
2009 - 2010 Novice Hockey Program

Purpose:

To promote SMHA policy of providing fun and enjoyment while at the same time stressing the values and appreciation of improved skating and hockey skills.

To ensure that there is fun and enjoyment while at the same time providing good competition by ensuring that players are encouraged to play with and compete with other players of similar skills, abilities and desires.

To provide a program which ensures that all players will enjoy equal opportunities of ice time during practice instruction and games.

To provide guidelines which encourage coaches and other team executives to improve their own coaching qualifications and instructing skills by participating in coaches certification programs.

Each coordinator must ensure that every coach and his assistant attend the initiation program coaches clinic. The SMHA should endeavor to promote and advertise this clinic.

To promote other instruction programs which provide opportunities for coaches to improve their own instructional techniques in theory, technical and practical skills and coaching philosophy.

To promote the concept of proficient innovative training and developmental programs for goaltenders by teams, communities and zones. The emphasis being to develop as many goaltenders as reasonably feasible on developmental teams. (i.e. player position rotation system.) The purpose shall be to identify potential players for further development.

The overall objective in the novice program is to ensure that any player who indicates an interest in goaltending should be given the opportunity to try the position. Therefore, coaches should encourage all of their players to try the position. However, if a player, after being asked, clearly does not want to try the position, the coach should not insist that the player do so.

Teams in novice should not have designated goaltenders. All players should rotate through and play all positions throughout the season. All players at this level should be receiving instruction in all aspects of the game i.e. skating, puck handling etc.

Coaches should actively discourage parents from trying to restrict their child to the goaltender position at this age. No parent has the right to insist that his or her child should play the goaltender position to the exclusion of all other positions, or to insist that his or her child should receive preference over other players on the team who have expressed interest in trying the position.

For leveling purposes, in the novice program, the zones should evaluate all players on the basis of their overall abilities. Goaltending will not be one of the skills being evaluated.

Team Concept:

1. **Mechanics**

Emphasis shall be placed on:

- providing fun and enjoyment while stressing the value and appreciation of improved skating and hockey skills.
- promoting and encouraging players to participate in power skating and hockey instruction programs other than those offered by the SMHA.
- To ensuring that qualified proficient and innovative instruction is maintained during practice sessions and games.
 - a. Practice to game ratio - 50 % games, 50 % practice ice time, 1:1. The beginning of league play should begin with 2 or 3 practices, particularly at the Junior and Intermediate level. This is to allow the newly formed teams time to go over rules, offside, and icing, etc before beginning games. Prior to the Christmas break the schedule should end with a game and following the Christmas break should begin with a practice. The March schedule can begin with 1 or 2 practices followed by games to the end of the season. Coordinators are to meet to regroup the teams within the divisions by mid to late January. The intention is to seed teams and play teams of similar caliber in the March schedule.
 - b. Because SMHA ice is subsidized by the City of Saskatoon, we are not allowed to invite out of town teams to share SMHA allocated ice and this must not occur. However, if you wish to rent your own ice, out of town teams are welcomed.
 - c. When a team wishes to change SMHA allocated ice they must fill out the correct game change forms, as per the SMHA handbook at least ten days prior to the change. Failure to comply will result in the laid out suspensions.
 - d. Referees will be used in all divisions of Novice. In the event that no referees show up to referee a game, one referee is to be supplied by each team. No sticks are to be used by these referees.
 - e. Practice and game times allocated to Novice: shall consist of 60 minute time slots.
 - f. All Coaches should insure that their players have proper fitting equipment which provides adequate protection.

2. **Leveling**

The purpose of this leveling formulation is: -To provide more enjoyment by practicing, learning and playing with players of similar skills, abilities and

desires.

Method of Leveling

For the Novice age group each zone would field teams at each level based on the grid which follows: (The intent of this grid is for 25% of the kids to play Senior, 50% to play Intermediate and 25% to play Junior.)

#Teams	Senior	Intermediate	Junior
1	1		
2	1	1	
3	1	1	1
4	1	2	1
5	1	2	2
6 **	1	3	2
7	2	3	2
8	2	4	2
9 **	3	3	3
10	3	4	3
11	3	5	3
12	3	6	3

3.

**** Possible exceptions to the grid may be made where a zone has 6 or 9 teams.**

In order to do so the Zone requesting such exception would have to inform the Novice Chairperson as soon as possible after their registration so that an evaluation committee, with representation from each Zone, could be formed to compare the players abilities to the abilities of players from other zones. It should be remembered that teams are to be formed based on individual skills and not with the emphasis placed on making winning teams. An exception to this grid is made for the Comets Female Zone until they feel they have reached the level where they would be competitive with the boys programs at all levels. Deviation from this prescribed leveling regulation shall require permission of:

1. Zone Commissioner
2. Chairman - Novice, SMHA
3. Majority vote of the Novice Zone Coordinators
4. SMHA Executive

All teams within a zone must have no more than one player difference on

roster by level. Example: Senior - 15 players; Intermediate - 15 players; Junior - 16 players. All teams in each zone must be balanced in numbers. Preferable team numbers for novice are 14-16 players per team. All Novice teams to play a maximum of 8 tournaments per season. (Tournament as defined by SMHA)

4. Rules

- . Time breakdown for games:
 - 1st Period 20 minutes straight time
 - 2nd Period 20 minutes straight time
 - 3rd period time remaining on ice time allocation - straight time
- a. Penalties:
 - 2 minute straight time - infractions are to be obvious - no accidentals.
 - from the drop of the puck

All minor penalties are to be two minute straight time in league play. Penalty time is to begin at the drop of the puck not from the time the referee blows down the play. (The idea in Novice Hockey is simply to point out to the younger player that he/she has committed an infraction. A three minute penalty takes away valuable ice time.)

- b. Score sheets are required in all Novice games. It is the responsibility of the coach of **each** team to ensure that score sheets are filled out completely and correctly. **Time Clock is to be operated by the home team, scorekeeping the responsibility of the visiting team. Goaltender(s) for each game must be clearly marked on the game sheets by circling their number and marking a G beside the name.**
- c. In Novice the Score Boards are to be utilized for keeping of time and scores. A Five (5) Goal Mercy Rule is to be used and thus if there is any five (5) goal differential no additional scores are to be shown on the scoreboard.
- d. Line Changes:
 - All five players must change on every line change if possible (11 or more players). This unique rule should be brought to the attention of the referees association.
- e. **For SMHA league games a player may not play more than 50% of the games as goaltender. The goaltender must be indicated on the game sheet for every league game.**
- f. Serious Penalties: are to be dealt with according to rules set forth by

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- governing bodies.
- g. Coaches shall ensure that all players on a team shall receive an equal amount of ice time in every game. Exhibition and Tournaments inclusive. Emphasis should be on development and not on winning.
 - h. CHA Rule 50 (b) - in divisions of Novice and below, a minor or major penalty shall be assessed any player who, in the opinion of the referee, intentionally body checks, bumps, shoves or pushes any opposing player. If a player is injured, a Major penalty must be assessed. When the offensive player is skating towards the defensive player, the defending player may not hit the offensive player by going in the opposite direction to that player. The body contact must be as a result of the movement of the offensive player. There must be no action where the offensive player is pushed, checked or shoved into the boards. Where, in the opinion of the referee, accidental contact has taken place, no penalty shall be assessed.
 - i. Handshaking at the end of the game is to be considered AS PART OF THE GAME. As such, CHA Rule 80 shall apply for "spitting" on an opponent, official, manager, coach, trainer or stick boy during the handshaking ritual.
 - j. During back to back ice times (to avoid congestion in the doorways to the ice surface) teams coming on to the ice surface should be allowed onto the ice before those leaving have left. Those leaving shall line up along the boards back away from the doors until all players have come onto the ice surface.

Program Committee:

The Committee will consist of the Novice Program Chairperson, plus 7 Novice Coordinators or their substitute representing the SMHA Zones. Each zone Novice Coordinator will ensure that their zone is represented at each meeting.

Approved: April 21, 2008