

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the main differences between the Minkey levels and the Junior 3/4's level?

- Minkey teams are:
 - typically made up of around 6 - 7 kids per team.
 - Training will run for the first half hour, and then they will play a game against another Minkey team for the second half hour.
 - Games are played on a one-quarter size field.
 - Minkey kids are taught the basic rules of how to hold and hit with the stick, and are encouraged to listen to their coach and participate.
- Junior 3/4's are:
 - typically made up of around 10 kids per team.
 - Training will run for the first 45 minutes, and then they will play a game against another Junior ¾ team for the second 45 minute period (20 minutes each way, with a 5 minute break at half time).
 - Games are played on a full-sized field.
 - Junior 3/4's are taught the basics of field positions and game strategies, and are encouraged to play as a team and further develop their basic skills.

2. Can my child try out before signing up for the season?

Yes! We will be running a Come 'n' Try Day on **Saturday, 6 April 2019** from 8.30a.m, and you can bring along a friend!

The club will provide equipment for the kids who don't have equipment, and there will be a free sausage sizzle for all participants. Games will be running for many different age groups, including games from the Junior leagues, so your kids will get a real feel for what it would be like to continue playing hockey at MCHC.

3. How are the kids allocated to a Grade?

For most kids, the grades will align with the school years. i.e.

- Minkey 1 – Pre-Primary and Year 1 kids
- Minkey 2 – Year 2 kids
- Junior 3/4's – Year 3 and Year 4 kids (combined)

4. Does my child need equipment and a uniform to play?

Yes, kids playing in Melville are expected to wear the club which is available at the uniform shop. Players also require a hockey stick, shin pads and a mouth guard to participate.

Uniform: white shorts, a maroon club T-shirt and striped white and maroon socks.

Equipment required: stick and shin pads.

Starter packs are available:

Pack 1: stick, a ball, shin pads, a drink bottle are available.

Pack 2: as for pack 1, but also includes a Minkey cap.

Items can also be purchased individually.

Refer the full list of equipment available at <http://www.melvillehockey.com/shop.php>

5. Can my child play without a mouthguard?

No. Mouthguards are a compulsory piece of equipment and the club policy is that all players should have a mouthguard prior to taking the field for practice or games.

Mouthguards are available at your local chemist, or from a specialist dental technician.

6. My child is in Year 3 and has never played before, does s/he have to join Junior 3/4's?

Generally, we would encourage your child to have a go and then make a decision. But if you (or your child) would feel better to enter at the Minkey level, that's fine – please let the Minkey co-ordinator know.

7. Can my child play in a team with his or her friends?

We have many requests for friends to be placed into the same team. Coaches' requests are generally a priority when it comes to satisfying requests, however mixing up of teams each year, balancing numbers of girls and boys in the teams and players ages are generally the determining factor of team composition. Whilst we endeavour to satisfy all requests, sometimes it is not possible.

8. Why has the Club changed the Minkey 3 and Grads games from prior years?

These changes have come as a result of feedback in recent years that kids in Minkey 3 are often ready to move on to a larger field format. We want our kids to enjoy the game for as long as possible and to feel confident in themselves as they progress through the grades, so we have made these changes to the competition structure.

9. Will the BBQ be running on a Saturday morning and Friday night games?

Yes. Volunteers for the club have kindly volunteered to keep the BBQ running for both Saturday and Friday times as required. This means that the *Player of the Day* from each team will continue to get a free sausage sizzle, and for the Friday evening games you can relax and unwind from the week with friends with food and drink available.

10. Will the bar be open for Friday night games?

Yes. The bar will be open when there are Friday night games.

11. This all sounds great, can I help out?

Most definitely yes! We would appreciate any help that can be offered. In particular, we are looking for assistance in:

- Setting up the fields (Saturday mornings),
- Helping to secure coaches for the teams, and
- Co-ordinating extra events within the season (e.g. inter-season carnivals, typically no more than 2 per season).

12. Will the games still run on Saturday mornings and Friday evenings if it is raining and cold?

Games will continue to run unless there is lightening or wind conditions where we would consider it unsafe for the players and coaches. To the extent that a game will be cancelled, your team manager or coach will endeavour to let you know as soon as possible.

13. Will the Junior 3/4 competition include other clubs?

To be advised. At this stage, we anticipate that teams will only play against other Melville teams at our home grounds at Morris Buzzacott, however we are discussing options with other clubs who may be interested to join competitions. We will pass on details as soon as available.