

Novice & Atom – “Complete the Game”

To create much needed game situation ice time for all players in Calgary

Goal: The goal of this program is to utilize efficiently the 1 hour ice slot for Novice & Atom games, in order to complete the game in the designated time and not have to shorten the third period.

4 main groups of people will need to focus on the following tasks to ensure pace of play and allow the young athletes to complete a full game:

Players:

- The players should have a brief warm-up as a group before they go on the ice.
- Race to and from bench on changes and at whistles.
- Get lined up and ready to go quickly during game.
- No talking or complaining to refs about penalties.
- No showboating or excessive celebrating after a goal, be ready for a quick puck drop.

Coaches/Managers:

- Make sure nets are on the ice and ready
 - Possibly have a parent volunteer responsible for this so it is consistently done.
- Have the players ready to go on the ice at the beginning of the ice time.
- Have scorekeepers/timekeeper ready.
- Have score sheet signed and ready.
- Have the pucks ready to go in the Penalty Box
- In between periods only 1 minute to get the Goalie a drink, switch ends. No pep talk.
- Reinforce ‘no along the bench to the goalie celebration’ (excessive showboating)
- No addressing officials during the game.
- Continue to reinforce to the kids to get to the face off ASAP as the puck will be dropped for the face-off whether they are there or not.

Referees:

- Manage the game. Officials can control the tempo and pace of the game.
- Before the game starts reinforce with coaches that you would like to complete the game
- Be on time or early for the ice time.
- Enforce warm up time. Loud whistle to get both teams to line up and drop the puck.
- Encourage the kids to skate hard to and from face-off circle, blow the whistle to get kids attention and drop the puck after 3-5 seconds. Don’t wait for kids to line up.
- Manage period breaks. 1 minute maximum. No in between period coach talks, start ASAP.
- Do not allow or engage in conversation with the coaches during the games.

Rink Staff:

- Help get the nets put back in place, the young players have a hard time with this.