

WBHL Ice Time Policy

The WBHL is committed to developing, to our players' full ability, their skills and knowledge of hockey. This is accomplished by providing equitable ice time to all players in all game situations.

To achieve this objective, while recognizing the nature, rules and positional play of the game, the requirements for ice time for all players are:

- Matching of lines or individual players is not permitted after the opening faceoff of each period. For clarification, lines or players may not be rolled such that a line or player misses a shift to match an opponent's individual players or lines.
- Shift durations and shift changes remain at the discretion of the coach, depending on the game situation, but the minimum shift for a player or line will be 45 seconds, unless the player voluntarily leaves the ice. The duration of shift selected by the coach will be utilized consistently for all players and lines, recognizing the duration of each shift will not be exact. As an example, a coach may select shifts of generally one minute, which may vary between 45 seconds and 90 seconds depending on the game situation. However, one line will not consistently play two minutes, while another line consistently plays one minute.
- In the case of the opening faceoff for each period, the coach may select any line to start the period and the home team has the last choice in selection of the line to start the period.
- Dedicated specialty teams will not be utilized for powerplays or penalty killing. All players will have equitable opportunity to play in powerplay or penalty killing situations.
- Teams on the powerplay may utilize one forward in a defensive position and teams on the penalty kill may use two defensemen when a forward is penalized, provided both systems are used consistently. One system in isolation cannot be utilized by a team.
- In the case where full lines are not available due to the number of players allocated to the team, or due to the absence of players and the players have set positions (center, wing, defense), the position of the missing player will have a shorter rotation. In the case where a position is regularly on a short cycle, due to allocation of players, or the same player is consistently absent, the coach will cycle through the positions the opportunity for a short rotation.
- The players or lines may be selected at the coach's discretion on both teams in the last 3 minutes of the game, when the goal differential is 2 goals or less.
- Teams with two goalies will ensure both goalies receive equitable ice time. Equitable ice time will either be playing one-half of each game or playing in alternating games in entirety; goalies will not consistently play in starting and backup roles. In situations where an affiliate goalie is being utilized, refer to the separate Affiliate Policy.
- In situations where discipline has been deemed necessary by the Head Coach and a player's ice time is impacted as a result, refer to the separate Discipline Policy.