



## SASKATCHEWAN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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Website: [www.sha.sk.ca](http://www.sha.sk.ca)

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January 8, 2019

### Memorandum

To: SHA Membership  
From: Kelly McClintock  
Re: Novice Half-Ice Game Structure and Regulations for the 2019/20 Playing Season

The following are the Regulation to create a province wide structure for Novice Hockey within the Province for the 2019/20 season along with Registration Regulations governing when Sanctioned Exhibition and Tournament Game play can begin and the maximum number of games that can be played in a season.

These recommendations are based upon feedback received at the recent Fall Zone Meetings along with the SHA Board of Directors.

The goal of the Recommendations fall in line with Hockey Canada's mandate to place an emphasis on skill development (primary emphasis on skating) at the beginning of the season through practices with games to follow at the end of the season.

In addition, an additional goal is to teach young players the necessary skills of hockey to have more fun when it comes to games which that in turn allow them the opportunity to enjoy the game we all love for a lifetime!

All Novice Hockey prior to January 1 must be half ice, practices and games. Please note that the SHA has chosen the January 1 date as a transition date from Half-Ice ice to full ice. The other three Western Provinces will be Half-Ice for the complete season.

Thank you.

*"Shaping character for life... more than a game."*





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### BASIC RULES OF HALF-ICE GAME

There are basic rules regarding the format and structure for Novice Half-Ice games:

- ✓ 3-minute warmup. (Home Team will use the game zone and the visiting team will use the skills zone)
- ✓ The half-ice game will be played 5 on 5 (skaters) and 1 goalie from each team or both may alter the format if the number of players on one or both teams is less than 10 skaters.
- ✓ Games are 2 x 24-minute periods. (Teams will switch ends after the first period)
- ✓ Officials will draw a dot in the middle of the game zone for all face-offs.
- ✓ Shift are 2 minutes, running time continuous play. (See below)
- ✓ Buzzer sounds once at the end of each 2-minute shift, however the clock continues to run.
- ✓ A face-off will take place at the start of every shift.
- ✓ There are no icing or off-side calls.
- ✓ Score will be kept; however, goals and assists will **NOT** be recorded.
- ✓ Goalies may not be pulled at any time.
- ✓ Line matching must take place. The more advanced players from each team being matched against the more advanced players from the opposing team.

#### Continuous Play and Change of Possession:

As identified by Hockey Canada as a core element at the Novice category, one of the keys to improving the flow of each game and reducing the stoppages is to create continuous play, particularly on change of possession. These basic rules apply:

- ✓ One coach from each team will assist in moving of bumpers/boards at the end of each shift.
- ✓ A face-off will take place at the start of every shift.
- ✓ There will be no stoppages in play during shifts; continuous play will be used. (Exception: Injury)
- ✓ **Puck shot out of play:** Official blows whistle, defending team backs off and non-offending team gets possession.
- ✓ **Goalie freezes puck:** Official- blows whistle, attacking team backs off and defending team gets possession.
- ✓ **Goal Scored:** Official blows whistle, attacking team backs off and defending team gets possession.

#### Penalties

The following guidelines apply to Minor Penalties during Novice Half-Ice Games:

- ✓ Standard: Delayed penalty procedures are followed. (NOTE: Goalie can't be pulled during delay)
- ✓ The official calling the penalty blows whistle, identifies offending player and penalty.
- ✓ Offending player is escorted to player bench by the official who called the penalty.
- ✓ The second official gives possession to the non-offending team. (Offending team must back-off)
- ✓ The offending player is eligible to return during the same shift if goal is scored by the non-offending team.

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### Regulations Concerning Novice Hockey

#### All Games till December 31

- Half-ice

#### Exhibition:

- Start date November 15<sup>th</sup>

#### Tournament Games:

- Start date December 1<sup>st</sup>

#### League Games:

- Start date - Full Ice after January 1<sup>st</sup>

#### League Playoffs:

- Must be Tournament style format over no more than two weekends.

#### Maximum Number of Games in a Season:

- 45 games.

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