



Learn to Play Frequently Asked Questions

Is it ok to use used equipment?

The price of the gear does not guarantee success. Proper fitting equipment is more important. This is especially true of skates. Resist the temptation to buy skates that are too big to get a couple of seasons out of them. It is much better for the player to use proper fitting skates each year. Used skate fill this role very nicely.

Why does my child need a mouth guard since there is a cage on their helmet?

The mouth guard will prevent them from biting their tongue in the event of a fall and may reduce the likelihood of a concussion.

Does my child really need a neck guard?

It is recommended because it can reduce the risk of a skate brushing up against a fallen player and causing injury. Although rare these types of injuries can be serious.

How tight should the skates be?

In general the tighter the better. Unless the skates are too small it's almost impossible to get them to tight.

How often should the skates be sharpened?

At this level, once every 4-6 practices. Be watchful of where they walk because sharpened edges can be quickly lost when stepping on hard surfaces like concrete.

Do I need to get skate guards?

They are helpful to keeping the blades from hitting each other in the gear bag and dulling them or cutting a jersey in the gear bag.

What kind of clothes should my child wear under their gear?

It should be close fitting and breathable. A lightweight pair of long underwear works well. If they have some close fitting, lightweight pj's, those would work as well. Most of the kids work pretty hard and work up a good sweat. If they are overdressed they can quickly become overheated and uncomfortable.

Why do we change in the stands?

There simply is not enough room in the locker rooms for the number of kids in the program.

Are practices canceled because of weather?

It is extremely rare that a practice is canceled. It is best to check the website. When in doubt, it is up to the parent to decide if road conditions warrant safe travel to the arena.

Why do you recommend a straight blade, my child is right/left handed?

A straight blades offers several benefits. It helps to develop proper skills and techniques. At this age, children can realize stick handling success more quickly. A curved blade can be frustrating for younger players. Sometimes a player may start left-handed and switch to right-handed part way through the season. A straight blade makes this an easy transition.

I've heard some parents talk about Atoms. What is that exactly?

Atoms is an extension of Learn to Play for the players who are developing well in their skills. It is more structured, cross-ice games with an emphasis on skills and getting a sense of team play. Score is not kept and we play other Atoms from Brewer. More information comes around January.