



Initiation Program (IP) Hockey Cross-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 Initiation Program hockey games beginning in the 2016/17 season, are to be played in a cross-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 Cross-Ice program for **Initiation Program Hockey**.

Hockey Canada Cross-ice hockey benefit video [CLICK HERE](#)

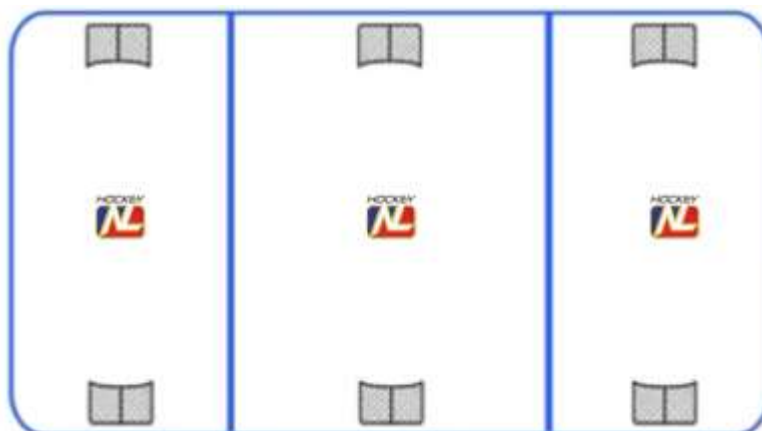
Video Message on IP from Hockey Canada CEO, Tom Renney [CLICK HERE](#)

What is the ideal IP set-up for practice?



What is the IP ice set-up for games?

All games at the IP level will be played in a cross-ice set up.



More ice set up options on Page. 5

What pucks should be used blue pucks, black pucks?

- For IP Blue 4oz pucks will be used for all practices and games.

How do we keep score?

- At the IP level, we shouldn't be focusing on the score but player skill development and the fun of the game. However here are some options to keep score.
- The score can be kept on score flip cards if more than 1 game is taking place at that time.
- If hosting a jamboree, the score can be kept simply filling out game sheets and the bench coaches can track the score.
- 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 18-20 minute periods (2-minute shift lengths).
- In our model on page one, during a one hour practice you can have a rotation game zone with multiple skills stations.

What about the officials, do we need them?

- For IP practice with game zone you can have a coach assist with the cross-ice game.
- Have a young official be in uniform and drop the puck and get used to acting like an official but do not call penalties. If a young player does continually commit penalty(ies) direct him off the game area for a change and have his coach talk to him about that behavior.
- Have the young official drop the puck at the beginning of the game. If you want to drop the puck after each goal, have the young official do so or simply throw the puck in the corner and let the kids keep playing.
- The young official will get the opportunity to get the feel of the game, how to skate to keep up to the play and with the smaller area how to move to keep out of the play. All of these officiating aspects help ensure we develop & promote experiences for on-ice officials, which is an investment in the game as a whole.

What about off-sides, icings?

- For cross-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 do we do after a goal (face-offs?)

- At IP level, you can designate an area or draw a line using bingo dabber that players on team that scored have to skate back to give team who was scored on time to regroup. If using a coach/official they can place puck in designated area for play to continue, be flexible!
- If hosting a jamboree style, officials can drop puck and set-up face off or use designated line ruling as suggested in bullet 1.

What size nets should we use?

- Recommended for IP – 2 x 3 – 3 x 4 or smaller.
- If you don't have the smaller nets, try flipping net over using bottom size.
- Use regular size nets if no other option is available.

What coaching levels do you require for IP?

- Coaches are required to have Coach Level 1 Trained to assist at the IP level.
- [CLICK HERE](#) for the HNL coaching requirements document.

Should there be full time goaltenders?

- For IP, no full time goalies.
- When using the smaller nets 2 x 3, goaltenders are not necessary.

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. Use pylon to divide the zones.

Should games still be 5 vs. 5?

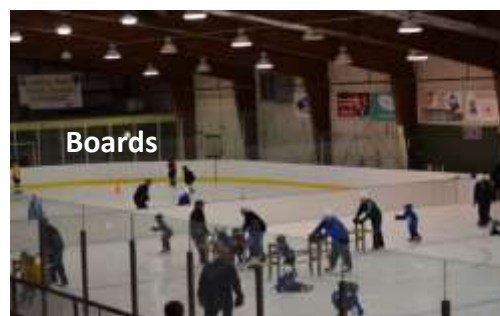
- Improvise! Try 4 on 4, 3 on 3. Depending on the numbers available. Whatever keeps the players moving and engaged. Cater to your needs!
- If for example you have 15 players, could split into two games, with buffer zone.

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

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

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

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

[CLICK HERE](#) Hockey Canada Cross-ice hockey benefit video

Benefits of Cross Ice/Half Ice Hockey?

- **Cross-ice vs. Full-ice: Puck Touches 2X More, Pass Attempts 2X More, Shot Attempts 5X More, Passes Received 6X MORE!**
- 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.

More options for ice set ups:

