



# BROOKS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



## **Brooks Minor Hockey Season of Play Policy**

*Created - March 2020 Reviewed: March 2020*

The Season of Play policy is intended to align with the Hockey Canada Long-Term Player Development Model. This framework provides the guiding principles for age appropriate and skill specific programming for all players in Hockey Canada's youth hockey system. This document is to be used by Brooks Minor Hockey Association (BMHA) for season planning, evaluation, and placement of athletes from U5 to U18. This policy will be used by All BMHA members involved in the evaluation processes leading up to, during, and following the evaluation process are subject to BMHA Code of Conduct.

### **1. Objectives of the Policy**

The Objectives of the Season of Play Policy are:

- To align with Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta Player Development models.
- To provide developmentally appropriate access to ice throughout the year.
- To align the season of play with the team selection/evaluation process.
- To form teams with roster sizes where the athletes can develop and participate equitably and have fun playing hockey.

### **2. Season of Play**

The following phases apply for season planning:

#### Preparation Phase

- a. Every U11 player and below must have a minimum of four ice sessions (prep skates) prior to formal tryouts starting. Prep skates are an opportunity for players to readjust to being back on the ice, becoming familiar with any rule changes and for some adjusting to the larger ice surface.
- b. The prep skates ensure a player's first experience in the new hockey season is not a formal tryout. This gives all players the opportunity to get back on the ice in a more 'player-friendly' environment.
- c. The prep skates help level the playing field; not all players go to hockey schools or prep camps prior to the start of the season.

#### Team Selection Phase

- a. Tryouts must be a minimum of three formal ice sessions. Recommendation is one skills session, one small-area games session and one scrimmage game session.
- b. Players should be selected for teams based on overall skill and by position at the U13 level and above.
- c. Talent identification is about keeping kids around long enough to see what they can really do.

#### Team Development Phase

- a. Every team must have a period of development time following team selection and prior to the regular season starting. Skills before tactics, tactics before systems.
- b. Exhibition games can take place during this phase to finalize team selection.



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- c. League tiering games can take place during this phase for purposes of creating meaningful competition.

### Team Competition Phase

- a. The period from the first regular season game to the start of playoffs.
- b. Travel time for league games must be considered.
- c. For longer travel times it is recommended to play multiple games or set up tournament style weekends for league play games when necessary.

### Playoff Phase

- a. Playoffs may be tournament-style format versus elimination rounds.
- b. Can take place over multiple weekends and does not have to be in one location.
- c. Goal is to have more teams playing meaningful games longer into March.
- d. 100% of players, playing 100% of games.

### Offseason Phase

- a. No player evaluations or formal games are permitted.
- b. Associations may choose to run development initiatives in April and May, or conditioning initiatives in August. Must be optional for players to attend.
- c. Multisport activities are recommended during this phase

| Divisions | Preparation Phase          | Team Selection Phase  | Team Development Phase | Team Competition Phase  | Playoff Phase | Offseason Phase          |
|-----------|----------------------------|---|------------------------|---|---------------|--------------------------|
| U5        | October 1<br>October 31    | N/A   | November 1<br>March 1  | January 1<br>March 1  | N/A           | March 1<br>September 15  |
|           | 1 practice a week          |   | 1 practice a week      | max. 10 games   |               |                          |
| U7        | September 15<br>October 15 | October 15 November 1<br><br>min. of 3 formal evaluation skates | November 1 to March 15 | November 1 to March 15  | N/A           | March 15 to September 15 |
|           | min. 4 prep skates         |   |                        | 1-2 practices a week (50 max)<br>1-2 games a week (25-30 max) |               |                          |
| U9        | September 15<br>October 15 | October 15 November 1   | November 1 to March 15 | November 1 to March 15  |               | March 15 to September 15 |



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|     |                    |                                    |  |   |                                |                             |
|-----|--------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|     | min. 4 prep skates | min. of 3 formal evaluation skates |  | 2 practices a week (50 max)<br>1-2 games a week (25-30 max) | N/A                            |                             |
| U11 | September          | September                          | October 1<br>November 15                         | November 15<br>to March 1                                   | March 1-30                     | March 30 to<br>September 15 |
|     | min. 4 prep skates | min. of 3 formal evaluation skates | 2 practices a week<br>3:1 practice to game ratio | 2 practices a week (50 max)<br>1-2 games a week (25-30 max) | Tournament Style               |                             |
| U13 | September          | September                          | October 1<br>October 15                          | October 15<br>March   | March                          | March to<br>September       |
|     | min. 1 prep skates | min. of 3 formal evaluation skates | 2 practices a week                               | 2 practices a week<br>1-2 games a week                      | Series -<br>2 practices a week |                             |
| U15 | September          | September                          | October 1<br>October 15                          | October 15<br>March   | March                          | March to<br>September       |
|     | min. 1 prep skates | min. of 3 formal evaluation skates | 2 practices a week                               | 2 practices a week<br>1-2 games a week                      | Series -<br>2 practices a week |                             |
| U18 | September          | September                          | October 1<br>October 15                          | October 15<br>March   | March                          | March to<br>September       |
|     | min. 1 prep skates | min. of 3 formal evaluation skates | 2 practices a week                               | 2 practices a week<br>1-2 games a week                      | Series -<br>2 practices a week |                             |



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## 3. Team Roster Sizes

Players will be assigned to teams based on the BMHA Evaluation policy. Team roster sizes are determined by the BMHA Board of Directors and are based upon the following recommendations:

| Divisions | Team Roster Size Guidelines  |
|-----------|--|
| U5        | skate as one large group for practices, 9-13 skaters for game play |
| U7        | 9-13 skaters   |
| U9        | 9-13 skaters   |
| U11       | min = 12 skaters + 1 goalie<br>max = 17 skaters + 2 goalies        |
| U13       | min = 12 skaters + 1 goalie<br>max = 17 skaters + 2 goalies        |
| U15       | min = 12 skaters + 1 goalie<br>max = 17 skaters + 2 goalies        |
| U18       | min = 12 skaters + 1 goalie<br>max = 17 skaters + 2 goalies        |

*\* In divisions in which registrations only allow for one team to exist, the BMHA Board of Directors will make a decision on the size of the team based upon what is best for the players, families, and association.*