



WEST END HOCKEY LEAGUE FAIR ICE POLICY



The West End Hockey League is a house league hockey association, where having fun and development take priority over winning games.

Because of this focus, the West End Hockey League operates a Fair Ice Time policy at all levels and age groups. Team Officials are not allowed to use access to ice time for competitive advantage. Playing ability should not affect playing time.

Ice time will never be exactly equal in a given game. Fair Ice means that ice time is equal in all game situations over the course of the season.

DETAILS OF FAIR ICE POLICY

- This Fair Ice Policy applies to all types of games (exhibition, tournament, regular season, playoff and championship) and for all situations in those games (end of close games, man advantage (power play), short-handed (penalty kill), overtime).
- Team Officials must never “shorten the bench” (reduce the ice time for certain players, increase the ice time for certain players) or “double shift” (allowing a player to return to the ice before all other players at that position have been on for their regular shift). This applies to any situation in any game.
- Fair Ice means that playing time is equal by position. Fair Ice means that on a team with 9 forwards, 4 defense and 1 goalie, the playing time will not be equal between forwards, defense and goalie. Playing time should be roughly equal amongst all of the players playing forward or all of the players playing defense.
- Teams can use 5 or more defensemen in a given game only if they have 9 forwards.
- Teams can use 3 defensemen in a given game only if they have 8 or fewer forwards
- The following circumstances are situations where unequal playing time would be permitted:
 - A player becomes unavailable because of injury or illness.
 - A player is unavailable due to a discipline situation administered to a player on the bench. (Team Officials must communicate situations which could result in discipline to players / parents in advance of it being administered. Discipline can only be used to address behavioural issues – not for perceived poor play).
 - The team does not have an even number of players (e.g. 8 forwards or 5 defencemen). In this case, Team Officials should attempt to provide fair ice time by rotating double shifting opportunities throughout the season.

Parents should contact the Division Convenor if they feel that this Fair Ice Policy is not being followed after their team has played a number of games.

Coaches must explain this Fair Ice Policy to all parents and players at the start of the season.

This Fair Ice Policy supersedes all other playing time policies.

All WEHL Team Officials who appear on an official ODMHA team list must abide by this Fair Ice Policy.

Team Officials who do not abide by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.