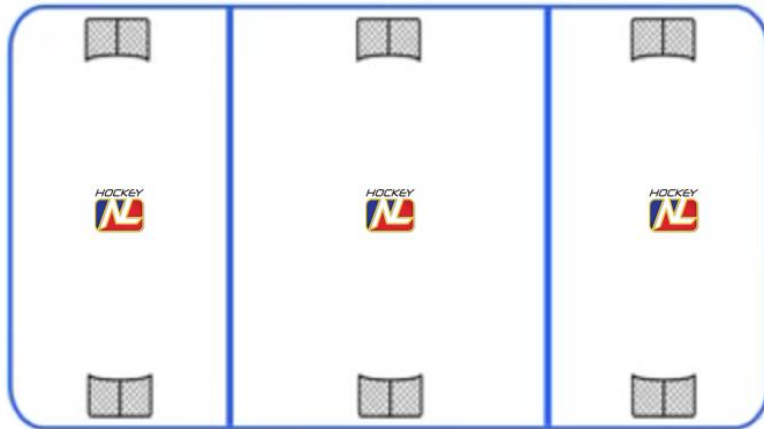


This document is intended to assist Minor Hockey Associations with the new format of cross ice hockey at the Initiation Level and half-ice set-up for Novice.

**As of the 2016-17 season Hockey NL in partnership implemented the following changes to IP and Novice hockey:**

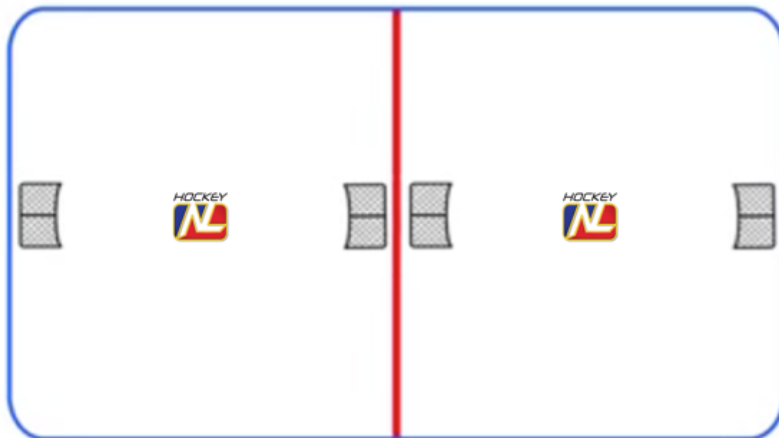
**What is the IP ice set-up for games?**

All games at the IP level will be played in a cross-ice or modified ice format.



**What is the ice set-up for Novice Games?**

Novice games/jamborees will be played in a half ice format for the first half of the season and switch over to full ice for the last half of the hockey season (February 1<sup>st</sup>)



**What pucks should be used blue pucks, black pucks?**

- For IP Blue 4oz pucks will be used for all practices and games.
- For Novice the first half of the season all games and practices are blue pucks 4oz, last half of season regular black 6oz pucks can be used.



### **How do we keep score?**

- The score can be kept on score flip cards if more than 1 game is taking place at that time.
- At the IP level, just let them play! No need to keep a running score, remember it's about skill development not the score!

### **How long should periods, shift lengths be?**

- For one-hour time slots, you can play 2 x 20-22 minute periods (2-minute shift lengths).

### **What about the officials, do we need them?**

- For IP you can have a coach assist with the cross-ice game.
- For Novice, it's a good opportunity to have a young official come out and drop the puck monitor the game. You can have the official drop the puck in the middle after every goal if need be.
- If a player is causing a penalty over and over, have that player go to the bench for the coach to discuss the behaviour with the player.

### **What about off-sides, icings?**

- For cross and half-ice hockey there are no off-sides or icings, just let the kids play! The players will have ample time to learn these rulings at the later stage (Atom).

### **What size nets should we use?**

- Recommended for IP – 2 x 3 – 3 x 4 or smaller
- Recommended for Novice – 3 x 4
- If you don't have the smaller nets, try flipping net over using bottom size, use two pylons 3-4 feet apart.

### **Should there be full time goaltenders?**

- For IP no full time goalies.
- For Novice players will all rotate and try the position, no full time goalies.

### **What if we don't have the boards, dividers?**

- If you don't have the boards, use the dividers.
- If you don't have the dividers, use coaches to put puck(s) back into play.

### **Should games still be 5 vs. 5?**

- Improvise! Try 4 on 4, 3 on 3. Depending on the numbers available. Whatever keeps the players moving and engaged. Cater to your needs!

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit the HNL Initiation Program website.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the IP/Novice Information Handout

### [U8 Benefit Video of cross ice hockey vs. full ice.](#)

#### Benefits of Cross Ice/Half Ice Hockey?

- More children get a chance to play hockey.
- Hockey IQ, or understanding the principles of the game, is being developed at a young age.
- More children will experience a feeling of success when playing hockey.
- The same exciting and fun environment as in a “real” game is created.
- Both more and less gifted children will benefit from close/tight action on the ice.
- Children are excited and motivated to continue playing hockey.
- Hockey will be more appealing and rewarding to a wider range of children and their parents.
- Group sizes become smaller which means learning and teaching will become more effective.
- The close feeling of belonging to a team will motivate a child to participate with even greater enthusiasm.
- More repetition/frequency in drills in one ice session.
- More frequent line changes in the game means more ice time for each player.
- Children remain active between their shifts with various activities in the neutral zone.
- The feeling of being an important part of the action increases because of the small size of the rink.
- The children have more energy with which they can improve their skills when they are skating 85 feet across the ice surface as opposed to the 200-foot length of the ice surface.
- Playing on a smaller surface allows for more puck contact resulting in improved puck control skills.
- Decision-making skills are enhanced as more decisions must be made more frequently at a higher tempo.
- Individual technical skills develop more quickly.
- Scoring skills are enhanced since the players have more shooting opportunities and the child sized goal nets challenge the players to shoot more accurate.
- More repetition for goalkeeper’s which improves reading of the game and reaction to changing game situations becomes more effective.
- The game is full of continuously changing situations.
- The speed in playing situations increases, which will require quicker mental and physical reactions by the players this is because there are no unnecessary breaks in the game.

