



# MTK ICE TIME POLICY

Implemented 2023-2024 Season

## Category 1

U10 & U11 B Rep programs Under Hockey Canada Pathway Programs

- All Players play on a “next man up” rotation for entire season.
- Coaches are expected to follow Hockey Canada’s Pathway Programs.
  - ✓ Game/Practice Ratio
  - ✓ Rotation of Positions
  - ✓ General Development Program
- All Players will play in all specialty team assignments throughout season.
- Coaches are given last 2 minutes to adjust line up as they see fit.
- Total variance in player ice time should only be 5% or lower.
- Goaltenders rotate on a game-by-game basis. Goaltenders can be pulled, or rotation can be broken provided there is no more than a 5% variance over the course of the entire season.

## Category 2

U12- U13 B Rep Programs

Phase 1 - Start of Regular play to Regular Seasons end

- ✓ All Players play on a “next man up” rotation for Phase one.
- ✓ All Players will play in all specialty team assignments throughout season.
- ✓ Coaches are given last 2 minutes to adjust line up as they see fit.
- ✓ Total variance in player ice time should only be 5% or lower.
- ✓ Goaltenders rotate on a game-by-game basis. Goaltenders can be pulled, or rotation can be broken provided there is no more than a 5% variance over the course of the entire season

Phase 2 - Playoffs

- ✓ Same as Phase 1 with the following exceptions
- ✓ Coaches are given the last 3 minutes to adjust line up as they see fit
- ✓ Goaltenders are each given 1 start per playoff series then coach can adjust as they see fit
- ✓ Total player ice time variance cannot exceed 10% (by Position)
- ✓ THESE CHANGES CAN ONLY BE MADE WITH HOCKEY OPS APPROVAL prior to the commencement of playoff games



## Category 3

### U14, U15, U16, U18 Programs

#### Phase 1 - Start of Regular Play to January 1<sup>st</sup>

- ✓ All Players play on a “next man up” rotation for entire Phase One.
- ✓ All Players will play in all specialty team assignments throughout season.
- ✓ Coaches are given last 2 minutes to adjust line up as they see fit.
- ✓ Total variance in player ice time should only be 5% or lower.
- ✓ Goaltenders rotate on a game-by-game basis. Goaltenders can be pulled, or rotation can be broken provided there is no more than a 5% variance over the course of the entire season

#### Phase 2 – January 1<sup>st</sup> to Seasons End

- ✓ Same as Phase 1 with following exceptions
- ✓ Coaches can establish specialty teams PROVIDED ALL PLAYERS have a role on either or both teams. Coaches NEED to consider how many shifts it takes to get back to a normal rotation if specialty teams are drawn from different lines or Defensive pairings.
- ✓ Coaches are given the last 3 minutes to adjust line up as they see fit
- ✓ Goaltenders are each given 1 start per playoff series then coach can adjust as they see fit (Playoffs)
- ✓ Total player ice time variance cannot exceed 10% (by Position)
- ✓ THESE CHANGES CAN ONLY BE MADE WITH Hockey OPS APPROVAL prior to February 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Allowed Variances**

The variance could exceed 5% in Phase 1 & 2 due to:

- Benching for Player Accountability
- Players disregarding the coaching staff instructions
  - Examples, lengthy ice shifts, undisciplined penalties, selfish behaviour, lack of passing, etc...
- Injuries
- Equipment issues
- Penalties
- Suspensions
- Under no circumstances are players to be benched if they are deemed a liability, teams are selected at tryouts



### **Step by Step Process**

- Communicate with the player effectively on what they are doing incorrectly and what is the expected behavior
- Warn them verbally if the behavior continues, they will lose a shift
- Anything requiring a period of benching should involve the parents, they are to be aware and support the coach's message

### **Ice Time Policy Issue Resolution Steps**

1. Encourage players to speak directly to coach and work with coach to resolve issues: no PP or PK time, ice time impacted without explanation, greater than 5 or 10% variance as specified above over multiple games.
2. Parent should request meeting with coach via manager (Observe 24-hour rule)
3. Parent should follow MTK Complaint process
4. President/Director of Hockey Operations Executive member assigns Fair Play Support to investigate and resolve issue

### **Notes**

- ❖ Director of Hockey Operations and President must be informed when a coach uses any variant for any reason (within 24 hours).
- ❖ Coaches need to understand that Ice time is not only measured in Quantity, but also in Quality...
- ❖ This document is a condition of employment for all coaching staff and MUST be followed.
- ❖ The Head Coach is ultimately responsible for all final Bench Management decisions and therefore is held accountable by the Association.
- ❖ Parents PAY for their kids to play...Players play hockey to PLAY in games
- ❖ Generally, Issues on teams start with ice time issues...then they balloon into other things.