



Hanover Hockey Association

Hanover Wild Youth Hockey

Ice Scheduling Guidelines

Purpose:

The purpose of this guideline is to define and communicate how ice is purchased, allocated and scheduled between approximately 15 teams / programs within the Hanover Hockey Association. The intent is to establish consistent expectations among coaches, team managers, parents, players, and Schedulers about ice scheduling. This guideline is not a guarantee of specific ice schedule outcomes.

Facilities:

The primary HHA rink is Champion, however HHA also uses Thompson Arena (Dartmouth), Hartford Arena (Hartford, VT), Union Arena (Woodstock, VT), Cardigan Mountain School rink (Canaan, NH), and Kimball Union Academy area (Meriden, NH). The HHA Master Scheduler procures ice time from all these facilities to meet HHA program requirements. Please check your schedule to verify the rink location for you game or practice; the rink is designated on the schedule to avoid confusion.

Practice Scheduling:

Frequency: Each travel team will be scheduled for two practices of one-hour duration per week between Monday and Friday. Additionally, on most weekends each team will be scheduled for one full ice slot, which is typically used for home games; if no home game is scheduled the ice will be used for an extra practice.

Full and Shared Ice: All teams will have some half-ice practices (ice shared with another HHA team for entire practice) and split half-ice practices (ice shared with another HHA team for part of one-hour session). Younger teams (Mites) will have a higher percentage of shared ice practices than older teams (Bantam, Girls U16). Mites will have approximately 1 full ice practice every other week, squirts will have approximately 1 full ice practice every week, Peewees will have approximately one split ice practice each week, Bantams and Girls U16 will have approximately one split ice practice every two weeks. When the availability of ice does not support this model, HHA will need to reduce the number of full-ice practices.

Ice Times: Most practices are held weekday afternoons and evenings. Practice times begin in the afternoon shortly after school release with the youngest teams (Mite) and conclude in the evening with the oldest teams (Bantam). Practice times may begin earlier on Wednesday afternoon to coincide with Hanover's early school release schedule. Wednesday afternoon ice slots will be equitably allocated among all teams; younger teams will get most of the Wednesday times in the first half of the season and older groups will get them mostly during the second half of the season. This will enable flexibility for most Mite and Squire age players to ski (most days, not all) in the Wednesday after-school ski program.



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During the peak hockey season (Thanksgiving – mid-February) the availability of weekday afternoon and evening ice is limited, which forces HHA to purchase early morning ice to meet HHA ice requirements. During this period HHA schedules some practices weekday mornings before school and all HHA teams, except Mites, should be prepped for early morning practice assignments. However, older teams (Bantam and Peewee ages) and green teams will be allocated a higher percentage of early morning practice times. The failure of teams and individual players to use early morning practice allocations will result in less on-ice experience.

The guidelines for practice starting times are as follows:

- Mites: Practice times starting no later than 7:00 PM.
- Squirts: Practice times starting no later than 7:45 PM.
- Peewee and Girls U12 and Under: Practice times starting no later than 8:30 PM.
- Bantams, Midgets and Girls Over U12: Practice times starting no later than 9:30 PM.

Practice Ice Changes and Cancellation: Changes or cancellations of practice ice are discouraged. However, in situations where it is impossible to use a scheduled ice time please contact the HHA Scheduler as soon as possible – last minute changes often are not available and HHA will end up paying for ice times that are not used. (e.g. Thompson requires 72 hours for returning ice).

Game Scheduling:

HHA games are generally scheduled on Friday evenings, Saturdays between 9:00 AM and 8:00 PM and Sundays between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM. There is roughly an equal number of home and away games meaning that on average, one weekend day will be away and the other will be at home. There are two types of games; 1) Granite State League (GSL) games and 2) non-league games. GSL games are scheduled in September by the HHA GSL Scheduler. GSL games are mandatory for GSL teams and there is minimal flexibility in rescheduling them. For GSL teams, the non-league games (e.g., against Vermont or other independent teams) are scheduled to supplement the GSL game schedule. For non-GSL teams, non-league games represent the entire game schedule. There is more flexibility in scheduling non-league games; however coaches should make scheduling requests for non-league games (e.g., how many, opponents, etc.) ASAP and no later than December 31. HHA Game Scheduling and Cancellation Policies (see below) cover both GSL and non-league games. Since HHA uses multiple rinks, please make sure your team is aware of the scheduled rink. Don't assume that all HHA games are at Campion.

Authority to Schedule Games: ONLY SCHEDULERS MAY SCHEDULE GAMES! To ensure that there are no duplications and problems, please do not schedule any games without the consent of the Scheduler – scheduling games for 10 to 12 travel teams is very complicated and only becomes worse if more than one person is on the phone with the other 25-30 schedulers in Vermont and New Hampshire.



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Publication of Game and Practice Schedules: Game and practices schedules are published on the HHA web site and are generally available two-weeks in advance.

Game Confirmation: It is extremely important that Parent Coordinators call and verify game schedules with the opponent's schedulers on a weekly basis. HHA Schedulers will not be making calls to confirm games that are already scheduled; HHA Schedulers will receive game confirmation calls from opposing teams and will communicate any changes.

In case of a game cancellation, notify the HHA Scheduler immediately. The team traveling makes the decision to cancel a game because of weather. If a visiting team cancels a game for any reason, it is extremely important that three individuals be notified immediately:

- a) The LEAGUE VICE-PRESIDENT of your division;
- b) the HHA GAME SCHEDULER;
- c) the HEAD REFEREE, Dick Bressett (802-785-2087) must be called right away if a home game is cancelled so that HHA will not have to pay for referees when they are not needed.

All phone calls regarding game confirmation and emergency cancellations are the responsibility of the Parent Coordinator.

Game Cancellation: ONLY THE SCHEDULER MAY CANCEL A GAME! The only exception to this is for bad weather, in which case the coach and parent coordinator will be provided with guidelines for how to cancel a game. In general, a request to cancel or reschedule a game must be made at least one week in advance. It is important to understand that games can not be cancel at the last minute simply because parents or players decide a game is inconvenient. We have league requirements, reciprocal arrangements with other associations and, in the case of away games, there are other teams that have purchased ice and arranged for referees.

Invitational Tournaments:

Some teams participate in invitational tournaments during the hockey season. Since the game schedule is determined in September and October, it is often necessary to reschedule around tournaments. This is always difficult and sometimes impossible. PLEASE IDENTIFY YOUR TOURNAMENT AND INFORM THE SCHEDULER BEFORE NOVEMBER15. This means that the parent coordinators and coaches must begin to look immediately for tournaments



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Scheduling Issues, Concerns and Feedback:

We ask for your cooperation during the year and welcome your suggestions as well as your criticisms. It is very important that you communicate your concerns through the coaches and the parent coordinators. Please do not contact HHA Schedulers directly - please route any questions or concerns through your parent coordinator. Schedule changes and mistakes are inevitable. It is very important that you notify us through your Parent Coordinator if you find a scheduling error.

Initiation Programs:

HHA Initiation Programs (Learn to Play, Wild Mites, and Girls Development) are allocated 2-hours of ice time per week. These program generally have consistent weekend morning ice times (7:00 -10:00) throughout the season.