



Policies and Procedures of the Abbotsford Minor Hockey Association

P-9

Initiation Hockey Policy

Date Revised: June 2017

Version 1.0

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Initiation Hockey Policy	2
Introduction	2
Cross Ice Hockey and Practice by the Numbers	2
Team Selection Process	2
Balancing Requirements	3
Player Movement Between Teams	3

Initiation Hockey Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Initiation program encompasses players in Initiation (5-6 years old), and Novice (7-8 years old).
- 1.2. The AMHA follows the Hockey Canada and BC Hockey Initiation program models as close as possible with a few alterations for delivery and implementation to take into account the nuances of our Association and league requirements.
- 1.3. Hockey Canada on the Initiation Program.
 - 1.3.1. The Initiation Program is a progressive, learn-to-play teaching curriculum. Children learn through participating in practice drills and informal modified games.
 - 1.3.2. The program consists of four phases of instruction, designed for any entry-level hockey player, which introduce the skills of skating, passing, puck control and shooting in a progressive, one-step-at-a-time manner.

2. Cross Ice Hockey and Practice by the Numbers

- 2.1. According to BC Hockey, cross-ice was implemented to teach the FUNdamental skills of hockey in a safe and stress free environment so the players can enjoy the game. By moving to cross ice hockey, direction changes, puck touches, pass attempts and puck battles are doubled and shots per player are six (6) times higher for each player.
 - 2.1.1. 6x more shots on goal/player
 - 2.1.2. 5x more passes received/player
 - 2.1.3. 2x more puck battles/player
 - 2.1.4. 2x more puck touches/player
 - 2.1.5. 2x more pass attempts/player
 - 2.1.6. 2x more change of direction/pivots
 - 2.1.7. 1.75 shots/minute vs. 0.45 playing full ice

3. Team Selection Process

- 3.1. The team selection process will follow a five (5) step process from Hockey 2-4. The process will be coordinated by Division Directors and Coordinators and based upon the following steps:
 - 3.1.1. Last year's coaches rankings.

- 3.1.2. Teams are created
- 3.1.3. Balancing games
- 3.1.4. Review at half way (50%) of balancing games
- 3.1.5. Player moves as required.
- 3.2. Team selection at Hockey 1 (H1) are created by Division Coordinator and Director.

4. Balancing Requirements

- 4.1. PCAHA has mandated that Recreational teams within a Division must be balanced. The AMHA makes every effort to do so, and as such a fair selection process is an important step in achieving these objectives.

5. Player Movement Between Teams

- 5.1. Once the initial team selection meeting is concluded, no player movement whatsoever may be made by coaches or parents. Coaches may not “trade” players, even players that are at the same skill level. If and when balancing moves are required the Division Coordinator and/or Division Director will initiate those moves.
- 5.2. The Division Coordinator shall arrange a schedule of balancing games between the teams in that Division in order to ascertain whether the teams are balanced. Coaches are expected to play all players in their regular positions and give equal ice time during balancing games. A Division Coordinator may require for balancing games, coaches go behind the bench of their opposing teams. Any Coach suspected of “coaching down” or holding back his/her players during these balancing games will be subject to reprimand and or suspension by AMHA.
- 5.3. Upon the completion of approximately 50% of balancing games the Division Director and Coordinator in consultation with the coaches will review the balancing of the teams. Once again should any balancing moves be required, the Divisional Coordinator and Division Director will initiate those moves.