

ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

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EMBARGOED Memo

To: Alliance Hockey, GTHL, NOHA, OMHA
From: Phillip McKee - OHF Executive Director
Date: 12/1/2017
Re: OHF to Introduce Modified-Ice Progression

****PLEASE SHARE THIS MEMO WITH ALL MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS WHICH ADMINISTER PROGRAMMING FOR 8-YEAR-OLDS AND UNDER (NOVICE AND BELOW)****

The following Embargoed Memo details the information which will be released to the general public on Tuesday, December 5, 2017. As an administrator of a minor hockey association, please review this information but note, it is not for public consumption prior to December 5, 2017.

The Ontario Hockey Federation will be hosting two video conference calls on Monday, December 4, 2017, to review the information provided in this embargoed memo and answer any questions. The link to register for either video conference call is included in the email which was sent with this Memo. It is open to all minor hockey association administrators.

The Ontario Hockey Federation Board of Directors has approved the following direction for the 2018-2019 season:

1. The philosophy of cross-ice hockey for 5-and-6-year-olds is to make the beginner's early impression of hockey a good one. Game play for 2012-and-2013-born players (5-and-6-year-olds) in the 2018-2019 season is to be cross-ice.
2. Game play for 2011-born players (7-year-olds) in the 2018-2019 season is to be half-ice.
3. There are only two exceptions to this progression: 2011-born players who were granted the opportunity to play with 2010-born players in the 2017-2018 season may continue to play with the age group above for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 season or if a minor hockey association makes a request to its Member to allow an exemption due to registration numbers and the Member approves the request.
4. Where possible, it is preferred programming is offered to individual age groups. The decision to offer mixed programming (7-and-8-year-olds playing on the same team and in the same league) will be at the discretion of the Member. Minor hockey associations who require this allowance are to contact their Member directly. In instances where mixed programming (2010-and-2011



born players) is offered for the 2018-2019 season, teams will start the season in half-ice programming and transition to full-ice for the second half of the season. This will be repeated in the 2019-2020 season for 2011-born players, please see below for more.

Hockey Canada has mandated all-players 8-year-olds and under will participate in modified-ice games for the 2019-2020 season. Therefore, the Ontario Hockey Federation direction for the 2019-2020 season is as follows:

1. Game play for 2013-and-2014-born players (5-and-6-year-olds) is to be cross-ice.
2. Game play for 2012-born players (7-year-olds) is to be half-ice.
3. Game play for 2011-born players (8-year-old) is to be half-ice for the first part of the season and transition to full-ice for the second half of the season. 2011-born players who were granted the opportunity to play with 2010-born players in the 2017-2018 season may continue to play with the age group above for the 2019-2020 season or if a minor hockey association makes a request to its Member to allow an exemption due to registration numbers and the Member approves the request.
4. For mixed programming (2011-and-2012 born players on the same team and in the same league) there will be three options available to the Members:
 - i. Deliver half-ice programming for the full year to players 7-and-8 years of age;
 - ii. Deliver half-ice programming for the full year to players 7-and-8 years of age and provide a six-week transition program to the players that are 8 years of age in February or March; or
 - iii. Deliver programming set out above for players 8 years of age to the mixed age group with the understanding that the players 7 years of age will repeat the programming as an 8-year-old.

The OHF is working diligently to produce materials which will be available in conjunction with items already created by Hockey Canada. For a list of all currently available support materials, promotional and technical, [follow this link](#).

More items will be available through the winter and spring, leading to the start of the 2018-2019 season. This information will include examples of player tiering for house league and rep teams, as well as the OHF Player Development Model for players 8-years-old and under.

If any minor hockey association or club requires support in administering the modified ice-programming, they are encouraged to contact their Member or, if needed, the OHF.

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