

East Kootenay District - Exhibition Game play and Rules for U9 Half-ice Hockey

Game Set-up

- Half-ice set-up is required. **Note: As per Hockey Canada guidelines, half-ice programming can be delivered with a transition to full ice January 15 or later with the understanding that a seven-year-old will repeat the programming as an eight-year-old**
- Ice divider will be placed along centre ice. Exact position may be adjusted for the doors, however, must be placed as close to the red line as possible. It is recommended that a spot be marked on the ice at the midpoint between both nets for face offs.
- Teams will share the player benches, with each team using the gate closest to their net.
- Play will be 5-on-5 (plus goalie)
 - If a team is short on players, 4 on 4 (plus goalie) will be acceptable
- To maximize player time on ice, associations should limit team size to 16 players (15 skaters and a player in net) per game.
- To maximize ice usage, two games should be played at once with games happening within each half-ice area.
- Net size
 - Hockey Canada says 3' x 4', and 4' x 6' are all acceptable. 3x4 is preferred
- Puck size
 - We will play with a black puck (6oz)

Time Clock

- Continuous time will be used. Line changes signaled by buzzer or whistle ever 2 minutes.
- Running time will be used.
- Association will be 1 hr ice slots. Games will consist of:
 - 5 minute warm-up and divider set up
 - 24minute running-time period
 - 2 minute instructional break
 - 24 minute running time period
- Shift lengths will not exceed 2 minutes.

Goalies

- Full goaltender equipment is required for games
- Full time goalies are not allowed, players are encouraged to try all positions. Players are encouraged to play out to develop their skating etc.
- Goalies will not alternate between periods and only one goalie will dress per game.

Game Play

- A minimum of one official per is recommended per game, coaches may act as officials if the ref does not show up.

- It is recommended at least one coach brings their skates to every game in case your Referee does not show up
- Fair and Equal Ice Time
 - Coaches must do their best to ensure all players receive fair and equal ice time, regardless of skill or ability.
 - Players should take turns participating in faceoffs
 - All players should play all positions. No full time goal tenders.
- Faceoffs
 - Each period will start with a faceoff at the midpoint between both nets
- Consistent with Hockey Canada recommendations continuous play will be used.
 - When whistles lead to a change in puck possession: the official (or coach) will signal the attacking players to back off three meters. Once the attackers have moved back, play may resume as soon as the possession team has control of the puck.
 - When the goaltender freezes the puck: the official (or coach) blows the whistle to indicate the attacking team to back off three meters and the defending team gets possession.
 - Puck shot out of play: the offending team backs off three meters and the official (or coach) gives the non-offending team a new puck.
- Line changes
 - Running time will be used.
 - If there are fewer than five players on the bench, the active player designated to stay out for the following shift must tag up at the bench prior to playing the loose puck.
 - When the buzzer sounds, players must relinquish the puck immediately and return to their players bench.
 - When the buzzer sounds the new players must enter the ice immediately.
 - Failure to immediately relinquish control of the puck or new players entering the ice surface prematurely may result in penalty.
 - Players should rotate positions.
- No score is kept, no game sheet is required.
- All players should line up at center ice after the final buzzer and participate in a handshake with the other team

Goals

- Hockey Canada recommends continuous play, when the puck enters the goal, the official will blow the whistle and signal a goal, retrieve the puck from the net and allow the team that was scored on to take possession of the puck. The team that scored backs off 3 meters and gives the player with the puck room to start the play.
- We will follow the 3 goal rule. This means after a player scores three goals, no other goals from that player will count. A player who has scored three goals should be encouraged to pass to their teammates instead of scoring themselves.

Penalties

- Incidental contact may happen, but body-checking is not permitted.
- No icings, nor offsides.
- Minor penalties will result in a penalty shot for the player the offense was committed against, by the official (or coach) blowing the whistle and raising their arm to indicate a penalty will be assessed.
- The official (or coach) will line up the player taking the penalty shot on the faceoff dot (or halfway between the nets if there is no dot), all players will line up 15 feet behind the player taking the penalty shot. On the whistle, all players will skate towards the net. If the player scores, the rules above for goals will be followed. If the player does not score, play will be live. The players chasing the player taking the penalty shot **cannot** steal the puck
- Should an infraction occur that would normally require a player to be ejected from the game (game misconduct, match penalty, gross misconduct), the player will be removed for the remainder of that game. Even under these circumstances, teams will not play shorthanded.

Additional information for hosting Alberta teams:

- Alberta Minor Hockey requires 4-on-4 (plus goalie)
- Alberta Minor Hockey requires a referee, coaches cannot act as officials.

References

Last updated November 10, 2021.

1. Set up, game play and rules for U9 Hockey. Available from: <https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/hockey-programs/coaching/under-9/associations/game-play-rules>
2. U9 Canadian Player Pathway. Available from: <https://www.bchockey.net/Files/U9-Pathway-e.pdf>
3. Hockey Alberta. Intro to Hockey. Game Play Rules. Available from: https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/uploads/source/Intro_To_Hockey/2020_Division_Updates/Game_Play_Rules_2020_Update.pdf
4. Novice Officiating Guide: <https://www.bchockey.net/Files/Novice%20Half-Ice%20Officiating%20Module.pdf>