



Reader Comments

Hi Hal,

Regarding saving \$\$:

I like your idea about cutting out a tournament to save some dough. Some people argue that it's only 3-4 weekends a year, but when you have multiple kids it really gets rough on schedules and budgets. They are fun, but have a poor \$ to ice time/development ratio.

I have heard that you were instrumental to get the hours between games reduced to help with reducing travel so teams could play a double header and save a trip.

Here are a couple of mine:

- 1) Longer ice times. Three 1 1/2 hour practices saves gas and time over four 1 hour practices.
- 2) Ice is only going to get more expensive. Coaches should have a 5-10 minute pre-practice meeting to go over the drills and goals of the practice so time isn't wasted organizing drills while on the pricey ice.
- 3) Have MH and USAH reduce their fees!

Also, regarding your Recreation or Development piece:

- 1) I think it would be a great idea to run some youth teams (mites to bantams) that are only 2-3 skates a week vs the 4-6 that seems to be the norm. Maybe even do 1/2 seasons options. Hockey has one of the longest seasons of youth sports. That would give the casual player a hockey option that is more likely to fit a schedule and budget.
- 2) Some lower end players crave all they can get and the 4-6 skate/week option should be available to them also.
- 3) Encourage breaks for the "A" players. It is not healthy for a 9-14 year old to have to be 100% committed to a schedule that can be anytime, anywhere. It can keep them from having music lessons, Scouts, church, family time, and other outside activities that are important to good development. Let them have a day off of their choosing every week. I think we would see less burnout among the elite players and their families if that was done.

Thanks for the efforts that you put in to keep hockey a game.

Edina parent