



West Ferris Ringette Association Fair Ice Guideline

June 10, 2023

West Ferris Ringette Association and Ringette Ontario support Fair Ice Guidelines for all players at all levels.

A/AA/B/C Level of Play

It is the coaching staff's responsibility to ensure that all players receive "fair ice time", however this does not mean "equal ice time".

Ice time for all players should balance out over the course of the season. All players should be given the opportunity to play in power play, even-strength and penalty killing situations. The goal is to develop the ability of all players to play in all situations.

These guidelines allow for "shortening the bench" during the last quarter of a 4 period game or the last 5 minutes of a 2 period game and in key situations that could impact placement in the standings, or extend participation in a tournament or Championships.

Notwithstanding the above, coaches may reserve the option to 'bench' players for disciplinary reasons at any point during a game and the incident should be further discussed with the athlete and parent(s) after the game, adhering to the Rule of Two.

B and C level Rep teams are an introduction to competitive levels of play. As such the formation of B and C level Rep teams should be considered inclusive and every reasonable effort should be made to include all those players who wish to play on such a team. This could mean asking some players to consider playing 'up' a level in another association if it is appropriate for their skill level, players joining a B or C level team in a nearby association, simply running a long bench, etc.

House League Levels of Play

At the House League levels, a player should not intentionally get more or less ice time than another. The spirit of this guideline is not to have stopwatches out to measure shift lengths, but that all players competing at this level of ringette should be getting equal ice time, within reasonable ranges. Athletes should not be put on or kept off the ice in certain situations such as a power play or a key moment late in the game.

West Ferris Ringette Association and Ringette Ontario believes that all players deserve an equal opportunity to contribute at all times of the game and for equal lengths of time, and that while “shortening the bench” may help a team have a better chance to win, the harm to an athlete’s confidence lasts much longer than the temporary satisfaction of winning the game. No matter what the situation may be, the coach is encouraged to roll the next line or next player.

In situations in House League where it would be necessary or advantageous to call up a player to the next age division for a game that reasonable efforts be made to circulate these opportunities amongst the players in that age division that have expressed an interest in call-up opportunities. Players who are in their final year of an age category have traditionally been considered eligible for call up if they are so interested.

GOALTENDERS

There is an expectation that throughout the season, each player will have accumulated approximately the same amount of ice time, to the best abilities of the coach. Goaltenders have the option of changing at half-time of each game or playing full games if they have equal game time throughout a season and/ or round-robin portion of a tournament. In tournament play, coaches can use goaltenders anytime during championship round (mini- games, quarterfinals, semi-finals, and finals)

*Additional/Substitution Goalie at a Provincial Championship for the U 14, U 16 and U19 age levels, must complete a form and submit for approval to the Operations Director and Competitions Committee. This role is unique to the Provincial Championships, and the Fair Ice Guidelines will not apply. The Additional/Substitution Goalie will be allowed to play in up to a maximum of 2 games except in the case of illness or injury to the original team goalie.