

# DURHAM WEST GIRLS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



**FAIR PLAY POLICY**



## GUIDING PHILOSOPHIES

It is expected that every skater on a team will receive equitable ice time. This is achieved with the understanding that imbalances may occur on a game by game basis for a variety of reasons. Over the course of a season the coach is responsible for ensuring that all skaters and goalies will play equitable amounts of ice time.

The DWGHA is committed to providing an enjoyable hockey experience for all it's participants and as such does not feel that winning at all costs is necessary or consistent with the DWGHA's overarching philosophies.

Player development must focus on both the physical and mental aspects of an individual. Understanding that minor hockey is about the players enjoyment and overall development suggests sacrificing a young players self esteem is not acceptable.

Coaches may however reduce a players ice time for disciplinary, safety, or health reasons.

The policy applies to all DWGHA teams at all tier levels. Our coaches must accept this as part of their coaching agreement.



# Special Considerations for Rep Teams

- Coaches may choose to go with the skaters they feel deserve an opportunity in a game of importance with under two minutes of play and down by two goals or less.
  - ▶ Games of importance are:
    - Playoff elimination games
    - Tournament playoff games
    - A game of a tournament round robin that would have a material impact on the team advancing into the tournament playoffs
    - Regular season games that would allow the team to play in the playoffs within the last five games of the season.
  
- Coaches may choose to play their goalies in the sequence they desire, alternating games is not mandatory; however, the goal should be to have them play an equal number of games over the course of the season and no more than two games in a row.
  
- In tournaments goalies should also play an equal number of games. If entering the finals on an odd number of games the coach can use their discretion to go with either goalie.



## Do

- Roll the lines
  - ▶ Allow everyone to play in all situations
- Everyone gets an opportunity for specialty teams
- AA level Head Coaches at Bantam and above may use specialty teams; however all players must have a role
  - ▶ Create 2 powerplay units and 2 penalty kill units with every player having a role on one of the units.
- Match lines with your opponent by sequencing your lines appropriately
- Discuss the policy openly with players and parents

## Don't

- Shorten the bench other than as specified previously in a game of importance
- Skip over players or lines for non disciplinary reasons
- Manipulate the 'Wheel' in house league
- Treat any players differently than the rest