



# Milton Keynes Junior Ice Hockey Club

## League Selection Policy

### **The Role of Milton Keynes Junior Ice Hockey Club (MKJIHC)**

Our policy throughout the club is to encourage children to enjoy all aspects of Ice Hockey, whether it is competitive or recreational. This helps them to play or participate in sports throughout their lives, which has many benefits both to their health as well as socially.

All Players will receive at least 1 hour per week of quality ice provision as part of the Club's membership and get to enjoy competitive and non-competitive games internally; playing games within training and other events such as: tournaments, in-house games and summer leagues.

As with other areas of their lives, i.e., School, where pupils' attainment and progress is carefully monitored to ensure that all pupils are developing appropriately.

As a club we enter many games, and tournaments (both competitive and non- competitive). All Coaches involved recognise the need to work towards an inclusive approach, that enables as many Players as possible to experience competitive sport, in some cases representing conference and England.

Team selection meetings are a huge part of MKJIHC Coaches' weekly activities. The thoughts and discussions about the next game's team makeup usually start immediately after the previous game. and they can last right up until the start of the game. The reason Coaches spend so much time on team selection is because of the importance of each decision. Getting the team selection correct could very well be the difference between winning and losing.

Team Coaches have their own pressures to manage, as they have the pressure of selecting the best team for the next game and Coaches must also wrestle the emotions of team selections. Emotions run high during team selection discussions because people's feelings and self-worth are at stake. A great sense of disappointment falls over those that miss out on selection, whereas those that are selected experience excitement and fulfilment.

These emotions also affect Coaches and children and Parents. Each decision they make puts their credibility on the line, and if the wrong call is made, they must wear the blame. Each decision also affects personal relationships. Therefore, to avoid emotions affecting decisions, it is best to remove the emotional side of decisions completely. This can be achieved by implementing the team selection policy.



# Milton Keynes Junior Ice Hockey Club

## Team Selection Process

### Selection will be conducted by:

- Team Head Coach
- Assistant Coaches
- Team Manager
- Director of Coaching

### Selection for team events is primarily based on:

- Ability - Level of skill demonstrated
- Attitude - of Player on and off the field of play
- Attendance - Commitment to training and learning

### Other Factors that will also be considered

- Understanding of game, tactics and rules.
- Performance, effort and behaviour in practices
- Performance of the Player as a team member
- Level of fitness
- Emotional maturity to cope with the pressure
- Enthusiasm to learn and improve.
- Payment of subscriptions and match fees

This criteria varies from fixture to fixture and is hugely dependent on the level of competition, as well as the number of Players that we are allowed to take to games and those who are available.

Many of the games that we play are of a high standard, with opposition being extremely competent in terms of skill level, knowledge of rules, tactical knowledge, strength, and speed.

Coaches may select a team from those who attend practices and will be made aware prior to the event about the expectations and outcome from such a process.

Selection for Teams in an ideal world, we would love to give every child the opportunity to represent the club in every competition that we enter. However, due to circumstances beyond our control (usually due to team size restrictions see Appendix 1) this is not possible.

The decision of which children are selected is never an easy one and many conversations take place to ensure that choices are fair and just. We also must consider the level of the competition that the team will be facing and select children accordingly.



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Helping children develop life skills is an essential part of teaching and learning at our club. An important part of this education is to help children to cope with the elements of competition.

Winning, losing, fair play, teamwork, selection, and non-selection, along with developing respect for Coaches and Managers are important aspects of this learning process.

Where there is an issue with a child's behaviour and/or attitude they are not selected due to non-sporting reasons (the criteria in italics relating to behaviour and sportsmanship), this will be explained to the Player (and Parent/Carer/Guardian), by team Manager and Coach as necessary, the reasons behind the decision and the improvements the club expects to see in the future. Parents must also be informed. Once improvements are observed in the club, then the Player can once again be considered for selection in future events. Whenever Player numbers and rules allow, we will always attempt to enter more than one team in a competition in order to allow as many children as possible to compete.



# Milton Keynes Junior Ice Hockey Club

## Role of Parents

We believe our policy to be equitable, and would like to thank Parents in advance for supporting us as follows:

If your child is regularly chosen for a team, please help them to understand it is a privilege to represent the Club and they should be proud of themselves.

If your child is not chosen, encourage them to keep coming to practices and enjoy what they do with the club; they are still part of the success of their teammates, it is good to develop social skills and is also a good way of keeping fit and healthy.

Understanding that it is not easy for Coaches to make selections for teams and respecting their decisions, Parents and children also need to be aware that sometimes other children may be chosen to represent the club to allow them to have these experiences as well.

Parents and spectators have a great influence on the children's enjoyment and success in sport. Children play sports first and foremost because they love playing. Milton Keynes Junior Ice Hockey Club is dedicated to nurturing that enjoyment and enthusiasm for sport and as a foundation for developing skills and tactics for life.

We believe that taking part in a club contributes to each child's personal development and self-esteem. This is more important than winning matches. All our teams play to "win" but not at any cost, it is important to play in the right spirit and in a supportive atmosphere.

We rely heavily on the Parents and supporters who attend training & matches to behave in an appropriate manner and to support all the children in the right way.

## League Ice Time Policy

It is impossible for all Players to receive the exact same number of shifts or minutes of play time in a single game. Many times, the shift length depends on whistles or what end the puck is in.

Equal Ice Time means that, on average, all Players in the same general position will be on the ice the same amount of time.



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### **FAIR ICE TIME POLICY What does “Fair Ice Time” mean to MKJIHC Our Definition:**

Fair Ice Time recognises that game situations present opportunities for Coaches to ice specific lines; for example, power play or penalty kill.

Fair Ice Time means that over a season Coaches may afford all Players the opportunity to play in these situations.

**As a Parent**, you have the responsibility to understand the challenges of equal and fair ice time Give our Coaches some latitude and consider your position over at least 3 games.

This Policy assumes that all Players are eligible to play in every game. Any review of Player ice time, formal or informal, should average playing time over at least two or three games and must take into account penalties, injuries, suspensions and absences.



# Milton Keynes Junior Ice Hockey Club

## MKJIHC

### **MKJIHC acknowledges that Membership fees are the same for all Players U12-18**

MKJIHC considers the “fair ice” concept to be a core component of team sports. This means that, regardless of individual skill level, all Players should be provided an equitable opportunity to develop and contribute to the success of their team, wherever possible. As such, MKJIHC expects that its Coaches and assistant Coaches take reasonable and practicable steps to ensure that all MKJIHC Players on their team(s) receive equitable amounts of playing time in any game or practice, while taking the following considerations into account:

### **Expectations for Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18**

MKJIHC recognises that there are intrinsic differences between the competitive and recreational hockey streams in these Teams and that a Coach may need to make reasonable adjustments to Player ice-times throughout the season to ensure that a proper balance between Player development and team competitiveness is achieved over the course of a season.

Several circumstances may require the Coach in these Teams to adjust ice-times to make the team/Players more competitive and/or where a specific Player skill set may be needed. Some examples of these circumstances may include (but are not limited to):

- Penalty kill/power-plays.
- Important face-off situations
- Adjusting lines to competitively match an opposing team’s strengths/weaknesses.
- Adjusting lines in the final minute(s) of a game to ensure a competitive advantage is maintained.
- Adjusting starting goaltender rotations

While reasonable ice-time adjustments may be necessary to ensure the competitiveness of the team, the Coach must ensure that all Players receive exposure to, and the opportunity to develop in, as many tactical and situational aspects of the game as possible. Over the course of the season, this approach will allow for the establishment of specialty teams (i.e. Power Play and Penalty Kill) for both competitive reasons and to allow Players to play to their strengths.

While this approach may result in some Players finishing certain games with more ice time than others and Player ice time may not be equal in each game, it is expected that Coaches will endeavour to ensure that all Players receive equitable ice over the course of the season.

The intent of the MKJIHC fair ice-time policy for these age groups is to provide a reasonable degree of fair ice-time to all Players, in consideration of the factors outlined in this section and below, while ensuring that, throughout the course of a season, their Players are adequately exposed to, and prepared for a future in, competitive hockey.



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## **Impact of Gameplay dynamics & Other Factors**

MKJIHC recognises that hockey is a dynamic and fast-paced game and that several game play and/or other factors beyond the Coach's ability to control will impact a Coach's ability to ensure that equitable ice-time is received by each Player. Some of these factors may include (but are not limited to): Player fatigue, penalties, injuries, illnesses, absences or other factors resulting in an uneven roster (for example, a team with an odd number of Players for the defence positions) single vs. two goalie teams, gameplay resulting in protracted time in the defensive zone which prevents a shift change, equipment failure.

MKJIHC recognises that for these (and possibly other) reasons, it may be impossible for a Coach to achieve truly equal ice for every Player.

In instances where these and/or other factors may present themselves, it is MKJIHC's expectation that the Coach will take reasonable steps, where feasible, to help mitigate the impact these factors have on balancing the ice-time of his/her Players.

## **Discipline & Conduct Detrimental to Team Play Factors – All Levels/All Divisions**

Coaches are permitted the discretionary authority, within reason, to restrict/reduce Player ice-time in instances where a Player has displayed behaviour which is contrary to MKJIHC and/or team code of conduct or has displayed a pattern of conduct which undermines the team's ability to effectively compete.

An ice-time restriction/reduction imposed by a Coach should be reasonable under the circumstances and proportional to the behaviour being addressed. For example, a 'selfish' penalty might result in the Player missing a single shift, whereas disrespectful behaviour towards a Coach or other team official might result in the Player being ejected from a practice or sitting out for the remainder of a game.

Examples of behaviour which may warrant a disciplinary ice-time restriction/reduction may include (but are not limited to):

- Bullying of team-mates either on or off the ice
- Excessive/inappropriate penalties
- Disrespectful language directed towards a Coach, team official or teammate
- Disrespectful language directed towards an on-ice official
- Inappropriate displays of unsportsmanlike behaviour
- Violence or other behaviour which is likely to cause injury to another Player/participant

Following an instance where a disciplinary/conduct related ice-time restriction/reduction is imposed, Coaches and Managers will discuss the situation with the Parent(s)/guardian(s) of the Player concerned, and are encouraged to discuss the situation, considering any team code of conduct and/or expectations,



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which require that a suitable period has elapsed between the time of the occurrence and the follow up discussion.

Coaches will update their Team Managers in the event a chronic pattern of such behaviour is encountered and/or multiple ice-time restrictions/reductions are imposed.





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## **Dispute Resolution**

Players/Parents must first attempt to informally resolve disputes over ice-time with the team Manager. MKJIHC rules for dispute resolution must be followed. All attempts must first be made to informally resolve ice-time related disputes at the team level before a formal request for mediation is made to MKJIHC.

In the event an ice-time related dispute is unable to be resolved informally at the team level, Players/Parents must notify the appropriate MKJIHC Team Manager in writing.

Formal complaints regarding breaches of the MKJIHC Fair Ice Time Policy will first be addressed by the MKJIHC Team Manager responsible for the Team from within which the complaint arose, in consultation with the MKJIHC Director of Coaching. The MKJIHC Team Manager will first attempt to mediate a resolution to the dispute, if appropriate. Should attempts at a mediated resolution by the Team Manager be unsuccessful, the matter will be referred to the MKJIHC Committee of MKJIHC for a decision.

For matters not requiring formal MKJIHC Disciplinary proceedings, the decision of the MKJIHC Committee will be final.



# Milton Keynes Junior Ice Hockey Club

## MKJIHC In-House Hockey selection Policy

### Policy Statement:

#### **IN-HOUSE HOCKEY - AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE EQUAL ICE TIME**

Each Player shall receive, as near as possible, equal ice time in every game.

In the case of a team carrying two (2) goaltenders, each shall dress and play equal portions of the game. Any goalie dressed, and on the bench, must play as per the equal ice rule.

When injury or sickness occurs to a skater and prevents the use of "5 man units" a Player may have to be rotated to equalize ice time. This is the Coach's responsibility and will be monitored if necessary.

In-House games will follow the same format as the EIHA under 12 Rules of Competition.

**By definition "double-shifting" occurs when any out Player is on the ice for two consecutive shifts.**

TEAMS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DOUBLE-SHIFT A PLAYER UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

TEAMS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SIT A PLAYER FOR MORE THAN TWO SHIFTS IN A ROW

**Power play and penalty kill lines are not allowed In-House League play.**

In-House League: the rule to be followed for substitution/line changes, is as follows: A pre-determined buzzer will indicate that Players shall change, as per the EIHA Under 12s In-House Rules.

### **In-House Selection Policy**

1. Under 12-Under 18 Players not selected for League games
- 1a. U10s moving up next season and not playing up

If spaces remain after priority 1 and 1a above the following will apply in order

2. Under 12-Under 18 Players selected for League games playing line 3 or line 4.
3. Under 12-Under 18 Players selected for League games playing line 2 £10 per Player.
- 3a. Under 10's moving up in 24/25 season- £10 per Player.
4. Under 12-Under 18 Line 1 Players are not eligible.



# Milton Keynes Junior Ice Hockey Club

## Appendix 1

As Per EIHA Rules of Competition

An U12 team will consist of 3 lines of Players – a N/M (2 N/M if possible) plus an optional reserve Player i.e. 15 Players and net minder (2 N/M if possible – an optional reserve Player).

At U14 through U18 the minimum bench strength is 12 (twelve) Players consisting of 11 skaters and 1 Netminder. As a club we should be aiming and building to play 3-line hockey where possible.

The following is a recommended guideline for Coaches when selecting Players form the squad availability Roster:

15 out Players 9 forwards 6 defence

14 out Players 8 forwards 6 defence or 14 out Players 9 forwards 5 defence

13 out Players 8 forwards 5 defence or 13 out Players 9 forwards 4 defence

12 out Players 7 forwards 5 defence or 12 out Players 8 forwards 4 defence