

Shortening the Bench Policy South Calgary Ringette Association

One of the key pillars of our association's mission is to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all our participants. It is with this principle in mind that we comprehensively address our "Shortening of the Bench Policy", ensuring all players understand when and why it might be employed.

Definition:

Intentionally playing a player, at the expense of another player, for the purpose of advancing the Team. This does not include the uncertainties created by stoppages in play, penalties and injuries or absences from play for disciplinary reasons.

Policies:

1. All levels up to and including U12: No shortening of the bench will be allowed at any level up to and including U12. Coaches will use a "Fair Ice time" approach. "Fair Ice time" is defined as consideration for playing time and playing experience, applied fairly to all players and in all games, for the development of the players.
2. Levels U14 through U19: Teams in U16 through U19 are encouraged to continue to apply a "Fair Ice time" approach as outlined above. However, given that the athletes are developing more in competition as outlined in the LTAD model there may be situations where the Coach may choose to make playing time decisions for the betterment of the Team in competition. Outside of regular league play (ie. Session 1 and 2), a Coach is permitted to use select players in the last few minutes of regulation time, overtime and situations that do not require five skaters vs. five skaters.
3. If any approach other than "Fair Ice time" as defined above in Section 1 is to be used by the Coach in U14 through U19, the circumstances and conditions of its use must be defined and discussed with the Team and the Parents in advance of season start and provided in writing. Those circumstances and conditions must fall within the bounds of the gameplay described in Section 2 above.