

## **Ice Scheduling FAQ**

We produced this document with the intent of explaining how the process of scheduling ice works and how we work closely with Hockey Calgary and the teams.

### **Who schedules the ice?**

The ice schedulers for SVHA: Stacy Baltzer and Sarah Palinkas

Since the 2013/14 season, SVHA has been using an ice scheduling tool called oneclickice to assist with ice allocation. This tool has allowed us to distribute ice equally amongst all association teams as well as allocating morning ice as fair and equal as possible. Coaches and Managers have access to the scheduling tool, they can look at their ice allocation compared to other teams in their division.

### **What is the Ice scheduling philosophy?**

The philosophy for scheduling ice is to be as fair and equitable to each team in the association based on the guidelines set by the Board of Directors.

### **How does ice get allocated for all the divisions in SVHA?**

For the 2018/19 season, we have 44 teams and each age category has different rules for ice allocation.

For example, Bantam/Midgets will have all the late ice times.

Our House League teams will be assigned one practice and one game per week.

For league play, Hockey Calgary has set the following game time guidelines:

Age Category	WEEKDAY		WEEKEND	
	Earliest Start	End	Earliest Start	End
Novice	5:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:00 AM	8:00 PM
Atom	5:30 PM	8:45 PM	8:00 AM	8:45 PM
PeeWee	5:30 PM	9:45 PM	9:00 AM	9:45 PM
Bantam	5:45 PM	10:15 PM	11:45 AM	10:15 PM
Midget	7:00 PM	11:00 PM	3:00 PM	11:00 PM

### **How do the ice schedulers ensure that all teams are being fairly allocated ice?**

We will use the ice scheduling program to help us ensure that teams in each age group are allotted similar number of hours on the ice, including the same number of full and shared ice (this includes hybrid ice). The scheduled time for practices are shared amongst the association with some exceptions - Bantam, Midget and Juniors will share all the late ice times; Timbits, Novice and Atom will share all early morning ice times. We try to balance early and late ice times equally between the teams. Hybrid ice is a 90-minute time slot that is shared by two teams. The start time is offset by 30 minutes to allow each team to have full ice for 30 minutes and half ice for the remaining 30 minutes.

Once the hours are balanced, we do additional checks to ensure fair allocation:

- Back to back days – we try not to have practices/games more than 3 days in a row whenever possible
- Early and late ice counts – ensure ice times are spread throughout the teams
- Blackout dates – to check that we have not scheduled any practices/games on approved blackouts requested by individual teams or arenas
- Dry spells – we try to make sure there is not a large gap between ice sessions per team

We follow the checklist every time we produce a schedule. All counts and checks are from the start of the season practice ice allocation. It might appear that during a partial schedule release one team might get extra ice time, however by the end of the season all teams will be very close in hours allotted plus or minus a couple of hours.

**NOTE:** Periodically there are circumstances beyond our control that make it impossible to balance the schedule.

**Who reviews the schedule?**

When a schedule is ready to be released, it is sent to representatives of the Board for approval. Once the Board approves it, the schedule will be published on the SVHA website.

**Timelines**

Please see 2018-19 Hockey Calgary Important Dates for the most up to date list.

A tentative timeline for scheduling the ice for the 2018/19 season:

Type of schedule	Expected Dates (estimated)	Important Dates
Evaluations	Early September to Early October	Start Sept 4 <sup>th</sup>
Seeding	End of October to Mid-December	Schedule deadline Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>
Christmas Break	Mid-December to end of December	Tournament deadline Nov 12 <sup>th</sup>
Regular Season	Early January to end of February	Schedule deadline Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>
EMHW	Provided by Hockey Calgary	Week of Jan 11-19, 2019
Playoffs	Provided by Hockey Calgary	Begin Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>
Spring Tournaments	Month of March	Tournament deadline Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>

**Why is more practice ice available in October than in January and February?**

October is when we have the most ice available for practices as there are no games scheduled. In January and February there are many factors that affect the availability of practice ice like EMHW and the regular season game schedule.

**Why is there a discrepancy of ice allocation between SVHA website and the scheduling program, oneclickice?**

We do not balance against the SVHA website as teams can purchase their own ice and can add them to their SVHA schedule. We balance our master schedule based on the ice that is allocated in oneclickice only. You might see during a specific scheduling period one team has an extra practice(s), but by the end of the season SVHA practice ice is balanced on the master schedule. If you are concerned your team is not getting its fair share of ice, please send us an

email. We will send you the division counts we have for ice according to our scheduling program. Our counts are solely based on the hours we assign in oneclickice.

### **Why do we have a long dry spell between practices or games?**

We try to spread out practice times as much as we can. There are times it is difficult to schedule practices based on when games are booked by Hockey Calgary.

If a team has requested a blackout, we may not be able to avoid a dry spell.

The limited weeknight ice we are given could have a direct impact as well, some teams may not have weekday practices on a given week.

A “dry spell” is not determined by practices only, it is determined by games and practices. If your team has not been given ice (both games/practices) for more than 10 days - this is a dry spell.

Please email [svice@svha.ca](mailto:svice@svha.ca) if you feel your team was missed.

### **Why do we balance hours and not the number of ice times?**

Ice is charged by the hour and our ice slots vary in length from 1:00 to 1:45 (for junior games). If we were to look at just the number of sessions, teams that got 1:15 ice slots would accumulate an extra hour every 4 practices over a team that has more 1:00 practices. Teams get different length sessions at random. Hours are the best way to make sure everything is fair.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### No Weeknight Ice for Timbits/House League

Due to limited weeknight ice, typically, SVHA will not assign weeknight ice to Timbits or House League teams. Also, note that during the seeding round and regular season, most teams are playing games on weekends which means they get priority on weeknight practices. Having Timbits and House League teams practicing and playing primarily on the weekend allows us to use the purchased ice while teams in other Divisions are playing games. This year we are providing Timbits with ice on Fridays for two teams to share.

### Internal Blackout Process

Teams can request blackouts to the ice schedulers as per the Important Dates document found on the SVHA website.

Blackouts can be used for team fundraising, events and/or tournaments.

Example: Team has accepted an out of town tournament - request a blackout for the days of the tournament and your team will not be scheduled once you receive confirmation from the ice scheduler.

Teams must request blackout dates from Hockey Calgary to avoid having any games booked during the seeding round and regular season. Teams must also request blackout dates from SVHA to avoid practices being scheduled during the same requested period.

If you would like to request a blackout date, please send an email to [svice@svha.ca](mailto:svice@svha.ca) before the required deadline. Coaches can trade practices with other coaches if you forget to submit a blackout date to SVHA. We are only granting one scheduling window per seeding round and one for regular season, this must be approved by HC and SVHA.

### Hockey Calgary Game Scheduling

Hockey Calgary is using a new software tool to generate the game schedule for the seeding round and the regular season. Their goal is to schedule 1 weekday game and 1 weekend game. They want to avoid having teams play 2 games during the weekdays or weekends. However,

you may have a back to back game on Friday and Saturday or Sunday and Monday. The game schedule is generated and reviewed by SVHA before it is released.

### Ice Swaps

Teams are permitted to swap ice with other teams. An email must be sent to [svice@svha.ca](mailto:svice@svha.ca) and [admin@svha.ca](mailto:admin@svha.ca) confirming that both teams have agreed to the trade. Once this email has been reviewed, we will make the necessary changes to the SVHA website for the respective teams. This process allows us to confirm that both teams agreed to the swap/trade.

### Tournaments

Tournaments will be hosted by SVHA teams in December and March. Hockey Calgary will not sanction any tournaments during the seeding round or the regular season. The number of tournaments setup by the association is determined by the board appointed Tournament Coordinator and the available ice. Tournament awarding is determined by a draw in early September. Novice is typically provided tournament ice in March as they do not participate in the Hockey Calgary City Championships.

SVHA has 3 legacy tournaments:

1. Murray Copot Invitational – hosted by PeeWee 1 and Atom 1 (December)
2. Timbits Classic – hosted by all Timbits teams (February)
3. Kids Cancer Care Tournament – hosted by all Bantam teams (March)

Please email [svice@svha.ca](mailto:svice@svha.ca) if you have any further questions.