



First Strides Information & Application

Just Play is a Hockey Manitoba initiative designed to create opportunities for the introduction to hockey in a fun, safe and positive environment while providing sustainable solutions to assist in the promotion and growth of the game across the province. Simply put, Hockey Manitoba is committed to providing all children the opportunity to “Just Play” the game. Just Play is supported by the Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation.

FIRST STRIDES

First Strides is a one day event designed to introduce children to the sport in a safe, fun and positive setting. Very basic concepts and activities are included as well as education for both participants and parents. Participants' fitness and overall health is a primary focus and they will discover the benefits of participating in a team environment while developing social skills they can carry forward to other areas of their lives. Participants are given sticks, skates, helmets, gloves, neck guards, t-shirts and jerseys, and will be eligible to receive partial funding to join a CanSkate/Learn to Skate program. Hockey Manitoba's main focus with the First Strides program is on underserved populations (New Canadians, inner city, remote communities, community groups, etc.) A maximum of 25 participants (minimum of 20) are eligible to participate in each approved First Strides program.

EVENT SUMMARY

- One day event, including on-ice (1 hr 30 min), off-ice (30 min), presentation (30 min) and meal
- On-ice session to focus on basic skills (skating, balance, passing, shooting), fun and games
- Off-ice session to focus on fun games, activities, team building, healthy living components
- Presentation centered on education of the sport, safety, opportunities, etc.
- Event can be on weekend or in evening, run at any time between October 20th and April 30th
- Hockey Manitoba to provide transportation from one location to and from event

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Hockey Manitoba will accept applications from various organizations including community groups, charitable organizations, cultural centres, remote communities, etc. A maximum of one application may be submitted per year by an organization. Participants must be between the ages of 5-12 and not have been a registered Hockey Manitoba member in the past or current season.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications for First Strides programs will be reviewed by a Hockey Manitoba selection committee. All applications received which include the required information will be considered, however, final selections will be based on (but not limited to) the following criteria:

- Identified need for growth of the sport in applicants area
- Need based on socio-economic challenges of families in applicants area
- Inclusion of participants new to Canada or Manitoba
- Identification of interest and commitment to making the program a success

APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES (LEAD ORGANIZER):

- Meet all application requirements and form deadlines
- Organize and collect participant registration
- Assist with promotion of event and circulation of event information

- Assist in securing minimum 8 assistants for both on and off-ice assistance
- Ensure all participant equipment/jersey sizing forms are collected and submitted by deadline
- Ensure all parent waiver forms are collected and submitted by deadline
- Provide logistical support on facility bookings, set up, transportation, snacks, shipping of items, etc.

Further recommendations to applicants:

- Organize used equipment drive prior to first scheduled session for the following:
 - Shin pads
 - Elbow pads
 - Shoulder pads
 - Pants
 - Jock/cup
 - Socks
- Attempt to obtain discount on facility ice where applicable
- Contact local Minor Hockey Association/Community Club for support if applicable
- Include parents as volunteers, and invite them to attend the event

HOCKEY MANITOBA RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Program expenses including:
 - Facility/Ice
 - Instructors and assistants
 - Meal
 - Equipment/Jerseys/T-shirts
 - Transportation (from one location, to and from event)
 - Shipping/Courier/Supplies
 - Reimbursement for registration in CanSkate/Learn to Skate program (up to \$50 per participant)
- Full support for planning and logistical components of program as follows:
 - Hockey Manitoba Instructors and assistants
 - Facility bookings
 - Ordering/shipping of all items including equipment, supplies, etc.
 - Marketing and promotional assistance
 - Registration of participants
 - Confirmation of transportation
 - Delivery/set up of meal
 - Other as necessary

APPLICATION PROCESS

Program Operation Dates: 1) October 20th – December 31st
2) January 1st – April 30th

Application deadline: September 1st
Application deadline: November 1st

- Applications will be considered twice annually on Sept. 1st and Nov. 1st
- Date/location/time of event (and alternates) must be identified in applications
- Confirmation of accepted applications will be sent on or before Sept. 5th and Nov. 5th
- Equipment requirement forms must be received on or before Sept. 30th and Nov. 30th
- Participant information and parent waivers must be received on or before Sept. 30th and Nov. 30th
- Applicant to identify lead organizer and include all applicable contact information

SEND APPLICATIONS TO:

Hockey Manitoba
c/o Scott Furman, Director, Business Operations
scott@hockeymanitoba.ca

Fax: 204-925-5761
145 Pacific Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2Z6



FIRST STRIDES APPLICATION FORM



APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Name of organization: _____

Address: _____

Lead Organizer: _____

Telephone: (Res) _____ (Bus) _____ (Cell) _____

Email: _____

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION:

Please include a brief summary of your organization with your application.

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Location/Preferred Arena: _____

Event Date/Time: Date _____ Time: _____

Please provide a summary of preferred date/time if above is unknown:

APPLICATION RATIONALE:

Please include a summary explaining the rationale for application and how this will benefit the participants and your organization. Be sure to address the items indicated in the Selection Criteria section. (include additional information under separate cover if required.)

By checking the box below, I _____ (lead organizer), understand the First Strides application and agree to fulfill all applicant requirements as outlined on behalf of my organization to ensure the successful delivery of this program.

Date: _____