**The Ice Allocation Process**

All Edmonton teams, except for Active Start One and Two, play in the Black Gold League (“BGL”). BGL schedules U12 – U19 to play 16 games, 8 on home (Edmonton) ice and 8 away games played on the opposing team’s ice. The game schedule is broken down into a first session of 8 games between early October and late November (for the 2014-15 season it runs from October 1 to November 24) and a second session of 8 games which runs from November 25th until around the end of February with the exact end dates varying depending on deadlines needed for provincial competitions and other factors. The schedule for the second session is expected to be released November 23rd. U10 teams will play 6 games in the first session which will begin October 14th and run until November 24th. The second session for U10 teams will include 8 games.

We set aside a certain portion of our ice slots and provide them to BGL for making the game schedule. This is usually done between two and three weeks before the deadline for completion of the BGL game schedule. The BGL schedule is usually posted on the BGL website a few days before the first game is to be played. Once the BGL schedule is done I merge that schedule with our master ice list in order to determine which of our ice slots are left to schedule practices. I then prepare the practice schedule and e-mail it to the teams.

You can expect practice ice schedules as follows:

1. Pre-season ice schedule covering practices from the end of evaluations to the start of the BGL session 1 schedule to be prepared and distributed right at the end of evaluations or shortly thereafter.
2. Practices during the BGL Session 1 game schedule period to be completed within about 5 days of the BGL session 1 game schedule being posted by BGL.
3. Practices for the Session 2 BGL period are usually issued in two halves. The first covering late November to early or mid January is issued within about 5 days of the BGL session 2 schedule being posted. The second covering the balance of the season is usually done in early January.

**Managing Your Ice**

It is up to you to take care of your team’s games and practice ice. BGL expects all games to be played as scheduled and will impose fines if they are not played and scores reported. It is very important to keep your schedule organized.

***Tournaments***

If you plan to be away for a tournament let me know as soon as possible and give me the dates that you cannot accept ice due to the tournament and travel days. Then I can work around that for allocating your practices. BGL requires that these tournament blackout dates for teams are made before November 14, 2014 (second session scheduling blackout request deadline). The request form for this is found on the Black Gold League website [www.blackgoldleague.com](http://www.blackgoldleague.com) .

If you decide at the last minute to enter tournaments and have to reschedule games do not expect a lot of sympathy or cooperation from other teams, referees, associations and ice allocators.

***Rescheduling Games – PLEASE SEE INFORMATION BELOW***

**BGL passed a motion that allows each league team a maximum of three rescheduled games over and above any weather related reschedules.**

BGL has also included a list of unacceptable reasons for game reschedules:

Reduced rosters

 Key players absence (missing goalie)

 Coach absence

 Lack of interest to travel to a game

 Tournament attendance

***Weather Reschedule Policy – updated Sept 2014: PLEASE SEE INFORMATION BELOW***

A rescheduled game must be determined within 14 days from the originally scheduled game.

Please provide me with the details of any game you wish to reschedule:

Game number

Original date/time/location

New date/time/location

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING THE GAME RESCHEDULED.  I can help to provide some options for ice if it is a home game. If you know a game will not be played as scheduled you should advise the Edmonton Referee Allocator or NARRA as soon as possible and ensure that I am copied on the e-mail.

If you have to reschedule a game please let me know as soon as possible so we can contact the other team and/or their association’s ice allocator directly to determine some possible dates that work for both teams.  The best process for this is a group e-mail with coaches from both teams and relevant ice allocators all copied on the same e-mail string.  Generally the home association handles contact with referees to book officials.  Please note that Edmonton now has its own Referee Allocator for U14B and lower level games and NARRA handles all of our referee allocations for U14A and higher level games.  The more notice you can give them the better.  If it is on our ice then contact me and I will let you know what ice I have available.  A reschedule can be dealt with in a couple of hours or less once everybody is in the loop.

Reschedules are ultimately the team’s responsibility, not mine.  They upset a lot of peoples’ schedules and greatly delay the completion of practice ice schedules.  Once you reschedule a game please provide me with all the details so that I can put the new date into the master schedule to avoid any conflicts in practice ice allocation.

Referee contact information:

U14B and lower

Martin Beamish ( Referee Allocator)

beamishes@gmail.com

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| --- |
| U14A and higher Terri Schade (NARRA) |
| terrischade@shaw.ca |
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**Trading Ice**

You can make whatever trades you want for ice but the scheduled user is responsible for ensuring that their ice is used. You will be fined for not using your ice. All ice trades must be registered with me. If you need to contact another team to trade ice use the contact list that is included with the schedule.  There is also a master contact list for all teams on the Black Gold website ([www.blackgoldleague.com](http://www.blackgoldleague.com)) although it usually contains many errors.

**Ice Times**

Games for U16 (Junior) and older are comprised of two 23 minute halves and normally require a 75 minute ice slot. Games for U14 (Tween) and lower are comprised of two 18 minute halves and can usually be played in a 60 minute ice slot. Sometimes BGL schedules U14 and lower games on a 75 minute ice slot. In those cases you should have some leftover time that should not be wasted. I would encourage you to use that extra ice for a little bit of practice or a longer game if the refs agree. Keep in mind that the refs have no obligation to accommodate any game time that is longer than standard. The ice schedule that I provide to you should show your start and end times, please ensure all the ice is used.

I normally try to schedule 75 (or sometimes 80 or 90) minute practice ice slots for U16 and older teams and they normally get full ice. You are always welcome to share with somebody if you like. I sometimes have to allocate these longer ice slots to teams that are U14 or younger but usually they will be shared ice. If these younger age teams are finding 75 minutes to be overly long for that age feel free to split the time with the other team in any manner you choose as long as the ice is always in use. Many people find that it works well to have one team start at the designated time and stay for only an hour and the other team starts 15 minutes later (or 20 or 30 minutes later in the case of an 80 or 90 minute ice slot) and takes the final hour of the ice. That way each team gets 15 minutes or so of full ice all to themselves and overlap in the middle by sharing the whole surface. Or each team can practice for an hour and then scrimmage each other for the final 15 minutes. I try to put teams of the same age category on these slots but sometimes that is not possible. In any event it is up to you to organize your ice slots and do not waste any surplus ice as we never have as much as many of you would like.

**Gym Time**

We have gym time on Mondays and Thursday at 2 different gyms throughout the City. The gym slots will be typically assigned in one hour slots and you are responsible for using your assigned time. If you cannot make your assigned time, it is your responsibility to find a team that can. It might be best to contact the team either before or after you in case they would like to extend their slot. I have asked teams to let me know approximately how much gym time they would prefer per month and I will try and accommodate each team as much as possible. If you do not want any gym time please let me know. I will send out a copy of the gym contract to each team and I would recommend you have it handy in case you are challenged by the school staff (this did happen last year).

**Communication**

When you are communicating with me please put your team number in the subject line along with the Black Gold game number if applicable.  I receive a lot of e-mail and it allows me to respond to your requests more quickly.

My contact information is below:

E-mail walkerc@petersonwalker.ab.ca

Cell phone (780) 289-8855

Thank you

Carla Walker

Ice Allocator – Edmonton Ringette

**BLACK GOLD LEAGUE AND GAME RESCHEDULES**

Please see : <http://www.blackgoldleague.com/default.aspx?p=reschedulingagame>

Important sections of BGL policy are included below:

Section 1203.1 **Unacceptable Reasons for Game Postponement**

* Reduced rosters (in line with Ringette Alberta Rules and Operations Policies for minimum (7) seven regular players and use of affiliate players.);
* Key player absence (missing stronger, weaker or even a goalie);
* Coach absence (use other qualified on team roster or find alternate coach with BGL approval);
* Perceived lack of competitiveness;
* General lack of interest to travel to a game;
* 2nd Session started and don’t need to play outstanding 1st Session game;
* Tournament attendance. BGL Scheduled Games have priority over tournament games.

Section 1203.2 **Game Postponement Due To Weather Conditions**

Inclement weather is a fact of life in Northern Alberta winters. It is expected that drivers will take adequate precautions and allow adequate time for travel in adverse weather conditions. Where weather conditions are extremely adverse, particularly in the case of lengthy travel (one hour or more each way) such that a visiting coach has a legitimate concern that the safety of the players and drivers are at risk, game cancellation may occur less than 72 hours before the game takes place. However, such an approach requires a good faith exercise of judgment of both the home and visiting coaches involved.

Road closures, weather temperature below -40C, or an AMA website with yellow or red portions for the anticipated trip that cover greater than 15 km of the trip one-way, are always adequate reasons for game cancellation. Both the weather conditions for the trip to the destination and the anticipated weather on the return trip should be considered.

The description of adverse weather above is not exhaustive. Both coaches, in coming to a decision, should apply common sense judgment. If a travelling coach is prepared to travel, the home coach does not have the ability to cancel the game for adverse weather.

In no circumstances should the travelling team abuse this policy. In the event that this policy is abused and games are being cancelled for less than extreme weather conditions, a report may be made to the league and the league may investigate and levy sanctions for wrongful cancellation.

Regardless of this policy, parents, guardians, and drivers are responsible for deciding for themselves the safety of travel to and from the rink. If a driver, parent or guardian does not feel safe traveling to and from the rink for a game, do not take the risk.

Section 1207 **Suspension From League**

If a Team forfeits two (2) games, that Team shall be suspended from the remainder of the BGL League schedule. Scheduled double headers will be considered as one (1) forfeiture.

Suspension from BGL shall be dealt with as follows:

 a. All future games for the Team will be cancelled. These shall include:

 i. All League games; (2) points will be awarded to the opposition (*Section 12*);

 b. The Performance Bond (*Section 7*) shall be forfeited to BGL.