

## MARATHON COUNTY YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

### POLICY ON EQUAL PLAYING TIME

#### Introduction:

The Marathon County Youth Hockey Association, through its Board of Directors, adopts a policy of equal playing time for all youth in the Association. The definition of equal playing time cannot be provided with precise detail and therefore the following principles are adopted as a basis for identifying and evaluating compliance with the equal play time goal of the Association. Further, a procedure is established to assess compliance with the equal playing time policy as well as a procedure for addressing failures by coaches to meet the directives of this policy.

#### Requirements:

The goal of equal playing time is to ensure that all skaters learn the game of hockey in a positive and supportive fashion and that all skaters mature in their skill levels by equally sharing in the competition of game settings. Each Coach will set positions/lines based on the quantity of players assigned to the team - equally - to support overall equal playing time and team play. Although equal playing time cannot be defined in a rigid manner, the following requirements and directives shall be followed by all coaches in meeting the requirement of equal playing time:

#### Program Goals:

Let's play to have fun, learn the game and skills of hockey and make an enjoyable experience for all.

**PLAYING TIME:** All skaters deserve equal shifts no matter the type of game, Badger State Game, league play, State Tournament or home and away tournament.

**DISALLOWING PLAY TIME:** Will be used in a progressive manner and for specific reasons (i.e., missing practice time, disruptive behavior, conduct against team, or parents wishes).

**AREAS OF SELECTIVE PLAY TIME:** Short handed (killing penalties), last minutes, power play, 6th skater options. (Suggest all be given some opportunity.)

### Oversight:

The Board of Directors, through the coaching coordinator and the Board leadership, shall oversee compliance with the equal play requirements of the Association. The coaching coordinator and the Board leadership (president, vice-presidents, secretary and treasurer) shall survey team members/parents of individual teams on or before January 15 of each season to obtain parental input regarding the efforts of the coach to meet the equal play requirements of the Association and in order to improve the quality of coaching efforts throughout the Association.

### Enforcement:

In the event a complaint is received regarding a coach's compliance with the equal play requirement, either through survey results or a parent complaint, the matter shall be referred to the Discipline Committee and shall be addressed by the Discipline Committee. The Discipline Committee shall address the situation through the following procedures:

- The Discipline Committee will meet with the affected coach to discuss the complaint or concern identified and to work out an agreeable strategy to address the complaint or concern.
- The coach will be given a two week period to implement the agreed upon strategies to address the complaint/concern.
- After the two week period, the Discipline Committee shall evaluate the success in adopting or implementing the agreed upon strategy through whatever means may be most appropriate, including interviews, surveys, personal observations or other means.
- In the event it is determined that the coach is not effectively implementing or adopting the agreed upon strategy or is failing to comply with the equal play directives of the Association, the Discipline Committee may recommend the removal or replacement of the coach from continued coaching duties. A final decision regarding the removal of a coach shall be made by the Board of Directors after consultation with the Discipline Committee and other parties that the Board may deem appropriate. The Discipline Committee may temporarily suspend a coach from coaching duties while the matter of a coach's removal is considered by the Board of Directors.

**Marathon County Youth Hockey  
Equal Playing Time Survey**

Parents of players on Marathon County Youth Hockey teams may complete this survey.

The survey is intended to provide a communication tool used in monitoring the efforts of a coach with respect to the equal playing time policy of MCYH. Survey results will be used to improve the quality of the coaching efforts throughout the association.

**Please comment on any of the following:**

Coach's effort in allowing equal playing time during 5 on 5 play

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Coach's effort in allowing equal playing time during tournament play such as home tournament, Badger State Games or away tournaments.

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Coach's effort in allowing equal playing time during selective playing time opportunities such as penalty kill, power play, ending minutes of games, 6 skater situations.

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Additional Comments

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**The following information is required to validate the survey**

Team \_\_\_\_\_

Coach \_\_\_\_\_

Survey submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed survey to:

**Marathon County Youth Hockey  
President  
PO Box 176  
Wausau, WI 54403-0176**