Women’s World Championship in January.

These players are selected by Hockey Canada scouts to be invited to camps throughout the year. They are chosen from the member U18 programs that participate in the National Women’s Under-18 Championship. Players at this level are also beginning their journey to the university level in their club-team career. Combining education and hockey is one of the greatest benefits of the sport and it is highly recommended from Hockey Canada to pursue this path to achieve the most growth.

Graduates of this program may move on to Canada’s National Women’s Development Team to continue their path in Hockey Canada’s high performance programs.
Throughout the year Hockey Canada hosts various national championships at all levels of female hockey. These events rotate through all parts of the country each year, showcasing the best female hockey players in the game. Check out HockeyCanada.ca, or follow the event-specific social media accounts to get all the information and find out when an event is coming to a city near you.

**Esso Cup**
Five regional champions from across Canada will compete with the host team for the Esso Cup, and the right to be called national champions. The growth of the women’s game in Canada continues as a national champion is crowned for women’s minor hockey. Canada’s National Female Midget Championship is the first club team championship en route to the Program of Excellence. Esso Cup (Sudbury, Ont., April 21-27, 2019)

**National Women’s Under-18 Championship**
Before they hit the ice for Canada’s National Women’s Development Team or National Women’s Team, the future of women’s hockey debuts on the national stage at the National Women’s Under-18 Championship, fighting for a gold medal and national bragging rights. Teams comprising the top U18 players from provinces and regions across the country come together to compete. National Women’s Under-18 Championship (Morden & Winkler, Man., November 2019)

**Canada Winter Games**
The Canada Winter Games are held every four years, the country’s largest multi-sport competition for young athletes with players competing for their home provinces. Women’s hockey was introduced at the 1991 Games in Charlottetown, P.E.I. The athletes are the country’s next generation of national, international and Olympic champions. Some of Canadian women’s hockey’s most recognizable names got their national start at the Canada Games, including Meghan Agosta, Jayna Hefford, Caroline Ouellette, Marie-Philip Poulin and Hayley Wickenheiser. Canada Winter Games (Red Deer, Alta., Feb. 15-March 3, 2019)

**USPORTS Women’s Hockey National Championship**
Every season, the champions of the four USports conferences (OUA, RSEQ, AUS, Canada West), the runner-up teams and the host university come together to compete for a national championship. Dating back to the first national tournament in 1998, the event celebrates Canadian University Sport, female hockey and education. Some of Canada’s greatest female hockey players have played in the event and continue to coach, play and give back. USPORTS Women’s Hockey National Championship (Charlottetown, P.E.I., March 14-17, 2019)

**Clarkson Cup**
The Clarkson Cup was donated by Adrienne Clarkson, the former Governor General of Canada. It is highly regarded as the Stanley Cup of women’s hockey, as it quickly becoming the ultimate trophy to strive for in this fast-growing female sport. The Clarkson Cup is awarded every March at the conclusion of the Canadian Women’s Hockey League playoffs. Clarkson Cup (Toronto, Ont., March 24, 2019)
U SPORTS is the governing body for university sport in Canada, including women’s hockey. There are four conferences within U SPORTS, to reduce the travel and better the experience of the student-athletes. Each conference crowns its champion, and those champions compete for the U SPORTS National Championship every spring.
September 2018 Guide to Female Hockey in Canada

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HOCKEY CANADA SKILLS ACADEMY

In order to get the most out of arenas during weekday hours – when most minor hockey players are in school – Hockey Canada believes that a sport program for hockey is required. With that in mind, the Hockey Canada Skills Academy (HCSA) program, a partnership between Hockey Canada and its 13 members, is a step in the right direction. Skills Academy programs are open to both female and male participants of all levels. These programs are partnered with an educational facility and are focused on skills-based development for all minor hockey levels from house league to elite hockey players.

For the 2018-19 season, there are 158 registered Hockey Canada Skills Academy programs in schools across the country, representing eight provinces. The number of female participants continues to grow, with 966 registrants among the 4,390 total students.

Hockey Canada Skills Academy, by Province and Territory

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<td>Manitoba</td>
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<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
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<td>Nova Scotia</td>
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In recent years, Hockey Canada felt it was wise to create and develop partnerships that would see sports schools operate within the Hockey Canada family as opposed to operating outside the structure which would see these programs compete with rather than compliment our philosophy.

Currently, 32 sports school programs are in operation across the Canada, including 16 with a female program:

- Balmoral Hall School (Winnipeg, Man.)
- Banff Hockey Academy (Banff, Alta.)
- Delta Hockey Academy (Delta, B.C.)
- Edge School for Athletes (Calgary, Alta.)
- Kimberley Academy (Kimberley, B.C.)
- Okanagan Hockey Academy (Penticton, B.C.)
- Ontario Hockey Academy (Cornwall, Ont.)
- Pilot Mound Hockey Academy (Pilot Mound, Man.)
- Mount Academy (Charlottetown, P.E.I.)
- Newbridge Academy (Dartmouth, N.S.)
- Rothesay-Netherwood School (Rothesay, N.B.)
- Stanstead College (Stanstead, Que.)
- St. Mary’s Academy (Winnipeg, Man.)
- Shawinigan Lake School (Shawinigan Lake, B.C.)

Many of these programs compete annually at the Female World Sport School Challenge, which was developed in line with Hockey Canada’s commitment to foster its growing relationship with sport schools and give players attending sport schools the chance to compete at a higher level.
This workbook is to assist athletes and their guardians with the challenges of choosing a post-secondary institution. These are areas to consider when graduating whether you are staying close to home or travelling to a new place. The full booklet is available on the Hockey Canada website.

Admissions / School
1. What are my top three program choices for a post-secondary education? e.g. Engineering, Business, Education, etc.
   -
   -
   -
2. What schools offer these programs?

3. When is the admissions deadline? What are the costs to apply?

4. What courses and grades are required for the program?

5. Is the degree valid in the country I will be working?

6. How is the campus? Do I like the city or town?

7. Will I still be happy with the school if I get injured during the season?

Financial Considerations
1. What are the tuition costs of the school?

2. What are the additional costs that I will incur? (housing, meals, books, travel, etc.)

3. Will I require financial assistance? If yes, what type of financial assistance does the school offer?

4. Are there scholarships and bursaries I can apply for? Deadlines?

Athletics
1. What is the coach's philosophy? How long has the coach been at this school? What is their experience?

2. How are the facilities? (arena, gym, etc.)

3. How often does the team practice?

4. How many teams are in the league? What is the travel like for games?

5. How many veterans are graduating? How many spots are there for rookies?

6. What other coaches/trainers are involved? (fitness, physio, mental, etc.)

EXTRA NOTES:

HockeyCanada.ca/EducationWorkbook

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18 19
The Canadian Women’s Hockey League is the premier professionally-run women’s hockey league in the world. The CWHL is a centrally-funded league, meaning that all participating teams in the CWHL receive equal access to funding and are given the same opportunities to succeed. Every dollar goes towards building a league that is dedicated to raising the profile of women’s hockey while providing a place where the best female hockey players in the world can come to train and compete.

The players are the brightest and the fastest — in fact, many of them played for Canada, Russia, Finland and the United States at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang. The women’s game is based on speed, skill and finesse and creates a family-friendly environment where access to heroes is very possible.

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**Teams of the CWHL**

- Les Canadiennes de Montréal
- Boston Pride
- Calgary Inferno
- Markham Thunder
- Toronto Furies
- Worcester Blades

**Support**

Get involved and support the female game by spreading the word, buying merchandise, following on social media, or sponsorships!

**Play**

If you are interested in playing in the CWHL, enter yourself in the draft that takes place each summer and follow along with the selections at TheCWHL.com.

**Watch**

Follow all games online through CWHL TV and Sportnet.

Watch LIVE — buy tickets for games in Calgary, Markham, Montreal, Toronto and Worcester.

Caroline Ouellette
Les Canadiennes de Montréal - Fourth Olympic gold medallist

“Les Canadiennes are everything to me. They are the reason I have been fortunate to have represented Canada on a world stage. They are the ones I share my highs and my lows with and they are the ones I want to win the Clarkson Cup with.”

@couellette13

Natalie Spooner
Toronto Furies

2014 Olympic gold medallist
2018 Olympic silver medallist

“Being able to play against the best players in North America for my hometown team in the CWHL, the Toronto Furies, really is a dream. I was so proud to become the first woman in CWHL history to win an Olympic gold medal and the Clarkson Cup in the same year! The competition in the CWHL has been stoked by rivalries that were started in university and on the national teams at the world championship and Olympics. The level of play is increasing each year.”

@nspooner5
Donated by Adrienne Clarkson, the 26th Governor General of Canada, the Clarkson Cup is the Stanley Cup of women’s hockey. Awarded to the champions of the Canadian Women’s Hockey League, the trophy is quickly becoming one of the most prestigious in the women’s game.

Every season, the teams of the Canadian Women’s Hockey League compete to reach the playoffs and have a chance to lift the Clarkson Cup and be called champions. The CWHL brings together national team members from all over the world to create the top league in women’s hockey.

The CWHL Awards Gala also takes place during the Clarkson Cup festivities. Awards are presented for the season in the following categories:

- Humanitarian Award
- Coach of the Year
- Most Valuable Player
- Rookie of the Year
- Defenceman of the Year
- Angela James Bowl (Top Scorer)
- Jayna Hefford Trophy (MVP, voted by players)
- Chairman’s Trophy (Top regular season team)

Join the celebration online and buy tickets to watch the Clarkson Cup Final live in Toronto on March 24. Follow @TheCWHL all season to stay updated on the action and get your season tickets.

The program mission is to change the way hockey is offered to bring one million new families into the sport globally over the next 10 years. Because we believe in all hockey has to offer kids, their families and our communities, we designed The FIRST SHIFT to break down barriers to entry by offering a program that is ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE and, most importantly, FUN! Join us! We can’t wait to help your kids fall in love with hockey too.

The First Shift program is open to girls and boys, ages 6-10, who have never previously enrolled in minor hockey in Canada.

THE FIRST SHIFT program is designed to ensure a positive experience for new-to-hockey families. We want you to experience the game at its best – understand why so many Canadians feel an inherent love for the sport – and stimulate a desire for continued participation.

Canadian Tire and Hockey Canada are pleased to offer minor hockey associations across Canada an opportunity to bring the THE FIRST SHIFT to their community for the 2018-19 season. In order to be considered as a program host, please review the application criteria at TheFirstShift.ca.

If you are looking to enroll your young female in the program there is an event locator available on The First Shift website!
Since 1998 the Esso Fun Day program has introduced thousands of females to the great game of hockey. This event combines one hour of on-ice instruction with one hour of off-ice instruction to give females of all ages a preview of the game, free of charge, with no pressure to sign up full-time. Minor hockey associations or communities apply to host these events locally. They then receive jerseys for all participants and a subsidy from Hockey Canada once it is complete.

Who is the program for?
The program is meant to be a fun day of hockey for first-time participants in the female game, for anyone between the ages of four to 94 who wants to give hockey a try! An Esso Fun Day is for you and it’s free. Single-day or six-week program funding is available.

What will the program do for you?
The focus of the day is to introduce players of all ages to the basics, to make new friends and to try the game without having to make a commitment to sign up for a full season. These sessions can be for youth or adult females so everyone has a chance to play the game.

On-ice activities are to be provided by individuals with Coach Level certification and assisted by other on-ice role models. Participants that are interested in pursuing hockey even further are given the information or an opportunity to sign up at the event.

Six-week program
The Esso Fun Day program also has the option of extending to a full six weeks. It would be the same participants for the full program, returning one night per week to learn the sport of female hockey. Within the application process there is an option for a single-day or a six-week program. Following that, the process to host the event is the same.

How do I get involved?
Host: If your community and minor/female hockey association would like to host an Esso Fun Day please register your event on the HockeyCanada.ca/EssoFunDays website. Each association or community across Canada has the ability to host Esso Fun Days during the year. Registration for an event is available on the Hockey Canada website and any questions about hosting can be directed to Teal Grove, manager of female development (tgrove@hockeycanada.ca). You can also speak to your local association for the potential to host an event locally.

Help: Coaches can also contact their local female association representative to find out about helping out on- or off-ice with any local events being held.

REGISTER YOUR EVENT TODAY!
HockeyCanada.ca/Esso-Fun-Days
Sport Canada’s Long-Term Player Development resource paper “Canadian Sport for Life” sets out a framework for sport development in Canada. Hockey Canada’s Long-Term Player Development is an eight-stage model based on the physical, mental, emotional and cognitive development of children and adolescents. Each stage reflects a different point in developing the player.

Being an athlete is about more than gold medals and big stages, it’s about living a healthy lifestyle. Whether an athlete is in the early stages of life and just beginning to play sports or in the later stages and looking to stay active, hockey is a great opportunity to balance the physical and social aspects of athletics. Incorporating the sport of hockey amongst other activities is a key concept to developing a well-rounded athlete and healthy person.

Recreational Hockey

Women’s hockey is a continuously growing sport that females of all ages can take part in across Canada. Each member has its own programming based on the volume of players registered and various levels of its abilities to accommodate as many participants as possible.

Hockey is a fun, exciting and healthy activity which introduces players to new people and great friendships.Want to experience the sport for the first time? Looking to get back involved? Anyone interested should get in touch with their local female hockey association or contact their member (page 31) to find out how to get into the game.

FEMALE OFFICIATING

The game of female hockey continues to grow and so does the demand for female officials. Officials are an integral part of the sport of hockey and the Hockey Canada Officiating Program is an important development program within the Hockey Canada structure. The program gives officials a tremendous level of satisfaction and access to great opportunities at the national and international level.

Why do I want to become a female hockey official?

• To gain a new perspective and understanding of the game
• To make the game a fun and safe experience for all participants
• To make some additional money in a fun way
• To have the skating ability and basic skills to be an effective official
• To find an alternate way to increase physical activity and fitness
• To create opportunities to officiate at regional, national and international competitions
• For the love of the game

Anyone interested in becoming a female hockey official can register for a clinic through their local minor hockey association and start officiating. Most communities have a local referee-in-chief that sets up clinics. Contact the local minor hockey association, provincial female representative or member referee-in-chief for more information.
Growing the game of women’s hockey starts on the bench. Not only does Hockey Canada want to continue to increase the numbers of players, but also increase the number of female coaches in the game. Coaching gives back to the game in so many ways and can create a professional path.

Members host coaching clinics throughout the year to begin training for prospective coaches. Anyone interested can also contact their local minor hockey association to find out how they can volunteer.

We Are Coaches is an initiative driven by Hockey Canada that fully supports the associations from coast to coast that register to host an all-female coaching certification event. The goals of the initiative are to:

• help build infrastructure to support and sustain the growth of female hockey in Canada;
• develop role models and leaders within the female hockey community;
• remove barriers to coaching education;
• increase the roles and opportunities for females invested in the game;
• educate females on what coaching can bring to their lives.

For any association planning to host an all-female coaching certification event, We Are Coaches can provide financial support by following these steps:

• Notify Teal Gove (tgove@hockeycanada.ca) of the approved event
• Set up a registration to record those attending
• Have a certified facilitator host the session
• Submit the requested information and expenses following the event to Hockey Canada for review and finalization

Members host coaching clinics throughout the year to begin training for prospective coaches. Anyone interested can also contact their local minor hockey association to find out how they can volunteer.

Hockey Canada Network gives parents, coaches and players the tools to succeed with drills, skills, videos, practice plans and articles on your tablet or phone.

• On-demand access to thousands of videos, articles and more.
• Thousands of videos to help players develop their skills, covering hockey fundamentals for all ages.
• Over 1,500 drill videos, diagrams, descriptions, and Team Canada game clips, helping coaches get the most out of practice time.
• Essentials for anyone looking to get involved or advance their own coaching careers.
• Over a century of experience and the largest network of hockey professionals in the world.

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The Hockey Canada Network app is available for iOS and Android devices. Download it now for free from the Apple App Store or Google Play and start exploring videos and articles. For full, unlimited access to all content and features, subscribe to Hockey Canada Network Premium.

"After playing hockey for 13 years for a mix of coaches, I fortunately had the opportunity to play for a tremendous female coach and role model while I was in university. She challenged me, believed in me, and gave me the right support in both successful times and through difficult moments. She helped my teammates and I to understand that the skills we were working to master every day - communicating, handling confrontation, and giving support to others - were all things that would help us in our careers, with our families, and in our lives. She modeled that it was possible to balance being a mother and passionately pursuing a career. This experience was so pivotal for me in developing a strong sense of who I am and who I wanted to be as a leader. As I find myself in the same challenging, yet rewarding position she once held, because of that experience I am confident that I will succeed. I am a role model, a mentor, and someone to collaborate with."

Cassie Turner
Head Coach, Quinnipiac University
Head Coach, 2015 National Women’s U18 Team
USEFUL RESOURCES

Drill Hub: HockeyCanada.ca/DrillHub

Hockey Canada Network: HockeyCanadaNetwork.com

Female University Education Workbook: HockeyCanada.ca/EducationWorkbook

HC - Female Hockey: HockeyCanada.ca/FemaleHockey

HC - Officiating: HockeyCanada.ca/Officials

U SPORTS: USPORTS.ca

Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport and Physical Activity: CAAWS.ca

Female Coaching Network: FemaleCoachingNetwork.com

Coaches Association of Canada: Coach.ca

MEMBER CONTACTS - FEMALE HOCKEY

Drill Hub Hockey

Hockey Canada Network

Female University Education Workbook

HC - Female Hockey

HC - Officiating

U SPORTS

Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport and Physical Activity Leadership and Development

Female Coaching Network

Coaches Association of Canada

BC Hockey

Hockey Alberta

Saskatchewan Hockey Association

Hockey Manitoba

Hockey Newfoundland and Labrador

Hockey Nova Scotia

Hockey North

Ontario Women’s Hockey Association

Hockey Québec

Hockey Prince Edward Island

Hockey New Brunswick

Hockey Nova Scotia

Hockey North

Hockey Newfoundland and Labrador

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