

# Transition Program

## A PROGRAM TO GUIDE NEW FAMILIES FROM TRYING HOCKEY TO JOINING A YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

*Begins shortly after Try Hockey For Free Day*

### INTRODUCTION:

Families have now sampled youth hockey, but that doesn't equal a new hockey player. A low-cost, low-commitment program can easily transition them from try hockey to youth hockey and will significantly increase your chances of adding more players.

### PARTICIPATING ASSOCIATIONS WILL:

Organize a low-cost, low-commitment entry-level program

### USA HOCKEY WILL PROVIDE:

Best practice instruction and guidelines for running a successful program

### RECOMMENDED CONVERSION PROGRAMS:

#### Learn-to-Skate: (6 weeks, 12 sessions)

A Learn-to-Skate program allows young skaters to become more confident on their skates before introducing a hockey stick and puck to the lessons.

#### Learn-to-Play: (8 weeks, 16 sessions)

This program will focus on skating skills, but also teaches the basic skills of stickhandling, shooting and passing.

#### Second-Half-of-Season: (12 weeks, 24 sessions)

This will usually be offered by the local youth hockey association and should include a level of play geared to entry level kids.

### HELPFUL TIPS:

- Utilize a portion of current beginner-level ice surface
- Keep a convenient, consistent timeslot
- Free equipment usage
- Use provided practice plans and cross-ice game structure put forth by USA Hockey's American Development Model
- Lots of coaches and support volunteers, there is no such thing as too many
- Begin shortly after your participation in a national Try Hockey For Free event  
Ideally it runs up to an option where they can sign-up for your regular program's second-half