

Policy and Procedures

09 August 2004

Subject: Plymouth Youth Hockey Policy 004-2004
To: Members of Plymouth Youth Hockey

PLYMOUTH YOUTH HOCKEY PLAYER ICE TIME POLICY

Plymouth Youth Hockey has ad from its beginning a policy of equal ice time for each player on a team. This policy applies to all PYH teams.

There are three basic reasons for this policy;

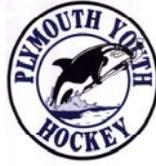
1. We must develop the hockey skill of every player on the team. Obviously players spending more time on the bench receive less of an opportunity to develop than players getting more or most of the ice time.
2. Each player pays an equal share of the cost of supporting the program; therefore it is only fair that each player receive equal ice time.
3. A program will succeed only if the people it serves help support it. People will not support a program which does not treat them and their children fairly. It is a fact that people will support a losing team which operates fairly but will not support a winning team which only skates its best players.

To implement the equal ice time policy, the following specific rule and its exceptions are promulgated to each coach:

- Each team will normally be assigned three forward lines and either two to three lines of defense. Each player shall skate, to the maximum extent practical equal time.
- In the event a player is absent, becomes ill or receives and injury during a game, a coach will skate equally all players through the vacant players position or line.

The only exceptions are:

- Near the end of a close game (i.e. within the last three or four minutes) a coach is allowed to skate his best players if he or she so desires.
- A coach has the authority to restrict a players ice time for disciplinary or instructional reasons, on a short term basis. For example, If a player is disrespectful to a coach, adult, referee, team mate, opponent, etc... The coach can sit him or her out for one or more shifts. The same applies for instruction. For example; If a player wont pass the puck to an open teammate after being told a number of times. However, this exception should not be abused by the coach. Chronic problems will be brought to the parents and also to the Division Coordinators attention by the coach.



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One method of equalizing ice time that is not acceptable is to skate the stronger players more frequently against tough opponents and the weaker players more frequently against weak teams. This method does not work. Parents whose children get extra ice time have short memories and parents whose children get short changed have long memories.

We recognize that the equal ice policy may not be consistent with a win at all cost philosophy. So be it. Winning is important, we don't mean to imply that it is not, however, it should be viewed from the perspective of fairness, team/program support, and most importantly, player development. Development and having fun is the bottom line.

GOALTENDERS:

- If a team has two goalies assigned, the coach will discuss with the goalie parents how they will determine play. Normally the goalies will split the game in half. I. E. the starting goalie plays until half way through the second period and the second goalies plays the second half. Each goalie switching back and forth in reference to starting the game.