**2022-23 MID SEASON MEMORANDUM TO ALL IMHA REP COACHES**

**FAIR PLAY AND TEAM BUILDING COMMENTARY**

***FAIR PLAY FOR COACHES & TEAM OFFICIALS***
I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remember that players have other interests and obligations.
I will teach my players to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
I will ensure that all players get equal instruction, support and playing time.
I will not ridicule or yell at my players for making mistakes or for performing poorly.
I will remember that players play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
I will make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the players’ ages and abilities.
I will remember that participants need a coach they can respect.
I will be generous with praise and set a good example.
I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.
I will work in cooperation with officials for the benefit of the game.

Equal playing time is a requirement at U11 and below as per the Hockey Canada Player Pathways. Coaches are expected to use their entire bench at all age groups. Consider the following:

* Regular season games and team record may seem important, but keep in mind every single team makes the playoff tournament at the end of the regular season for a chance to qualify for the OMHA tournament. The playoff tournament and OMHA tournament games are important games.
* Elimination games (semi final and final) at tournaments are important games.
* By not developing every player and giving everybody a consistent opportunity, your chances of success in the end decrease. It takes a team to be successful, not two lines of players.
* Encourage an environment where your players sincerely care for each other. Condition your team to love the hard work, effort and struggle it takes to be successful. Focus on development and effort, not the scoreboard. Fun and success are bound to follow.
* I have used the John Wooden Pyramid of Success as the model that my teams have operated with the last two seasons. We have been highly successful. It is an option and appropriate for U15A and above in my opinion (high school age). For younger ages, consider a simple model that works for you and your team.

[Pyramid of Success - Coach John Wooden (thewoodeneffect.com)](https://www.thewoodeneffect.com/pyramid-of-success/)

Season’s greetings and best of luck to your team in 2023!

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