



SOME AREAS ARE NEGOTIABLE, WHERE AN MHA CAN UTILIZE THESE GUIDELINES TO ADOPT ITS STANDARD:

GAME PLAY AND GENERAL GUIDELINES - U7

- **Shift Length:** recommend 3 minutes or less
- **Blue puck for game play**
- **Game Length:** recommend no longer than an hour with two halves
- **Net size:** recommend 3' x 4'
- **Age groups:** one- or two-year age groups
- **Seasonal Structure:** recommend 2:1 practice to game ratio, ideal season outlined
- **Practice Format:** recommend station work
- **Player Acceleration:** as per MHA policy
- **Player Movement:** determined by the MHA

NEGOTIABLES

END OF SEASON TRANSITION PHASE FULL-ICE OPTION GUIDELINES- U9

February 1 to March 30

Maximum of 10 one-time events for MHAs with Major (8 year old) teams

- Games within associations can be controlled scrimmages
- Games played against other MHAs must be considered one-time events, with the appropriate sanction approved by Hockey Alberta

Maximum of 10 one-time events allowed for combined teams (7-8 year olds) and Minor teams (7 year olds)

- Games within associations can be controlled scrimmages
- Games played against other MHAs must be considered one-time events, with the appropriate sanction approved by Hockey Alberta

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- **Shifts:** recommend 1.5 minutes or less
- **Blue or black puck**
- **Game Length:** recommend no longer than an hour with two halves
- **Net size:** 3' x 4' or regulation size (4' x 6')

END OF SEASON TRANSITION PHASE

- **Full ice - 5 vs 5; No score kept.**
- **Penalties:** Instant with no PP. Player goes to player's bench.
- **Officiating:** Coaches for controlled scrimmages; certified officials for one-time events.
- **Goalies:** Rotated, with preference for 8-year-olds
- **After a goal is scored, puck starts from behind the net. Teams back off to top of circles or blue line.**

NOTES - END OF SEASON TRANSITION PHASE

PENALTIES

- The referee is to make the call and signal the penalty, the offending player goes to their player bench and sits out until their next rotation.
- A player from the next shift joins the play to keep the number of players playing 5 vs 5 (there are no special teams after a penalty call)
- There is no “delayed” penalty call, once the infraction occurs the referee will make the call.
- The play clock does not stop during a penalty call and there is no “penalty time” added to score board.

GOALIES

- Goalies may be switched at the halfway break
- Teams ARE NOT to dress two goalies for the game. There are no “back up” goaltenders allowed.

FACEOFFS

- Faceoffs only occur at the start of each period, NOT after goals, penalties, icings or offsides
- On an icing or offside the referee blows the whistle, makes the appropriate call and gives puck possession to the non-offending team
- The offending team is to back away from the non-offending team and allow them space to start the play again
- This is to maximize playing time for the players and introduce the rules of icing and offside

FESTIVALS

- Festival permits are not permitted during the End of Season Transition Phase.
- If multiple teams gather for an event, each game sanction must be requested as a one-time event, and counts towards the 10-game limit on full-ice one-time events permitted per team during the End of Season Transition Phase.

LEAGUE PLAY

- Games scheduled through a League will take priority of any one-time event scheduled during the End of Season Transition Phase.
- Failure to fulfil your obligation to your League will result in possible discipline, fines and removal of one-time event and festival sanctioning privileges for the remainder of the season.



FAQ - INTRO TO HOCKEY

U9 PILOT FULL-ICE HOCKEY

01

IF A TEAM SCORES A GOAL, DO THEY FACE-OFF FROM CENTRE ICE?
No, the team that scored will back off to the blue line and the referee will place the puck behind the net and the other team will start from there. The defending team must wait until the puck gets to the top of the circles before they can go after the puck.

02

DOES THE PLAYER THAT RECEIVES A PENALTY HAVE TO OFF IMMEDIATELY OR AT THE COMPLETION OF THEIR SHIFT?
The player that receives a penalty will be sent off immediately after the call is made by the referee and must miss the next shift.

03

IF A TEAM ICES THE PUCK, DOES THE FACE-OFF COME BACK TO THEIR END?
There will be NO face-off. The team that iced the puck must remain outside the opposing blue line and the other team will bring the puck out. The defending team will have to wait until the offensive team brings the puck above the top of the circles before they can go after the puck.

04

HOW DO I OBTAIN A SANCTION TO HOST A ONE-TIME EVENT UNDER THE U9 PILOT PROJECT?
Please contact your local association, provide them the details of the game (date, location, opponent, etc...) and your association will make the appropriate sanction request to Hockey Alberta through the Centre Ice Portal. The request will be reviewed by a Minor Discipline Coordinator and, if approved, an email generated with the sanction number.

05

IF MY TEAM PARTICIPATES IN A LEAGUE, WILL LEAGUE GAMES BE ELIGIBLE UNDER THE U9 PILOT PROJECT?
No, Leagues will continue to host all scheduled games following the Intro to Hockey Model with half-ice games.

06

WHAT IF I HAVE A SCHEDULED LEAGUE GAME, BUT I WANT TO PLAY A ONE-TIME EVENT UNDER THE U9 PILOT, WILL I BE ALLOWED?
No, all scheduled League games will take priority over any one-time event/exhibition games played under the U9 Pilot Project. Failure to fulfill your League obligations will result in possible discipline, fines and loss of sanctioning privileges with Hockey Alberta to host one-time event/exhibition games under the U9 Pilot Project.