



# INFORMATION BULLETIN

## Bulletin No: 10/01

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To: **Ted Carter – AA Council Chair**      **Kirk Reynolds – GM**  
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From: **Perry M. Cavanagh – Hockey Calgary President**

Subject: **Elite Stream Fair Play Policy – One (1) Year Pilot: (Effective September 1, 2010)**

The fair play code is set out in Hockey Canada’s booklet Safety Requires Teamwork – An information guide to Hockey Canada’s Risk Management and National Insurance Programs. The fair play code is a set of guidelines for players, coaches, parents, officials, spectators and league organizers set out to promote positive hockey experiences. Fair play is important from a developmental perspective as well as from a risk management perspective.

It is the policy of Hockey Calgary that all member associations affiliated with Elite Hockey in Calgary, which are governed by Hockey Calgary’s standing committee referred to as “AA Council”, will follow the enclosed Fair Play Codes.

For the most part the fair play code is clear; however, for coaches there is a provision, which states, “I will ensure that all players get equal instruction, support and playing time.” The use of the term “equal” is generally understood. However, it is intended to mean and encourage that coaches will give players equal instruction, support, and appropriate fair playing time, as per Hockey Canada’s Coaches - Fair Play Pledge. It may be that fair ice times do not yield an equal result. However, from a risk management

standpoint it ensures a safe and effective environment for player recreation and development.

Fair play is intended to allow all players an optimal opportunity to develop their skills in Hockey. Development occurs in both practice and game situations. And within the game itself, there are different situations where each player should be afforded the opportunity to develop his or her skills, whether it is power play, penalty kill, playoffs or tournaments.

The following policy respecting ice time is intended to ensure a consistent application of the fair play codes throughout the Hockey Calgary Network with an emphasis to ensure all players are provided optimal opportunity to develop his or her hockey skills in game situations.

This policy applies to all Elite Hockey under the jurisdiction of Hockey Calgary or its affiliated Councils / Committees and will be in effect for the 2010 / 2011 hockey season on a pilot project basis. A review will be conducted by Hockey Calgary at the end of the season to determine if modifications to the policy are required.

### **Fair Play Policy (Coaches Obligations)**

**Goalies** At the Elite levels, after ample development and performance opportunity has been given, the coaches based on the competition, will determine their goaltending starts. This based on the experience level of the goalie, and doing the right things, hard work, effective team play, good attitude and discipline. A sense of entitlement will result in both goaltenders developing to a much lower level than their abilities. Rather than developing a critical personality trait and elite drive. Therefore, goalie game rotations and playing time will vary based on the above noted variables.

**Players** At AA Elite levels the coaches understand that in a short period of time, their players must develop to the point where they are able to play higher levels of hockey; especially at the elite streams of hockey such as Bantam AAA, Minor Midget AAA, and Midget AAA. At the AA levels, a player must be adept at playing the style of game that will be attractive for a coach's particular need. Therefore, the coach's goal is to develop each player into the role that best matches that player's ability. This development will not result in equal ice time but the hope is it results in optimal ice time. Also there are circumstances, where players that are doing the right things, hard work, effective team play, good attitude and discipline, that may be rewarded by extra opportunity at times. Presuming one is willing to recognize the differing efforts, attitudes and effectiveness that can be present on the bench from night to night.

There are many situations at AA levels that could be described where equal ice time will develop the players in a worse manner for all players, and where optimal ice time should be attained. For example, ensuring that an individual whom has a chance to develop into an elite third line defensive forward (the "Checker") gets equal power play time will decrease the penalty kill time available and the coach's ability to match the Checker with the other team's first line (that often skates directly after a penalty kill). This situation would hurt both the chance of the Checker becoming an elite third line player as well as hinder the higher-skilled player from developing into a power-play talent. There are also different game situations, which by allowing equal instead of optimal ice time, places the players in situations that don't follow the risk management standpoint.

At AA levels the prior principals of rewarding hard work, discipline, and effective team play should be employed to optimize opportunity and time on power play and penalty kill units as much as possible.

**Junior B  
Rosters**

Teams with rosters in excess of the maximum allowable playing positions must submit and adhere to a rotation of players that will be required to sit out of the line-up in those situations where healthy scratches are required. The rotation must result in all players taking a turn as a healthy scratch if a sufficient number of healthy scratches are required.

**Affiliates**

Teams will be allowed to bring up affiliated goalies in order to ensure the team has a back-up goalie for each game. It is the coach's discretion as to whether an affiliate goalie plays or not, however, in situations where an affiliate is required, the regular team goalie shall not receive less game time than what the regular rotation would have provided.

Teams must recognize all Hockey Calgary rules restricting affiliations.

**Player  
Discipline**

Coaches will have the discretion to sit a player, in the event a player has developed a habit of missing practices within a set reasonable limit or arrives late for a game. The requirements to sit a player should up to the coach, as specified in team guidelines, and be documented. If repeat occurrences are considered necessary association discipline policies must be followed and must be reported to association administrators.

Coaches will have the discretion to sit a player, for objectionable conduct of the player (ie: swearing, inappropriate hits, etc). The exercise of this discretion must follow association discipline policies, and must be reported to association administrators.

All coaches wishing to implement “team rules” should submit those “team rules” to their member association for approval by the Director responsible for Hockey Operations. “Team Rules” should be reasonable and respect the varying needs of all players.

**Fair Play  
Discipline**

Each Member Organization should establish internal policies and procedures to ensure full compliance with the fair play policy by all coaches. All parents or players who feel that the fair play codes for their team are not being adhered to, must follow their respective Organization’s Policies and Procedures relating to appeals associated with Fair Play violations / concerns.

*3 Strike Rule:*

Only after an individual has exhausted all avenues of appeal within their Member Organization should that individual raise such issues with the Chair of the Elite Stream AA Council.

Coaches found to be non-compliant with the fair play policy will receive a written warning for the first offense.

Coaches found to be non-compliant on a second occasion will receive a minimum two (2) game suspension.

Coaches found not to be compliant on a third occasion do not share the core values of Hockey Calgary and will receive an indefinite suspension from coaching minor hockey in Calgary until a discipline hearing has determined otherwise.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this bulletin, contact Perry Cavanagh at [president@hockeycalgary.com](mailto:president@hockeycalgary.com) or at the numbers listed below.

**HOCKEY CALGARY**



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