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**U9 (Half-Ice) Guidelines**

**Intent**

MLMHA follows all regulations for U9 hockey as set forth by Hockey Canada and Hockey Saskatchewan. As such, it is the responsibility of team Officials (Coaches, Managers, etc.) to familiarize themselves with the playing guidelines and to ensure that they are being followed at all times throughout the season.

Hockey Canada has a national policy in place ensuring that U9 hockey is played in smaller, modified spaces and in the 2019/20 season, made it mandatory that all games played by U9 category age participants are played in the half-ice format with an option of transitioning to full-ice later in the season. However, **under Hockey Saskatchewan regulations, all U9 games and practices must be played in the half-ice format for the duration of the season.**

**Under-9 Regulations (Hockey Saskatchewan)**

**6.04.14 U9**

1. All Minor Hockey Associations must constitutionally adopt and implement the U9 Hockey Saskatchewan curriculum for hockey in the age classification of U9 and below.
2. All U9 games and practices must be in the half-ice format.
3. There will be no U9 Exhibition games sanctioned by Hockey Saskatchewan prior to November 15th.
4. There will be no U9 Tournament games sanctioned by Hockey Saskatchewan prior to December 1st.
5. There will be no U9 League games sanctioned by Hockey Saskatchewan prior to January 1st.
6. U9 League Playoffs must be in a Tournament style format over a maximum of two weekends.
7. Geographic Subdivisions 2-5 are closed for all U9 League play.
8. Tiered U9 teams must have a minimum of four (4) skates/practices prior to formal evaluations starting and those Evaluations/Try Outs cannot start until the 3rd weekend in September.
9. Communities outside of Geographic Subdivisions 2-5 who choose to tier their U9 teams can have a maximum of two (2) tiers and the players registered on these teams must be residents of the sponsoring center of the team or reside closest to the sponsoring center of the team.
10. The maximum number of games a U9 team can play is forty-five (45) per season (Carded team games are not included in the 45 game maximum).

NOTE: Any coach, team and/or association found to be non-compliant with the U7 Cross-Ice format at any time during the season; or the U9 Half-Ice format; or the seasonal maximum game limits for U7, U9 and U11, will be subject to sanctions from both the Minor Hockey Association and/or Hockey Saskatchewan.

Sanctions may include but are not limited to:

* Head Coach suspension
* Minor Hockey Association (and members) not being able to enter Hockey Saskatchewan Provincial Playoffs.
* Minor Hockey Association (and members) not being able to host any Hockey Saskatchewan sanctioned event.
* Minor Hockey Association (and members) not being able to attend any Hockey Saskatchewan sanctioned event.
* Minor Hockey Association’s Hockey Saskatchewan membership reviewed.

**Non-Compliance (Association level)**

Non-compliance with the regulations as set out by any of our governing bodies, including any league that MLMHA may choose to participate in will not be tolerated.

**If a team is found to be in violation of the U9 half-ice format, the seasonal maximum game limit, or any other regulations as set out by our governing bodies at any time throughout the season, the following minimum sanctions may be applied, but are not limited to:**

* **A minimum one (1) game suspension of the Head Coach.**
* **The team losing the right to have any Home games sanctioned by MLMHA for the remainder of the season.**
* **The team having their ice time suspended for a length of time to be determined by the Board.**
* **Any other sanction that may be deemed appropriate at the discretion of the Board.**

**Repeated violations may result in a team Official being removed from the team roster, suspended from participating in any MLMHA sanctioned event in any capacity, or complete expulsion from MLMHA.**

For more information on U9 hockey guidelines and regulations visit the Hockey Canada and Hockey Saskatchewan websites:

* <https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/hockey-programs/coaching/under-9>
* <https://hockeysask.ca/where-fun-wins/under-9>

**If you have any questions, please contact the U9 Division Commissioner.**