



Cochrane Minor Hockey Association (CMHA)

Policy Title: Ice Time and Fair Play Policy

Effective Date: September 15, 2024

Website: www.cochraneminorhockey.com

1.0 Overview

This policy outlines CMHA's expectations for equitable ice time across all divisions. It communicates the Association's vision in alignment with Hockey Canada's **Fair Play Code** and supports coaches in balancing team effectiveness with individual player development.

- 1.1 Support CMHA coaches in their decision-making.
 - 1.2 Reward effort, development, and sportsmanship.
 - 1.3 Achieve a balance between competitive outcomes and inclusive development.
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2.0 Policy Guidelines

- 2.1 Coaches must communicate their **ice time philosophy** at the start of the season and reinforce expectations with both players and parents.
 - Ice time should be **fair**, but not necessarily equal.
 - Game flow, line integrity, and player development will influence rotations.
 - All players should receive **developmental opportunities** during both practices and games.
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2.2 U11 CAHL, RMFHL, U13–U18 RHL, U7–U11 RHL

- 2.2.1 Roll all lines equally, allowing all players to experience **various positions and game situations**.
 - 2.2.2 U11 players should rotate through all positions during the first half of the season (e.g., LW, C, RW, RD, LD).
 - 2.2.3 Players may only be benched for **disciplinary reasons** (see Section 3.0).
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2.3 U13–U18 CAHL and RMFHL (Competitive Streams)

- 2.3.1 CMHA recognizes that **competitive hockey differs from recreational play**, and coaches may reasonably adjust ice time based on game



demands.

2.3.2 Situations where adjustments may occur include:

- Special Teams (Power Play/Penalty Kill)
- Important faceoffs or game-deciding moments
- Overtime/shootouts
- Defensive/Offensive matchups
- Playoff or championship game tactics
- Goalie rotations

2.3.3 These strategies must be explained to **players and parents at the start of the season**, and ongoing communication should occur throughout.

2.4 Ongoing Ice Time Management

2.4.1 Coaches must ensure that all players develop across **multiple scenarios**, even if situational adjustments are necessary.

2.4.2 Individual game differences are acceptable, but overall season averages should reflect **reasonable equity**.

2.4.3 Coaches must balance fairness with competitiveness to prepare players for future levels of hockey.

2.4.5 Coaches may reduce ice time for **disciplinary reasons** (see Section 3.0).

3.0 Discipline and Conduct

3.1 Players may receive reduced ice time for repeated violations of the **Players Code of Conduct**, including:

- Disrespectful language or behavior
- Bullying or harassment
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Dangerous or excessive penalties
- Ignoring coaching instructions

Duration of discipline must be **proportional** to the behavior and **communicated** to parents in a timely manner.

Coaches should inform their Division Director in cases of **repeated infractions**.

4.0 Interpretation of Ice Time Variance

4.1 CMHA expects **fair and reasonable exposure** for all players over the course of the season.



- 4.2 Ice time will vary by game due to practical circumstances, including:
- More forwards than defense
 - Penalties or special teams
 - In-game momentum (e.g., being pinned in defensive zone)
 - Fatigue, injuries, roster changes, goalie rotations, equipment failure

5.0 Accountability and Management

5.1 CMHA **trusts its coaches** to use their best judgment and encourages regular communication with players and parents.

5.2 If ice time concerns arise:

- Wait **24 hours** before taking action.
- Reflect on whether the concern is valid and unavoidable.
- Review Section 4.0 examples for context.

5.2.1 If concerns persist, follow this escalation process:

1. Speak with the **Team Manager**
2. Team Manager brings it to the **coaching staff**
3. If unresolved, contact the **Division Director**
4. The Division Director may escalate to the **Coach Director and Executive Committee**

5.2.2 The Executive will investigate, determine a resolution, and report back to all parties.

5.2.3 Discipline for coaches violating the policy may include:

- 1st Offense: Verbal warning
- 2nd Offense: Written warning
- 3rd Offense: Dismissal from CMHA coaching role

Note: Parents who confront or harass a coach without following the steps above will be subject to discipline under the **CMHA Respect Policy**