

## **Pilot Launch of Half Ice Play for Novice Division Teams Roles and Responsibilities for Strathcona County Minor Hockey Associations' Coaches/Managers/Parents and Arena Operations Staff**

Sherwood Park and Strathcona Minor Hockey Associations' entry into the Edmonton Federation Hockey League will see the adoption of half ice play for their novice division teams starting in the 2018-19 season:

- Novice Minor (7yr olds) - half ice for practices and games.
- Novice Major (8 yr olds) - half ice for practices, full ice for games.

To help coaches, managers, parents and Strathcona County staff better understand what this change will mean; the following information is being shared with local minor hockey associations and Strathcona County's Recreation, Parks and Culture arena operations staff.

The 2018-19 season will serve as a **pilot season** to allow everyone time to learn and better understand this development. Recreation, Parks and Culture will facilitate monthly meetings from September through March to discuss feedback and ensure this change is successful for everyone involved. Hockey Canada/Alberta has mandated half ice play for every novice player for the 2019-20 season.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Sherwood Park and Strathcona Minor Hockey Associations will:**

Purchase - portable boards and bumper pads for novice divisions.

Allocate – ice time for novice teams (specific arenas, days and times).

Schedule - practices and games for novice division teams.

Store - boards and pads next to the ice surface at designated arenas.

Decide – which teams will use bumper pads and/or boards.

Provide – a minimum of 2 carded individuals for each ½ of the ice, combined will be 4 individuals to coordinate set up, movement or take down of boards.

Consider – extra hard-card positions for assistants (help with set up/take down of boards).

Move – cart with the boards from the designated storage area to the arena gate.

Assemble – boards on clean ice (min. 2 individuals for each ½ of the ice – 4 combined ).

Disassemble – boards on dirty ice (min. 2 individuals for each ½ of the ice – 4 combined).

Return – carts with the boards from the arena gate to the designated storage area.

Maintain – repair or replace portable boards and bumper pads as needed.

#### **Recreation, Parks and Culture will:**

Communicate – portable board assembly/movement/disassembly processes with coaches, managers, parents, ice allocators, and arena operations staff.

Initiate – monthly meetings with all stakeholders to check in – “how’s it going on the ice”?

Assign – dressing rooms based on practice or game schedule from club ice allocators.

Provide – storage space for the cart and portable board system adjacent to gates.

Move – nets before flooding the ice.

Flood - ice a minimum of every 2 hours (Operator’s call based on current ice conditions).

Review – process for board dis/assembly, equipment inspections, and safety issues

## Scheduling of Novice Practice and Game Times

To minimize time required for set up and take down of the portable boards, Ice Allocators will schedule novice ice time back to back at specific arenas, on specific days and times. Sherwood Park and Strathcona have chosen to schedule novice practices and games at the following arenas:

- Ardrossan Recreation Complex – MacMillan Arena,
- Millennium Place – Sprite,
- Sherwood Park Sports Centre,
- Strathcona Olympiette Centre (practices only)

## Half-ice Boards Set-up and Take Down

- **Coaches and parents will wear skates and helmets when working with the boards.**
- Referees are not required to assist with moving, dis/assembly of boards.
- To avoid schedule confusion and delays for other teams - coaches and/or parents arriving late or failing to show up for the set-up, movement, or take-down of the boards, will result in that group's scheduled time being reduced and the lowering of divider curtains (where available) or the use of bumper pads to keep the schedule on track for everyone.
- **First Group:** a minimum of 2 carded individuals from each team (2 from each ½ ice = 4), to move and setup boards.
- **Subsequent Groups:** a minimum of 2 carded individuals from each team (2 from each ½ ice = 4), to move boards for a flood.
- **Last Groups:** a minimum of 2 individuals from each team (2 from each ½ ice = 4), to disassemble boards, return to cart and move to storage.

## Flood Procedure

- Arena Operations staff will move nets to the side.
- Carded individuals (coaches or parents) will push the boards into the middle of the arena so the Arena Operator can start the flood.
- Arena Operators will complete 2 passes with the ice resurfacer around the perimeter of the arena, and then have coaches/parents push the board sections against the perimeter of the arena rink boards.
- Everyone except the Arena Operator will move off the ice, the Operator will continue with the flood pattern until finished.
- Once the flood is complete, carded individuals will return to the ice to reassemble the boards.

## Pre-season practice for set up and take down

To prepare everyone as best as possible for this operational change, 2 pre-season practice sessions for novice teams and arena operations staff will be set up. This gives everyone an opportunity to work together, learn and practice their roles and responsibilities. Gain a hands-on understanding for the new equipment and how long it will take for initial set up, movement of the boards between games and disassembly and storage back to the cart.

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