

East Hants Minor Hockey Association Coaching Policy

Purpose - To help ensure that EHMHA coaches are consistent in meeting the objectives and adhering to the policies of the East Hants Minor Hockey Association.

Scope - All EHMHA coaches without exception.

Effective date: March 31, 2011, *Amended Feb 2022*

If you are selected to coach in the East Hants Minor Hockey Association, the following are some guidelines that **MUST** be adhered to:

- Coaching Certification, CRC and Vulnerable Sector checks are completed as per HNS regulations without exception.
- Meet with a member of the Development team at least twice or on a schedule provided by the Development Coordinator. Topics for discussion could include:
 - Practice Planning/Practice Ice Time management
 - Assisting on-ice with Practices from time to time
 - Team Play; Video Analysis, Nutrition; Bench Management and Discipline.
- All agendas, finances, and all other team related matters must be fully approved by the Head Coach of the respective team throughout and to the conclusion of the current playing season.

Fair Play REP Teams (U18/U15 AA Levels only):

- Players / Goaliesⁱ are to be played fairly and consistentlyⁱⁱ with the exception of the last 5 minutes of a game of a “Meaningful Game” which occurs after December 15th. Any game prior to



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December 15th is not a Meaningful Game under any circumstances.

- Coaches may shorten the bench in the last 5 minutes of any Meaningful game. A meaningful game is defined as a game that by winning THAT game, the team WOULD further advance, thereby getting all players one or two more additional games. This would apply in league playoffs, any tournament, in Provincial playdowns, as well as in Provincials. Only exceptions to this are discipline issues as outlined in the team rules at the beginning of the season.

Fair Play REP Teams (except U18/U15 AA):

- Players / Goaliesⁱ are to be played fairly and consistentlyⁱⁱ with the exception of the last 3 minutes of a “Meaningful Game” which occurs after December 15th. Any game prior to December 15th is not a Meaningful Game under any circumstances.
- Coaches may shorten the bench in the last 3 minutes of any Meaningful game. A Meaningful game is defined as a game that by winning THAT game, the team WOULD further advance, thereby getting all players one or two more additional games. This would apply in league playoffs, any tournament, in Provincial playdowns, as well as in Provincials. Only exceptions to this are discipline issues as outlined in the team rules at the beginning of the season.

REC Level and all U9:

- Plain and simple.....fair and consistentⁱⁱ ice-time for EVERY GAME. Roll the lines Fair Play without exception. Only exceptions to this are discipline issues as outlined in the team rules at the beginning of the season.



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Practices:

- Teams are expected to use their practices effectively and practice once per week at a minimum. There will be no exchanging practices for games unless an additional practice is added to make up for the lost practice.

Tournaments:

- All EHMHA are to honour their schedule commitments and reduce the amount of make- up games needing to be played.
- The only exceptions to the above are:
 - The respective team has confirmed that they will have no games to play during the time they wish to compete in a tournament therefore honouring their schedule commitments.
 - They have made arrangements to ensure that they have at least one hour of practice that week by switching with another EHMHA team or picking up an extra hour the week prior to their event. Teams are responsible for ensuring this happens with the assistance of their Divisional Coordinator.

Parent Meeting:

- Once any team is formed, a meeting is held with all parents and head coach and another meeting with coaching staff and players is also held.
- Both meetings are to be held by the head coach.
- The objective of these two meetings is to clarify the team rules with the parents, players and coaches.
- The team rules must include fair play and discipline guidelines and adhere to all EHMHA policies. All team rules must be



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approved in advance by the Divisional Coordinator in consultation with the Vice President Hockey Operations.

- The coach gives his/her team rules in writing to the parents and to the players. The parents and players review the team rules. The player and parent keep them for future reference. The first team meeting also allows for parent and player input into the team rules.

i Goalies should be rotated equally every game with the exception of meaningful games.

ii Fair and consistent ice-time does not mean equal ice time for all players. It means consistent with all players on the team playing a similar position during the game.



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