



## Novice (7-8) Hockey Program Half-Ice Officiating Program Guidelines

Beginning in the 2017 – 2018 season, players in the Novice age category (7-8 yrs) will play on a modified ice surface – approximately half the size of a normal hockey rink – until December 31<sup>st</sup> of each season.

### Motion

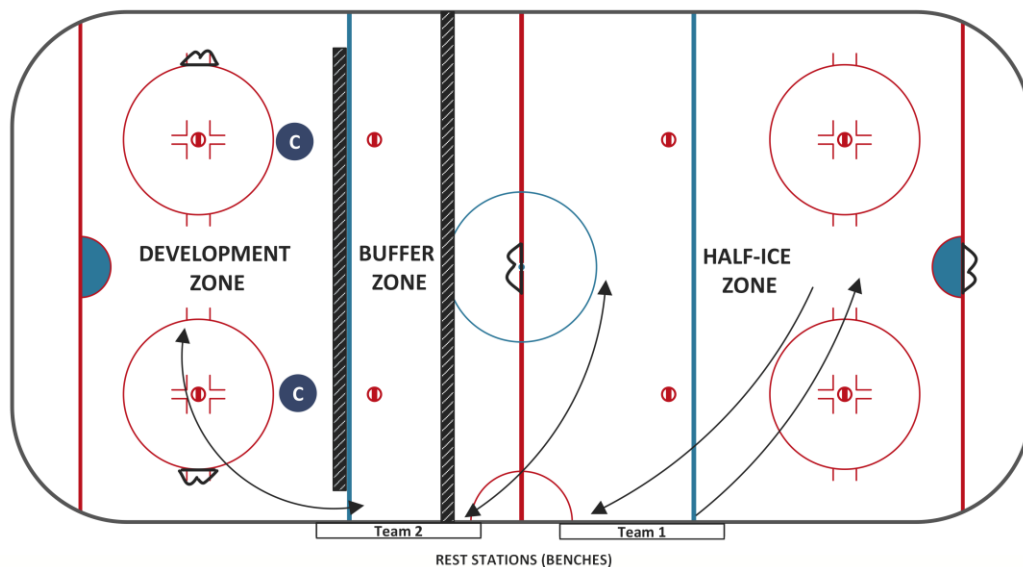
All exhibition, regular season and tournament games in the Novice age category must be played using half-ice sections until December 31<sup>st</sup> of each minor hockey season. Half-ice sections are considered to be from the centre red line\* to the end boards in all arenas. Games will be played 5 on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

*\*Hockey Manitoba's Board of Directors has determined a slight modification, whereby the net will be placed on the centre red line, slightly increasing the playing surface of the half-ice section.*

### Half-Ice Format Summary

- Games will be completed within a one-hour or one-hour, 30 minute time slot with two competing teams.
- Games will utilize three zones: Half-Ice Zone, Development Zone and Buffer Zone
- In the Half-ice Zone, one net is to be placed on the goal line (using the crease and markings) and a second net is to be placed on the centre ice red line (goal posts closer to Development Zone side of ice), using the face-off dot as a guide for placement.
- Teams play ONE half-ice game in the Half-ice Zone.
- The space from the opposite blue line to the opposing end boards will be the Development Zone, used for a small area cross-ice game, monitored by one on-ice coach from each team.
- Players will rotate between zones as outlined below

NOVICE HALF-ICE LAYOUT



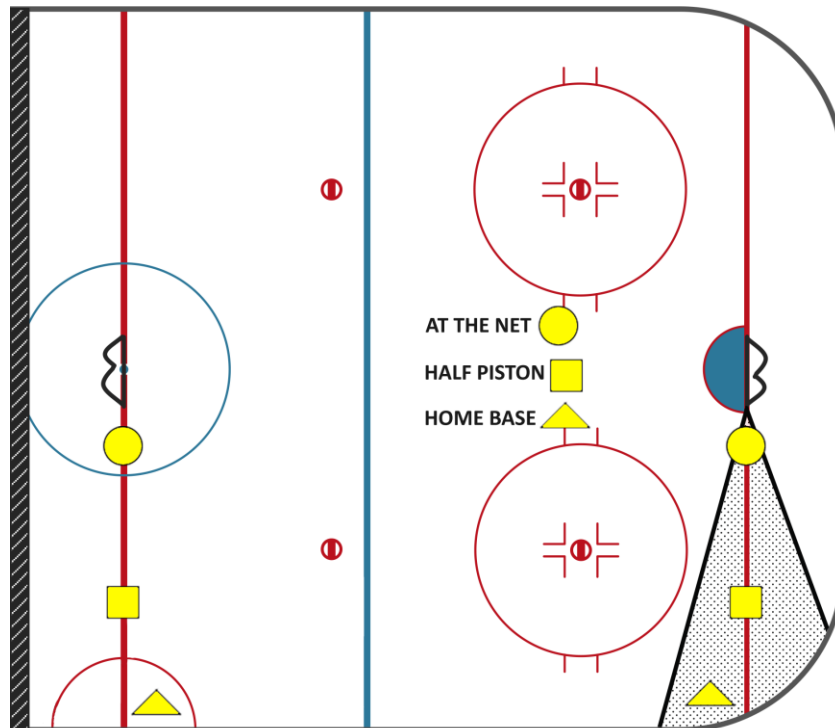
## Half-Ice Zone (Game)

The following outlines general rules for the Novice Half-ice game:

- The half-ice game will be played 5-on-5 (skaters) and one goalie from each team.
- Game length will be 2 x 18-minute stop time periods for one hour ice slots. Game length will be 2 x 24-minute stop time periods for one and a half hour time slots. Teams switch ends after 1<sup>st</sup> period.
- The team whose bench is closest to the Development Zone will defend the net on the centre ice red line in the 1<sup>st</sup> period.
- Shifts will be 2 minutes in length, with shift changes identified by a buzzer. The clock is stopped at the end of each shift. Changing on “the fly” is prohibited.
- Shifts will begin with face-off taking place at one of the 4 available face-off dots in the Half-ice Zone. Face-offs at the beginning of each shift and after goals will rotate between the available face-off dots (determined by the officials).
- Face-off locations within each shift for stoppages in play (after penalty, goalie covers puck, puck shot out of play, etc) will be at the closest face-off dot to the plays (determined by officials).
- Any player called for a penalty will be taken off for the remainder of their shift (placed in the player’s bench). The offending player’s team will play the remainder of the shift shorthanded. Once their shift has ended the player will be deemed to have served their penalty and will proceed into the next zone in the rotation.
- Score will be kept for the half-ice game only (not in Development Zone), by the timekeeper using the main score clock. Goals and assists will be recorded as in standard game procedures (with game sheets).
- All players lineup in the Half-ice Zone to shake hands following the game.



## Novice (7-8) Hockey Program Half-Ice Officiating Procedure Guidelines



### Half-ice Game Face-off Procedures

At the beginning of the game the officials will choose a dot, and rotate through the face-off locations in a clockwise manner.

- Face-offs will take place at four spots; the two “end zone” and the two “neutral zone” face-off dots.
- For pucks covered, shot out of play, or frozen by players, the faceoff will take place at the nearest face-off dot.
- For face-offs after goals or at the beginning of a shift, the face-off will rotate between the four dots.
- When a goal is scored the official will blow the whistle and signal goal. The goal is recorded on the scoreboard; goals and assists are reported to the timekeeper as per standard game procedures (with game sheets).

### Half-ice Game Off-side and Icing Procedures

- Icing and off-sides are NOT called in a half-ice game.

### Piston System

In the end zone officials will utilize "the cone" and the Piston System to maintain consistency with other officiating systems. Due to the shorter ice surface the Piston System is condensed; Home Base and Half Piston are positioned closer to the goal line to give the official the best opportunity to see the whole play and keeping the net in view.

- "Home Base" is used when the play is on the same side of the ice as the official.
- "Half Piston" is used when play is on the opposite side of the ice of the official.
- "At the Net" is used when play is at the net.

### **Half-ice Game Positioning**

The back official will remain in the "neutral zone", following up behind the play, on the opposite side of the ice as the official in the piston system. This area will generally be between the top of the circle and blue line depending on the position of play.

The official dropping the puck will remain in that end. The official not dropping the puck will line up as the back official, across from the face-off.

### **Penalty Call Procedures**

For penalty calls the standard delayed penalty procedure is employed. The official will stop play and complete the penalty calling procedure (stop, point, etc.). No penalty is recorded and the player does not go to the penalty box. The player will be sent to their team's bench for the remainder of the shift. The penalized player will not be replaced and his team will play shorthanded for the remainder of the shift.

### **Half-ice Game Benefits for the Level I Official**

- A modified ice surface will provide new Level I officials the opportunity to work on basic fundamental and communication skills.
- As no off-sides or icing will be called the official will be able to use the first part of the season to focus on correct positioning.
- The smaller ice surface will require the official to develop the skating methods required of a referee: backwards, pivots and transitions.
- Half-ice games provide first year officials an opportunity to build confidence and gain experience.

Level I Officials will be introduced to the Novice Half-ice Procedures at the certification clinics in the fall. Hockey Manitoba recommends that all Association RICs provide new officials with an informational session prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> for the transition from half-ice to full-ice games. Hockey Manitoba will develop this information to ensure consistency.

