



ACTION BULLETIN

Issue # 2017-028-A

September 19, 2017

TO: VIAHA Membership
FROM: Jim Humphrey, VIAHA President
COPY: VIAHA Officers
SUBJECT: Minor Hockey Player Equal Ice Time

A reminder to all MHA Presidents of their commitment to an equal allocation of ice between minor hockey players on teams in all divisions within our District...

While there has been some improvement over the past couple of seasons on many of the teams there continues to be a "**win at all cost**" attitude among some coaches resulting in the double shifting of stronger players or the shortening of benches. This is not acceptable regardless of the category or division, whether Island League or recreational, Novice through Midget. While it may be necessary for a player to sit a shift for discipline this should be the exception rather than the rule.

In minor hockey we are in business to expose children to hockey and to learn valuable life skills that they will hopefully take with them into adulthood. The teams belong to the minor hockey associations, parents pay their fees to the association, the team officials too are selected by the associations and as such each and every MHA needs to hold these coaches accountable. If coaches refuse to practice treating each and every child equally by affording them the opportunity to play then associations need to replace these coaches. Our sport does not win when we have adults that play to win at all cost. In the end we all lose, as children who are not treated equally leave the sport due to not having fun! MHAs have the obligation when they accept a parent's money and place their child on a team that that player is allowed to play and coaches that fail to follow this philosophy must be and will be dealt with.

Each MHA should ensure the coaches that it selects know and clearly understand their role in ensuring players are treated with dignity and fairly and that each child receive equal opportunity to play.

Thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.

Respectfully,

Jim Humphrey
VIAHA President