

# Georgian Bay Islanders

## U13 “A” 2025 - 26

### Player Evaluations & Team Information Sheet

Welcome parents and players to another exciting year of minor hockey!

#### **Coach Introduction – Matt Hopkins**

I'm very excited to be your head coach for the inaugural season of the Georgian Bay Minor Hockey Association's U13 "A", Islanders. As I begin my eleventh season as a hockey coach, my philosophy remains the same; pressure and speed, creates possession and opportunity. I intend to select the top athletes made available to me, in order to put the absolute best team on the ice for the 2025-2026 hockey season. My job is to develop these young men through appropriate individual and team focused drills, to put them in the best situation to succeed on and off the ice. I expect the best from myself and in turn, I expect the best from my players through open communication with both players and parents.

#### **Player Evaluation Format**

The player selection window for this team is Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 until Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Please refer to the Georgian Bay Islanders website for exact dates and times.

Players are guaranteed attendance at the first evaluation session only. Player redirections may begin **after the 1st session**. Final roster decisions must be made by the end of the player selection window.

We will use a mix of skill focused drills, tactical focused scenarios and game situations (following Hockey Canada's recommendations) to give the players an opportunity to showcase themselves.

Generally, the sessions will follow this format with some overlap between the sessions:

<b>Session #1: Skill Focus</b>	<b>Session #2 - Tactical Focus</b>	<b>Session #3 - Scrimmage</b>
Skating Stickhandling Shooting Passing Individual Tactics	Small Area Games Rush Scenarios In Zone Scenarios Offensively Biased Scenarios Defensively Biased Scenarios Group Tactics	Game Situations Play with puck Play away from puck

## **Selection Criteria**

Player selections will be based on four broad categories:

- Hockey Skill - how well you can play the game
- Hockey Sense - how well you understand the game
- Effort - how hard you work
- Attitude - how you act/behave towards teammates, coaches, opponents and officials

While hockey skill and hockey sense are certainly important parts of on-ice success, our team will only thrive if we have players with great attitudes who give maximum effort. Not all players can be the star, but all players will have a role to fill on our team and will be expected to work hard and be great teammates.

## **Selection Process**

The selection process for representative teams is always challenging, and while we strive to make it as fair as possible, disappointment is sometimes unavoidable. Unfortunately, no system is perfect.

When you registered for player evaluations, you provided an email address, which we will use for all selection-related communications. If you are unsure which email you submitted, please confirm it at the registration desk.

At your first evaluation session, you will be assigned a jersey. This jersey is yours to wear throughout the evaluation process and to keep afterward.

After each evaluation session, you will receive an email from the association informing you of your status. You may receive:

- A commitment offer to join the team,
- An invitation to continue in the selection process, or
- A redirection to the next classification level within the association.

To ensure fairness and transparency, we have engaged multiple independent evaluators to assist with player assessments. Their evaluations, alongside the coach's assessments, provide an objective perspective to help guide selections.

Ultimately, the head coach makes the final decisions, provided they align with the general consensus of the independent evaluators.

For more details, please refer to the **Player Selection Policy** on our website.

## Offer of Commitment/Registration

If you receive an offer of commitment, you will be provided with a link to register for the Georgian Bay Islanders. By completing this registration and paying the specified deposit (or the full amount of registration), you will secure your spot on the team. Please do not share this link with anyone else as it is private to those receiving the offer of commitment.

If you have any questions or experience any technical details while registering, please contact our registrar via email at: [registrar@georgianbayminorhockey.ca](mailto:registrar@georgianbayminorhockey.ca).

## Schedule

If you are selected to play on our team, you must be ready to commit to the following schedule from the last week of August to the beginning of April.

Players will be required to attend **ALL** practices and regular season games unless they cannot due to weather, injury, illness or family event (funeral, family trip, wedding, etc...). Frequent failure to attend or repeated tardiness could result in team discipline and could impact the player's eligibility for future games.

During playoff season (early February to early April), only injury, illness or an unexpected family event (ie. funeral) will excuse a player from attending practices or games. **Family trips or other planned absences during the playoff season will result in the player being ineligible to participate in one or more future playoff games.** Please plan your vacation accordingly.

**There will be important and meaningful playoff games played during March Break. There is no black out period this year. We expect all players to be available to play games and practice during this time of the season.**

## Exhibition/Regular Season/Playoffs/Tournaments

- Games will be mostly on weekends but possibly during the week as well.
- We will enter 3-4 tournaments this year from mid September through the end of January.
- We will play 26 regular season games from the end of September to mid February.
- We will then play OMHA Qualifiers from mid February to the end of March
  - Teams will be seeded into 2-4 pools based on the results of the regular season
  - Pools are created to give a significant advantage to those teams that finish in the top places during the regular season. Ex: Pool A may be 1st place, along with 12th and 13th place
  - Pool play will produce 4 teams to play in the league semi-finals which are based on seeds remaining (top seed remaining plays lowest seed remaining; then other two play each other)
  - The winners of the semi-finals will play in the league finals while the losers of the semi-finals will play for third place.

- Any team that does not make the semi-finals will play for the President's Cup. This is a double elimination knockout format that keeps teams active and playing meaningful games throughout the month of March.
- Depending on the classification and age group, YSMHL will send one or more teams to the OMHA Championship Tournaments. These will take place at the end of March and beginning of April.

### **Practices/Additional Development**

- The team will practice twice during the week - once in the evening and once in the morning. Both our practices will be 80 minutes in length
- The team will have one extra on-ice session for skating & skills development every second week.
- The team will have one off-ice fitness session at the YMCA every week coinciding with our evening practice time
- Our goalies will have one extra on-ice session for goalie specific training every week.

### **Equipment and Apparel**

- All players are required to purchase a Home and Away jersey, which will be theirs to keep. These jerseys can be used in future seasons, passed down to a sibling, or resold to another player.
- Additionally, all players must purchase a Home and Away namebar. The association will assist in attaching them to the jerseys, and they will remain yours for future use as well.
- Each player will receive Home and Away socks, with the cost already included in registration fees. These socks are yours to keep.

Teams may decide to require or recommend additional equipment or apparel. Any such requirements will be communicated at the first parent meeting or the uniform, equipment and apparel fitting.

### **Team Fees/Fundraising**

- Team expense projections for additional on-ice and off-ice player development, tournaments, video analysis, and other team expenses have been approved by the Board.
- Through fundraising opportunities, both facilitated by the association or run directly by our team, we hope to significantly limit the amount of money our parents will have to pay out of pocket for these expenses.
- To that end, all players are required to participate in our association-wide fundraiser, and all players will be expected to fully participate in our team fundraising to help pay for team expenses.
- Based on our approved budget, an out of pocket team fee payment of approximately **\$50/player** should be expected.
- Please note: the budget is an estimate only and subject to change.