



DOUBLE LETTER FAQ to support players and parents for the 2023-2024 Hockey Season:

As previously communicated on April 25th, 2023 (<https://hmip.org/en/double-letter/>) the Ile Perrot Minor Hockey Association (HMIP) and the Vaudreuil Minor Hockey Association (AHMVD) have merged to create a single double letter program for U11, U13, U15 and U18 age categories for the upcoming 2023-24 hockey season. The purpose of this FAQ is to provide some further information on the merger.

- 1. Question:** Why did the HMIP choose to merge their double letter program for the 2023-24 hockey season?

Answer: As the hockey landscape in both Quebec and more specifically in our Lac St-Louis region continues to place an emphasis on less teams at the Double Letter level, entering this merger both meets the needs of our region, as well as the needs of both merging associations. Merging our Double Letter programs will have the effect of creating teams that are more competitive – which is consistent with a practice that is being adopted by numerous other minor hockey associations in our region. We strongly believe that combining the strengths of our two associations will have inherent benefits for all members of both minor hockey associations regardless of the level played.

- 2. Question:** Why did the HMIP choose to merge with Vaudreuil instead of other minor hockey associations or continue with the merger from last season?

Answer: The HMIP felt merging with AHMVD offered our families the best path to a successful and enjoyable hockey season. The fact the HMIP and AHMVD share a common arena (CDJ arena), the fact that we are geographic neighbors, the fact many of our players have friends in the AHMVD from school or other social activities made this an easy decision. Furthermore, Vaudreuil has a strong, organized volunteer leadership with a great vision for what matters in minor hockey and expressed similar values to what matters to the HMIP community. So, the HMIP is absolutely thrilled to have the AHMVD as a partner for the 2022-24 Double Letter hockey season.

- 3. Question:** Will the merger with the AHMVD be in place for all future hockey seasons for the Double Letter program?

Answer: The double letter merger is a one-year commitment. Nothing is confirmed for the 2024-25 hockey season.

- 4. Question:** Have other minor hockey associations merged their double letter programs for the 2023-24 hockey season?

Answer: Yes, numerous other minor hockey associations in the Lac St-Louis region have merged their double letter programs for the 2023-24 hockey season. As of last report there were seven+ mergers where Minor Hockey Associations merged to create single Double letter teams in certain age categories reinforcing both the strength of those teams but also the single letter programs in each association.

- 5. Question:** Does the HMIP / AHMVD Double Letter merger know exactly what teams will be offered at the different age categories (U11, U13, U15 & U18) for the 2023-2024 hockey season.

Answer: Yes, based on a meeting between the AHMVD and HMIP administrative councils on August 17th it is expected the AHMVD/HMIP double letter merger will have 5 combined teams for the 2023-2024 hockey season. U11AA, U11BB, U13AA, U15AA & U18AA. The decision on the number of teams is directly related to a mathematical formula driven by our combined registrations at each individual age category from the Hockey Quebec Rules & Regulations 2023-24 version.

- 6. Question:** Have the coaches been decided for any of the teams in the merged double letter program?

Answer: No, none of the coaches have been chosen at this time and will not be chosen until the teams are nearly final. The coaches cannot be named until it is clear which players will or will not be on the team. Once the final teams are nearly made, the leadership team from each of the associations will meet to name the coaches based on agreed set of agreed to criteria.

- 7. Question:** How will the double letter teams be selected?

Answer: HMIP and AHMVD will determine which players to invite merged double letter evaluations to be hosted primarily at CDJ arena (noting some sessions could be at MAC or Vaudreuil arena) likely starting the 2nd full week in September (schedule to be posted to HMIP website). Each association will send the players they feel have a realistic chance of playing double letters. From there, independent evaluators will determine which players, regardless of association, will make the final team. There is no predetermined quota for each association. Put simply, the best players will make the team regardless of what association they come from. The double letter selection process will be actively cutting players after each practice session. Sessions will be comprised of skating drills and scrimmages. With the maximum of five practice sessions, plus a potential exhibition game. Should a player be cut from the process they will return to their associations single letter programs.

8. Question: Once the final teams are selected how will it be determined where games and practices are held?

Answer: Each minor hockey association will host a pre-determined double letter team(s). All games, and likely all practices, will then be played out of that host associations arena. Given our close geographic proximity and shared arena there will be virtually no impact to families no matter what team(s) is hosted by what association. It is expected AHMVD will host U18AA, U13AA and one of U11AA or U11BB. It is expected the HMIP will host U15AA and one of the U11AA or U11BB teams

9. Question: With the AHMVD and the HMIP each hosting certain teams will all teams be using a common name / logo and jersey?

Answer: Yes, all Double letter teams, regardless of level or age category or where they will be hosted will be known as the Drakkar de Vaudreuil and will wear the red/white uniforms previously used by the Drakkar from Vaudreuil. A common name and set of uniforms simplifies matters on several administrative levels.

10. Question: Will there be additional costs to play double letters above and beyond the initial registration fees paid?

Answer: Yes. Playing double letters typically means having longer games (1.5hrs vs. 1hr for Single Letters) and more practices all with full ice. The additional use of ice generates additional costs that will vary by team and by host association. This will be communicated to parents during the team construction process.

11. Question: Will the merged double letter program have any direct impact on single letter teams?

Answer: No. each association will continue to host their own single letter teams comprised exclusively of players from their own associations.

For any additional questions please contact the HMIP at info@hmip.org. Thank you.

Once the registration process closes this document will be updated with more specific information.