



WBHL Ice Time

The WBHL is committed to developing all players' skills and knowledge of hockey to their fullest potential. Our coaching philosophy emphasizes that this development can only be accomplished by providing equitable ice time to all players in all game situations.

Equitable ice is not defined by one shift in a game, or across one game, but over a full season of Minor hockey. All players should have an equal opportunity to demonstrate their development and growth.

In support of the Hockey Canada practice directive, attendance and participation at team practices will be considered when determining the level of expectation in reference to 'equitable'. Fundamentally, we believe that game play is an important component of overall development and all players must be given an equitable opportunity to experience all aspects of game play.

To achieve this objective, while recognizing the nature, rules and positional play of the game, FMMHA has developed the following guidelines:

Coaches will...

- ...not match lines or individual players after the opening faceoff of each period. For clarification, lines or players may not be rolled such that a line or player misses a shift to match an opponent's individual players or lines.
- ...not have dedicated specialty teams utilized for power plays or penalty killing. All players will have equitable opportunity to play in powerplay or penalty killing situations.
- ... consistently utilize a shift duration for all players and lines, recognizing the duration of each shift will not be exact. As an example, a coach may select shifts of generally one minute, which may vary between 45 seconds and 90 seconds depending on the game situation. However, one line will not consistently play two minutes, while another line consistently plays one minute.
- ... not bench a player for lack of skill or making a mistake.
- ... ensure that in the case where full lines are not available due to the number of players allocated to the team, or due to the absence of players and the players have set positions (center, wing, defense), the position of the missing player will have a shorter rotation. In the case where a position is regularly on a short cycle, due to allocation of players, or the same player is consistently absent, the coach will cycle through the positions the opportunity for a short rotation.





Coaches have the right to:

- ... select shift durations and shift changes for their lines, depending on the game situation, but the minimum shift for a player or line will be 45 seconds, unless the player voluntarily leaves the ice.
- ...assign a player to any position and any line they choose for the benefit of a team, coaches are only restricted to playing goalies to their assigned position.
- ... select any line to start the period, the home team has the last choice in the selection of the line to start the period.
- ... may choose to utilize on a powerplay one forward in a defensive position and teams on the penalty kill may use two defensemen when a forward is penalized, provided both systems are used consistently.
- ... may occasionally bench players for no more than 3 shifts in a row for disciplinary reasons. These reasons can include aggressive play, disrespectful behavior, lack of commitment. These discipline techniques should be discussed when agreed upon up front in a parent meeting and at the very least after the occurrence in exceptional circumstances.
- ... may choose the division of ice between goalies. Equitable ice time will either be playing one half of each game or playing in alternating games in entirety; goalies will not consistently play in starting and backup roles.
- ... make a run for the win in the last 3 minutes of a game when the goal differential is 2 goals or less. This means that they may play any combination of lines for any duration in which they choose.

Elite Ice Time

The FMMHA's Elite Stream Teams; our Representative Hockey is highly demanding and competitive hockey.

Although the focus of the Association remains on the development of all players, it is understood that complex team systems and the use of first, second and third lines are critical to overall development and team success.

It is our desire that all players selected for a team shall be given equitable opportunity and ice time in comparison to other players in the same position for every game wherever practical. (Positions are defined as defensemen, centers, wingers and goalies.)

The Association supports the use of power play or penalty kill units, as well as the use of first, second and third lines throughout all game play which may include - in the event of trying to go for the win in the remaining minutes of a game - shortening the bench. In this regard, we would expect coaches to use





acceptable discretion, understand the need and benefit for development of all the players on the team and roll lines whenever possible.

Goalies will be alternated between games where practical.



P.O. BOX 5118, FORT MCMURRAY, ALBERTA T9H 3G2 PH. 780-791-7358
EMAIL: fmmha@telus.net WEBSITE: www.fmmha.com

