

SHERWOOD PARK MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



The Sherwood Park Minor Hockey Association announces a return to the Edmonton Federation Novice Division Interlock for 2018-19. There are several questions regarding our return and SPMHA provides this page to answer some of those frequently asked questions.

To start with, during this transition season, **NOVICE MAJOR** (players born in 2010) will be tiered in like-ability and participate in Full-Ice/5 on 5 games. **For this season only** parents of Novice Major players who believe their sons or daughters would benefit from the development aspects of Half-Ice/4 on 4 can ask for a transfer to the Novice Minor division. It is not a reflection on ability but rather a way to ensure the utmost fun and development for young participants, particularly those who may be entering organized hockey for the very first time. Next season, 2019-20, all Novice divisions will be mandated to play Half-Ice/4 on 4 games.

As part of the transition **NOVICE MINOR** (players born in 2011) will be tiered in like-ability and participate in Half-Ice/4 on 4 games starting this season.

We believe the interlock will reduce travel time and distances and Hockey Edmonton will try and schedule as many games to quadrants meaning our Association would be looking at games in either the Southeast or Northeast sections of Edmonton as well as the County of Strathcona.

FAQ's Answered

- **MINOR NOVICE (7 years old - 2011)** (Full Half-Ice Implementation Plan) Full implementation of Hockey Canada/Alberta half-ice program in effect; Half-ice games ONLY;
- NEW Hockey Canada/Alberta Novice half-ice game regulations;
- Minor Novice Game Format 4v4 (can be modified if necessary, depending on roster size/game attendance);
- Equal Play Model; Half-ice/shared-ice practices ONLY; NEW Hockey Edmonton & SPMHA Season Structure and Standards of Play;
- Seasonal Phases: Preseason/Team Formation Phase, Development Phase, Regular Season Phase);
- Hockey Edmonton suggested game/practice ratio allocation: 16 games and 30 practices (September 29-March 15);
- 45-55 total practices (maximum) – Hockey Canada/Alberta;
- 30-40 total games (maximum) – Hockey Canada/Alberta;
- Consistent event locations, dates, times (some exceptions) – Hockey Canada/Alberta;
- 3 tournaments (maximum) – Hockey Canada/Alberta;
- No score keeping (game sheet), no standings – Hockey Canada/Alberta;
- 1.5-minute shift buzzers during games, No faceoffs;
- No playoffs, Jamboree/celebration to finish – Hockey Canada/Alberta;
- No participant medals;
- Multiple station work practices to develop technical skills and individual tactics;
- Progressive curriculum must follow the Hockey Canada Skill Development Pyramid;

- Hockey Edmonton to develop 15 half-ice practice curriculums for coaches;
 - Hockey Canada Network App and Drill Hub available to coaches; Modified tiering system (1-6) – allow flexibility, DOA's must have equally blended teams; Modified team roster sizes (18 minimum, 20 maximum) – one dressing room per team;
 - If you do not field appropriate numbers for a game, your team shall practice on other half-ice side (minor only);
 - No full-time goalies (40% maximum, goalie must also play out);
 - Rotate all players through all positions;
 - Regulation sized nets AND Blue pucks only (practices and games)
 - The BLUE PUCK is a 4 oz puck which allows for easier manipulation; much like younger age groups utilizing a smaller-sized soccer ball or football
- **MAJOR (8 years old - 2010)** (Transitional Full-Ice Implementation Plan)
 - Transitional modified implementation of full-ice program in effect;
 - Full-ice games, rules, same referees, same period lengths;
 - TRADITIONAL Hockey Canada/Alberta Novice full-ice game regulations;
 - Equal Play Model; o Half-ice/shared-ice practices ONLY;
 - NEW Hockey Edmonton & SPMHA Season Structure and Standards of Play
 - Seasonal Phases: Preseason/Team Formation Phase, Development Phase, Regular Season Phase);
 - Hockey Edmonton suggested game/practice ratio allocation: 18 games and 26 practices (September 29-March 15)
 - 45-55 total practices (maximum) – Hockey Canada/Alberta;
 - 30-40 total games (maximum) – Hockey Canada/Alberta;
 - Consistent event locations, dates, times (some exceptions) – Hockey Canada/Alberta
 - 3 tournaments (maximum) – Hockey Canada/Alberta;
 - Score keeping remains (game sheet),
 - Usage of full hour of ice, adjust 5 and 2-minute rule;
 - Tournament playoffs, Jamboree/celebration to finish
 - Multiple station works practices to develop technical skills and individual tactics;
 - Progressive curriculum must follow the Hockey Canada Skill Development Pyramid;
 - Hockey Edmonton to develop 15 half-ice practice curriculums for coaches;
 - Hockey Canada Network App and Drill Hub available to coaches;
 - Modified tiering system (1-6) – allow flexibility, DOA's must have equally blended teams; Modified team roster sizes (15 minimum, 16 maximum) – one dressing room per team;
 - No full-time goalies (40% maximum, goalie must also play out);
 - Rotate all players through all positions; Regulation sized nets AND Blue pucks only (practices and games)

Links to Additional Resources

<https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/hockey-programs/coaching/novice/parents/introduction>

<https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/players/intro-hockey/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLJNcnvk2wE> (Dr. Stephen Norris / Athlete Development)