



Date: October 24, 2017

To: Minor Hockey Associations

From: Peter Woods, Executive Director Hockey Manitoba

CC: Hockey Manitoba Board of Directors, Council Representatives and Regional Registrars

Subject: **Initiation and Novice Programs – 2017 – 2018**

As you are aware, Hockey Manitoba adopted a new regulation that was introduced at the Initiation age level in January 2015, whereby all teams are required to use cross ice sections for games and practices. Please note Section O.8. on page 155 of the Hockey Manitoba Constitution, Regulation & Rules of Competition handbook reads as follows,

“All games and practices (ice sessions) at the Initiation level shall use ice surfaces consisting of cross-ice sections. Exceptions regarding ice surface size may be considered by the branch.”

Further details regarding the Initiation Program can be viewed by visiting the Manitoba Hockey website link <http://www.hockeymanitoba.ca/players/initiation>

Beginning in 2017 – 2018 Hockey Manitoba has reduced the ice size for Novice players. Section O.9. on page 155 of the Hockey Manitoba Constitution, Regulation & Rules of Competition handbook reads as follows,

“All exhibition, regular season and tournament games in the Novice age category must be played using half ice sections until December 31st of each minor hockey season. Half ice sections are considered to be from the centre red line to the end boards in all arenas. Games will be played 5 on 5 and a goalie using full sized nets and regular black pucks. Beginning January 1st of each season, all exhibition, regular season and tournament games at Novice may be played on full ice.”

Hockey Manitoba has produced a comprehensive half ice program and all information can be accessed via the attached link <http://www.hockeymanitoba.ca/players/novice>

Long term player development research shows us that reducing the size of the playing surface offers more opportunity for skill development and greater participation from all players. More decisions, quicker reactions, finding open space, reading pressure, offensive/defensive body position, puck pressure, containment, etc...which equals an improved hockey sense. More puck touches, more passes, more shots and more fun...all of which helps with player retention.

It is important to note that there are no exceptions to these regulations in regards to the participation in games/practices at the Initiation level and Novice levels which would include exhibition, regular season and tournament games.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Hockey Manitoba. Thank you.
