



Change of policy to be reviewed by the Marquette Junior Hockey Board at its next regularly scheduled board meeting 2/7/18:

Previous Policy:

- a. Fair Play
 - i. House teams will play equal ice time as much as possible and equal play is strongly recommended at the travel team level.

New Policy

Section 5, Item D:

- Fair Play Policy
 - The following policy outlines MJH's Fair Play Policy so that all stakeholders understand the mandate set out by MJH's Board of Directors in relation to communicating the Association's vision of fair playing time for all members of Marquette Junior Hockey.
 - Key Factors/ Principles Leading to the Creation and Implementation of the Fair Play Policy
 - MJH identified a need to inspire and support coaches to continue to develop all players' strengths and weaknesses rather than focusing on developing strong players and forsaking those deemed to be weaker.
 - MJH believes that development comes from experiencing all situations.
 - MJH is dedicated to creating an environment that has a strong focus on the player and what they are taking away from the game at any given time. If the player's experiences are negative, they are less likely to continue on in the sport and will be more likely to seek other recreational activities.
 - MJH values player development over game results.

- MJH's Vision for Fair Play Policy: All Players-All Lines-Every Opportunity
- Marquette Jr Hockey Association believes that all players within our association, regardless of skill level, deserve the opportunity to play in all situations in order to maximize their development.
- It is not acceptable for a coach or assistant coach to remove a player from a regular rotation on the bench in order to gain an advantage over their opponent. We ask that all coaches embrace the spirit of the Fair Play Policy and encourage the development of all players to succeed in all game situations.
 - Forward lines and defense pairings should be rotated.
 - Goaltenders will start and play every second game. Younger divisions may choose to split games or other arrangements (goalies playing out when not in net).
- MJH recognizes there will be instances when a player will not receive equal ice. We realize that minute for minute playing time is not a reality due to the complex nature of the game of hockey. Situations will arise where it may be necessary for a coach to make difficult decisions involving their players. The following points are included to assist coaches and help them determine if action is required.
 - Safety of a player is being compromised (possible injury, player has become a target on the Play by opponent(s) etc.)
 - Disciplinary reasons as identified by the head coach. If a player intentionally displays poor conduct towards his teammates or opponents or is in breach of Marquette Jr Hockey's Rules and Regulations, the coach has the authority to use playing time as a discipline tool. If a player is being kept off the Play for a disciplinary reason the coach must discuss the action with the player. Based on the severity of the incident coaches should use their best judgment as to the amount of shifts a player should miss. We recommend no more than 1-2 shifts per period.
- Accountability and Management of the Fair Play Policy
 - Marquette Jr Hockey will continue to rely on our coaches and coaching staff to use their best judgment relative to the Fair Play Policy. Based on the complexity of the game of hockey and the countless scenarios that arise we trust our coaches, players and spectators to work together and communicate as often and openly as possible.
 - As a parent or guardian, if after 2 or 3 games have passed and you have waited out the 24 -hour rule as described in Section 13 of the policy manual, and you believe your child has not experienced Fair Play, you are asked to follow this process in the following sequence:
 1. Discuss your concern with your Coach
 2. Contact your division director
 3. Division director will communicate concern to the MJH Board.
 4. The MJH Coaching Committee will investigate concern and coordinate a resolution
 5. Resolution will be communicated back to parent, player and coach.

- We realize that there will still be situations where a coach's will to win may lead them to go down the path of winning at all costs and shortening the bench. After an investigation, if a coach is found to have shortened his/her bench, short shifted their players or played one goaltender over the other the coach will receive.
 - 1st offence-A verbal warning
 - 2nd offence-A written warning
 - 3rd offence-Released from their position as head coach with Marquette Jr Hockey
- If a parent confronts or harasses a coach about playing time and does not follow the steps outlined above, that parent will be subject to discipline.
- Responsibilities
 - As a coach, you have the responsibility to encourage all players to be the best they can be, and provide equal opportunities for them to develop self-esteem and sport skills. When you play your talented athletes more often, you make other players feel less important and deny them the chance to improve their skills.
 - As a parent, you have the responsibility to understand the challenges of Fair Playing time and speak up if you feel it is abused. Give our coaches some latitude and consider your position over at least 3 games. Please don't bring your stopwatch to the game. We respectfully ask parents to realize that 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. We should strive to have equal and Fair Play time over 2-3 games.