



Novice Hockey Half-ice Guidelines

Rationale:

To build on the changes brought in at the Initiation Program level with regards to the sizing of ice space, equipment and other areas for the youth hockey development structure. Hockey NL has mandated that ALL novice hockey games beginning in the 2017/18 season, are to be played in a half-ice setup. The smaller ice surface will support more competitive, fun and overall better development for our youth hockey players.

The intent of this package is to cover off areas with regards to the implementation of the half-ice program for **Novice hockey**.

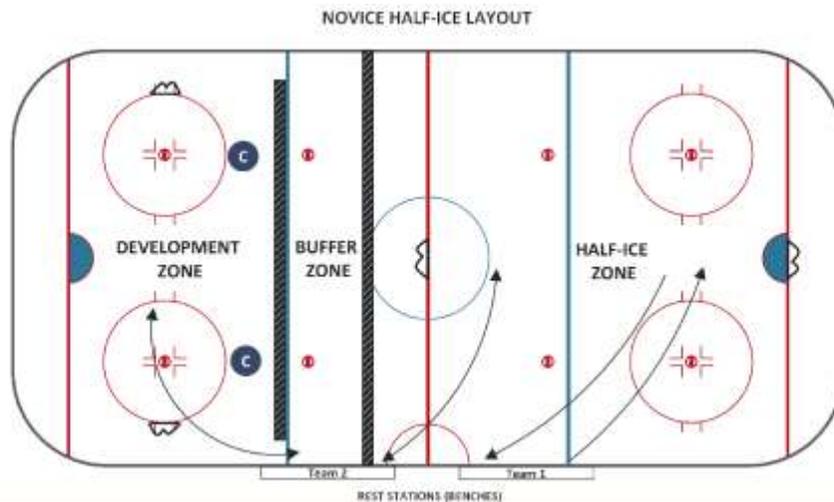
Ice Surface Layout:

With certain ice time restrictions and/or jamborees taking place at the Novice level a 4 team playing structure is possible, however 2 teams playing at the same time with a development zone is the recommended ice surface layout.

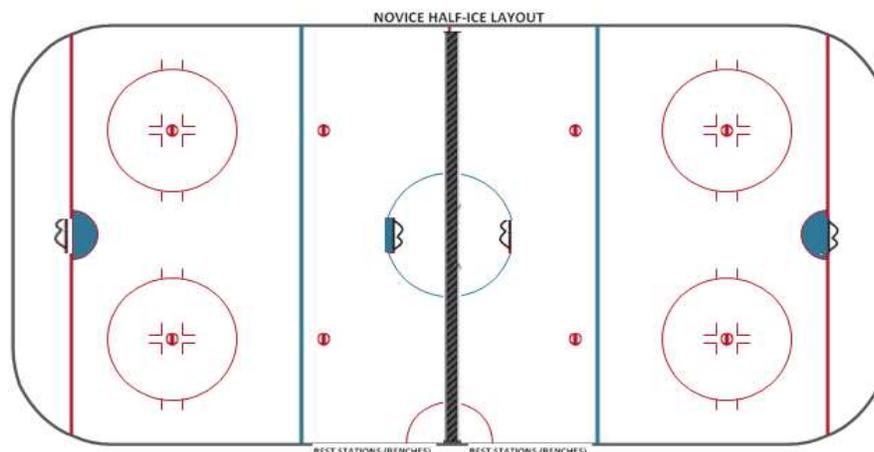
Using dividers or half-ice boards, two different options are:

1. 2 teams playing: Divider at red line/or far blue line (Picture #1 Below) **Can use other half of ice for buffer zone and development zone for other teams/players to practice skill work.*
2. 4 teams playing: Divider at red line and have two games taking place at one time (Picture #2 Below) **If using buzzer system, game & shifts must start at same time.*

2 Team Set-up



4 Team Set-Up



Net Placement:**2 Teams Playing:**

One net is to be placed on the goal line (original crease markings), the second net is to be placed on the red ice line, using the centre dot for guide marking of placement (net centre of dot), this will allow for play to proceed behind the nets in each zone.

Net Placement:**4 Teams Playing:**

One net is to be placed on the goal line (original crease markings), the second net is to be placed 5 feet in front of the centre ice red line using the centre ice dot as a guide marking. Divider would be placed behind the nets on the centre ice red line to divide into two separate ice surfaces.

Dividers:

Dividers must be used to separate the ice/zones, half ice boards are encouraged to enhance the experience but are not mandatory.

Nets:

Smaller nets are encouraged for the Novice age group, however if not available Associations can use the regular size net.

Pucks (Blue 4oz & Black 6oz):

The blue puck is to be used throughout the Novice hockey season. Black 6oz pucks can be introduced at the last half of season in a practice setting, not to be used for games.

Benches:

Depending on ice set-up being used, teams may have to share bench(es).

Game Warm-Up Time:

The recommendation is to provide a 2-3 minute warm-up prior to the start of each game.

Game Time & Shift Length:

Recommended game times are 2 x 18 minute stop time periods. Shifts are to be two minutes in length and a buzzer will be utilized to signal a shift change, the clock is to stop the time during the shift change(s).

Face-offs:

Shift Change Face-off: A face off will take place after each shift change, utilizing the one of the '4' face off dots in the respective zone. The official will determine what dot the face off will be held, determined where the play finished at the buzzer.

Goaltending Covers Puck Face-off:

When the goaltender covers the puck, and is un-playable the official is to blow the play and drop the puck on the left or right side of the net/dots. *When 4 teams are playing, space will be tighter in the neutral zone due to the nets being moved up, and the official may need to have the face-off just passed the neutral dots on the left/right side to allow more room for each team to set-up.

Goal or End/Start of Period Face-off:

Face off is to be taken in the middle of playing surface. This can be identified by the official, suggestion is to use a bingo dabber or ice marker to label a dot close to the middle of the playing surface.

Puck over the divider face-off:

In the event that a puck travels over the divider, an official will retain the puck and a face off will take place at the dot closest to where the puck went out of play.

Off-sides and icing:

There are NO offside or icing calls for a half-ice game.

Penalties:

If a player(s) takes a penalty, that player is to be taken off to his/her respective bench and the team that receives the infraction call will play shorthanded for the remainder of that shift only.

Scoring:

2 teams playing can use the main arena scoreboard. 4 teams playing, can utilize the flip scoreboards used for volleyball/basketball etc.

Scheduling:

Ideally Novice groups would be scheduled following IP groups to allow limited transition of dividers etc.

Playing Numbers & Roster Size:

The game structure will consist of 5 vs. 5 plus 1 goaltender for each team. Hockey NL understands the unique challenges of roster size consistency throughout the province. The recommendation is 12-14 players at the Novice level with 1 rotating goaltender.

Officials:

The guideline is a minimum of one official per game to a maximum of two per game. These officials are responsible for goal/penalty calls, face off determination etc. The goal is to help develop our youth officials and communication skills essential for official development.

How much do you smaller nets cost?

Prices will range on shipping costs, how many you're ordering (Starting at \$500). More information on Page. 4



Costing & Funding:

How much do foam dividers cost?

Prices will range on shipping and quantity ordered. Standard foam divider set will start at \$1500.00. With foam dividers there is an option to have screen windows added to the divider this would allow the potential to put sponsor logos on the divider. This can help drive the cost down for the purchaser.

How much do the boards cost?

Custom boards with cart to easily transport and store, can start at \$6500. With boards, you can put sponsor logos on, to help drive costs down for the purchaser.

Is there funding available through Hockey NL for IP/Youth development equipment?

Yes, if your Minor Hockey Association needs financial assistance to purchase equipment for their Initiation Program, they can apply for up to \$500.00 of funding [CLICK HERE](#) to view an application form.

Where can I purchase small nets, boards, foam dividers?

Paula Sealey
Arena Services
Athletica Sport Systems
519-747-1856 ext. 234

Benefits:

- Decision-making skills are enhanced as more decisions must be made more frequently at a higher tempo. MORE Puck touches, pass attempts, received passes, shot attempts.
- Puck touches, shot attempts, passes received all increase!
- 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.
- With development zone set-up, players can remain active improving their skills.
- More repetition/frequency in drills in one ice session.
- The close feeling of belonging to a team will motivate a child to participate with even greater enthusiasm.
- Hockey IQ, or understanding the principles of the game, is being developed at a young age.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What about not learning offsides or icing, will that hurt a player's development?

No, a player will have lots of time to learn offsides and icing as they progress to the Atom level. The recommendation is that coaches teach the players in the last part of the season the fundamentals of icing and off-sides but the main focus is strictly on the player's skill(s) development. It's encouraged that coaches teach their player(s) to be engaged in the play and play within their respective positions.

What about goaltending at the Novice level, where do we draw the crease?

A recommendation is to use the bingo dabber to mark the crease. Dimensions to be used will be determined by the net size. Recommend start at goal post, draw out 3 feet and draw back to far post.

Are we allowed to have full time goaltenders?

Currently there is no mandate at the Novice level for goaltenders not to be full time. However, we recommended that the goaltending position is rotational and all players have an attempt throughout the season.

Please submit any questions to office@hockeynl.ca