

# West Carleton Minor Hockey Ice Time Policy

## WARRIORS



### Category 1 (U9, U11, U13, U15, U18)

- All players play on equal rotations for the entire season, including tournaments. (aka “Next Player Up”).
- Coaches are expected to follow Hockey Canada’s Pathway Programs (U9, U11).
  - Game/Practice Ratio
  - Rotation of Positions
  - General Development Program
- All players will play in all specialty team assignments throughout the season.
- Coaches are given the 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.

### Allowed Variances

The variance could exceed 5 or 10% in Phase 1 & 2 due to:

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

## **Communication Process**

- Please communicate with the player effectively on what they are doing incorrectly and what is the expected behavior.
- If the behavior continues, please issue a verbal warning that a shift will be lost.
- Anything requiring a full period of benching should involve the parents, so they are aware and supportive of 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. Parents should request a meeting with the coach via manager to discuss. Please make use of the 24-hour rule.
3. Parent should escalate to WCMHA Hockey Operations
4. President/Director of Hockey Operations/R&S Executive member assigns Fair Play Support team 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.

WCMHA Executive  
Effective Sept 2022.