



**REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1st, 2025 - Register quickly to avoid a waitlist.**

### HALTON HILLS MINI THUNDER (Initiation Program)

The **Mini Thunder** is a player development program designed for players who are learning to skate and those looking to improve their hockey skills. In partnership with **Rob Ricci**, this program offers **Player Development** for **U5, U6, and U7 players** during the **Mini Thunder Hockey School on Saturdays**.

#### Program Details

##### U5/U6 Division

- Designed to introduce young players to hockey and develop a lifelong love for the game.
- Focus on skating fundamentals at the start of the season, gradually incorporating hockey skills.
- Sessions take place on **Saturdays**.
- Game Day Sundays - a fun day full of team games. Players are placed on teams based on skill level. Div. A/Div B. More information on placement can be found at the bottom of this form.

##### U6/U7 Division

- Open to both new players and those returning from the previous season.
- Focus on **skating and fundamentals**, progressing throughout the season.
- Sessions take place on **Saturdays**.
- Game Day Sundays - a fun day full of team games. Players are placed on teams based on skill level. Div. A/Div B. More information on placement can be found at the bottom of this form.

#### Player Placement & Orientation

- Players will be placed according to their **skating ability** to ensure balanced groupings.
- **Hockey School Orientation Day** will be held in **September** (exact date to be posted in August).
- Registered players will receive an **email in mid-August** with their assigned orientation session.
- Orientation will be organized to ensure proper session placement.
- If a player is advanced for their age group, they may move up to the next level **pending an assessment** and agreement with the **parent**.
- **Final times and rink details** for Orientation will be posted on [haltonhillsmminorhockey.com](http://haltonhillsmminorhockey.com) **mid-to-late August**.
- The season begins in **September** (dates will be posted in August).
- Hockey School will be held on Saturday mornings at MMSP in Georgetown.
- Game Day will be held on Sunday morning at the Acton Arena. Players may be reassigned to different time slots after the season starts.



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## Coaches & Volunteers Needed For Sunday Game Day

### We need coaches and volunteers to run the Initiation Program!

- If you're interested in **coaching or volunteering**, email [lindsey.highfield@haltonhillsminorhockey.com](mailto:lindsey.highfield@haltonhillsminorhockey.com).
- Opportunities include **coaching, assistant coaching, training, or on-ice helper roles**.
- Volunteering is a great way to **support young players and get involved in the community**.
- **HMH covers all required online courses and police checks** for volunteers.
- **Volunteers are needed for both:**
  - **Hockey School on Saturdays**
  - **Mini Thunder Team games on Sundays**

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The Mini Thunder Program is based on the skill level of each player - beginner, intermediate and advanced. The **BENEFITS** to grouping our hockey players based on their skill level rather than just age will help to create a better learning environment, encourage development, and improve the overall experience for players, coaches, and parents. Here are some reasons why:

### Ensures Proper Development

- **Players develop at different rates, and placing them with peers of similar ability allows them to learn at the right pace.**
- **Advanced players are challenged, while beginners can focus on building fundamentals without feeling overwhelmed.**

### Increases Confidence & Enjoyment

- **Players who compete against others at their skill level feel more comfortable and confident.**
- **Struggling to keep up in a group that's too advanced can be discouraging, while dominating in a group that's too easy can lead to boredom.**
- **A balanced level of competition keeps players engaged and excited about the sport.**

### Smooths the Transition to Competitive Play

- **As players progress in our Mini Thunder program - skill-based placement prepares them for structured hockey programs where ability plays a key role in team selection.**
- **They learn to compete and improve without unnecessary pressure, making the jump to higher levels smoother.**
- **By grouping young hockey players based on ability rather than age, we create a more positive and effective developmental environment, setting them up for long-term success in the sport!**