

# MEMO



## SUBJECT: EQUAL ICE TIME RULE

The Equal Ice Time Rule is a stated requirement at the House League level. Although the League fully appreciates that at times this rule is somewhat constraining in terms of what a coach can do, remember that this is house league hockey, and as such all players are entitled to equal ice time regardless of ability.

The purpose of this memo is to clarify the rule as well as outline the procedure and penalty of not following the rule. It should also be noted that although in effect for the regular season as well as the playoffs the rule will be strictly enforced in the playoffs.

1. If you have 15 skaters for a game then you must use 9 at "forward" and 6 on "defence".
2. If you have 14 skaters for a game then you have the option of using 8 at "forward" and 6 on "defence" or 9 at "forward" and 5 on "defence".
3. If you have 13 skaters for a game then you must use 8 at "forward" and 5 on "defence".
4. If you have 12 skaters for a game then you must use 7 at "forward" and 5 on "defence".
5. If you have 11 skaters for a game then you must use 7 at "forward" and 4 on "defence".
6. If you have 10 skaters for a game then you must use 6 at "forward" and 4 on "defence".
7. If you have 9 skaters for a game then you must use 5 at "forward" and 4 on "defence".
8. If you have 8 skaters for a game then you must use 5 at "forward" and 3 on "defence".
9. If you have 7 skaters for a game then you must use 4 at "forward" and 3 on "defence".

In all of the above circumstances the players at both "forward" and "defence" must be rotated evenly within their respective positions. For example, if you are using 7 forwards then the forwards are simply designated 1 thru 7 and the next 3 forwards must follow the previous 3 forwards onto the ice.

A player must stay in the same position throughout the game (as submitted to the timekeeper on the line-up).

If an opposing coach notices that the other coach is not following the rule as stated above, then he is to inform the Timekeeper of the violation; specifically mentioning to the timekeeper the number of the player/ players who are being over-shifted. The timekeeper is to then speak to the coach and warn him of the situation. The timekeeper will then observe the subsequent shifts and if it is confirmed that the coach is in violation of this rule then the team in violation will automatically forfeit the game in question. Ignorance of the equal ice time rule will not be an acceptable defence.

Although not implicitly stated above, there is an assumption in those divisions that shift on the fly that the shifts will be roughly equal in duration. While at times this is impossible given the flow of a given shift, over the course of the game the players should have received an equal amount of time. If it becomes apparent that certain players shifts are consistently longer than others then this will be considered a violation of the rule with the same forfeiture penalty being enforced.

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If you have any questions regarding the above please feel free to call the league office (416 398 3825) and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** You may contact either [steven.gryfe@avenueroadhockey.on.ca](mailto:steven.gryfe@avenueroadhockey.on.ca) or the registrar at [arha-registrar@sympatico.ca](mailto:arha-registrar@sympatico.ca) if you have any questions.