

## **Introduction**

Hockey Dieppe Memramcook (HDM) promotes fun, good sportsmanship and fair play and puts in place measures allowing all members to grow and flourish in the sport of hockey.

## **Objective**

This policy aims to clarify expectations of Hockey Dieppe / Memramcook surrounding the playing time given to players by coaches. It also aims to promote a fair playing time and prevent players being overlooked during games.

## **Scope and Applicability**

This policy applies to the players, coaching staff, parents, officials and other volunteers involved in HDM.

## **Definition**

Fair Play: sports played in compliance with the rules and the spirit of the game and respect of the opponent.

Fair: Just. Impartial. This decision is fair.

Equal: Same, identical. Equal rights, equal shares.

Player: Refers to the goalies, defensemen and forwards of a team

## **Principle surrounding the playing time given to players**

Since the players pay the same registration fee and Hockey Dieppe/Memramcook values long-term athlete development versus not winning at all costs, playing time given to players must be fair. However, it should be understood that it is nearly impossible for a coach to ensure equal playing time among all players in a period or game due to various play stoppages. Therefore, the head coach of each team is ultimately responsible with the intent of this fundamental principle. Here are some examples:

i. The coach should ensure that each player has the opportunity to play in all game situations (starting lineup, power play, penalty killing, or a special lineup at the end of a game). Consequently, a player will not lose playing time to the benefit of another in such situations.

ii. The coach must understand that each team is made up of players with different skill levels. He must maximize the success of each individual player. Therefore, it is preferable that the coach establishes and maintains alignment to balance his lines. Each of his lines must be treated fairly in terms of playing time. The coach is also encouraged to establish a team standard for each shift, 45 seconds being an acceptable standard,

iii. The coach can choose to limit the playing time of a player only in the following cases and he must communicate his expectations at the beginning of the season:

- Due to player discipline for poor sportsmanship, or lack of respect for officials, coach or teammate;
- Because of discipline to correct a recurring behavior. For example, a player who continues to remain on the ice too long or exhibits inappropriate behaviors (eg dangerous stick) towards the opponent or who incurs a penalty for an act deemed unacceptable by coaches;
- The last two minutes of an important game the use of players will be at the coach's discretion if it is thought the outcome of a game will be affected.
- When a coach has doubts about the health of a player.

### **Affiliate System**

The affiliate players system aims to ensure that at all times a hockey team has the maximum number of players allowed, and allow affiliated players benefit from development opportunities. Coaches are encouraged to have a total of 12 forwards and 8 defencemen during practice sessions.

When players are not available for a game, the coach must use affiliate players according to procedure and regulations. If no affiliate player is available, the coach will offer extra playing time in a fair manner among the players in this position, eg, playing with 5 defencemen on a rotating basis. No player should receive extra game time at the expense of his teammates.

### **Fair Play Codes**

The following fair play codes must be respected at all times:

1. Keep in mind that players have other interests and obligations. Therefore, be reasonable when scheduling games and practices and follow the recommendations of Hockey Canada for this purpose.
2. Teach players to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
3. Make sure that all players receive the same instructions, the same support and the same playing time.
4. Keep in mind that children play for fun and should be encouraged to have confidence in themselves. Therefore, accept that errors and gaps in performance will come and work together to address them.
5. Ensure that equipment and facilities are safe and geared to the ages and abilities of the players.

6. Be a good example for the players and praise them often.
7. Continue to improve your skills and continue your training.
8. Work with the officials at all times for the good of the sport.

### **Policy evaluation**

A policy review will be conducted at the end of the 2012-2013 season and as needed thereafter. The HDM Director of Operations is responsible for submitting to the Board any steps to revise this policy.