

Fair Play Policy – Rep Teams

All Coaches shall strive to ensure fair and equal ice time for each player on his/her team over the course of the entire season (which includes exhibition, regular season, tournament, playdown and playoff games). It is also the responsibility of the Coach to ensure that each player receives equal development opportunity and raises the skill level of all players on their team.

The flow of the game may occasionally result in unequal playing times in a particular game due to factors such as penalties. Coaches may choose to use certain players in key game situations or during the last few minutes of a close critical game to give the team its best chance to win. This could result in some players finishing games with more or less ice time than others – but only on a limited basis. While players' ice time may not be equal in each and every single game, coaches should strive to ensure that it is roughly equal over the course of the season.

Any player absences from games due to injuries, sickness, suspensions and vacations (but not limited to the foregoing examples) will not require the coach to provide additional playing time to make up for the imbalance caused by any such absence. In addition, any ice time lost as a result of the coach imposing reasonable discipline on a player will not require the coach to provide additional playing time to make up for the imbalance caused by any such disciplinary action.

Explanatory Note: The proposed policy has been recommended by the Rep Committee and is intended as a guideline to ensure transparent, equal and consistent treatment of all players. The proposal seeks to provide improved clarity with regards to the definition of "fair play" and the expectations and discretion of Coaches within the organization.

This proposal was drafted after consultation with many members and coaches and a review of the definition of "fair play" as adopted by several other girls' hockey associations in Ontario.

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