

Jets Ice Scheduler Report

2023-24 Season

The mission with ice scheduling is to ensure that all members received their allotment of development and practice ice as set out in the budget within their respective regular seasons; being September to mid February for Rep B and mid September to mid March for House League.

Conditioning Camp and Checking Clinic.

Conditioning camps and the Checking clinic were held in August. Registration volumes for conditioning camp at some age groups required adjustments to the planned schedules to accommodate all those who wanted to participate.

Checking clinic registration was moderate.

New this year were two 1-hour sessions for "Come and Try Goalie", which were very well attended and will be repeated this coming season to encourage new goaltender registration.

Ice has already been obtained for August 2024.

Rep and House Evaluations:

Rep and House evaluations began in early September, including the mandatory 4 one hour pathways sessions for the U10- U11 groups and rust-off skate sessions for all other levels from U7 to U21 inclusive. Then moving on to the usual tryout formats for all levels.

Of note, there were issues with the Russell Arena Ice during Rep tryouts and this caused some required ice schedule adjustments and should be noted for the upcoming evaluations this year.

Practice Ice:

The season 33 teams were allocated practice.

Five teams at the U7 level.

23 House League teams

And 5 Rep. B teams

Practice ice Allocations:

All teams were at or above the budgeted practice ice for the season by the end of March 2024. This included the ongoing use of Winchester ice on Sundays. Due to closures in the city arenas (ie. Bernard Grandmaitre), and the late season re-opening of Jim Durrell we did have more ice at locations further into the city, including Armstrong and Bob Macquarrie.

Practice ice allotted to MDHA is provided to us via GHA from the City of Ottawa. The ratio of distribution of the ice was provided at roughly 75% of our allocation on weekend time slots and 25% on weeknights. This is a dramatic shift from previous years where we may have been 50/50 weekend to weeknight ratio. Due to this allotment ratio, practice scheduling was challenging, as most teams have games on weekends and therefore because the majority of our practice ice was on weekends, teams who were available were typically allocated full ice practice in order to ensure that all ice was used fully..

In addition, it was noted that a significant volume of our practice ice was in later hours (8 pm and later) on the weekdays or at 5 pm, requiring the older age groups to see the majority of the weeknight ice in the later hours, with the exception of the 5:00 p.m. slots which were allocated to the younger age groups in order to ensure they had weeknight ice.

Development Sessions:

Development sessions were provided for U9, U11 and U13 level teams. Each team received four sessions. All sessions occurred on Tuesdays, in conjunction with Action Innovation providing the development sessions. In these same dates and times, goalie development sessions were provided to U9 and U11 goalies in the earlier time slot and U13 and U15 goaltenders were invited out for the later session. New this year from GHA, the second session was extended to 90 minutes. There were some indications that this was too long and will be reviewed with GHA in the coming season.

It was also noted that the goaltender sessions were not always well attended, and most especially that coaches did not come with goaltenders which may have reduced the effectiveness of the development ice use.

Ice going Forward

City of Ottawa ice rental cost fees are increasing by 6% in September 2024 requiring potentially an increase in registration fees in order to continue to offer the volume of practice ice as previously done. There will likely be another increase in January 2025, as there was a rate increase in January 2024 of 3%.

We will continue to purchase additional ice for use at the Winchester arena on Sundays.

It should be noted that there are ongoing rink closures and this may affect what ice is given to MDHA to use. Fred Barrett East is closed until September at this time.

In addition, the AAA Cyclones teams have requested from GHA to have access to Metcalfe Arena ice due to the fact that many of the players are from MDHA. Exact impact on MDHA is unclear and will be investigated.

City of Ottawa Allocations

As previously noted, our City of Ottawa ice allocation ratio was primarily on weekend time at 75%, and weeknight was closer to 25% of our available practice ice.

As well as noted, rates are increasing by at least 6% in September with a potential increase again in January.

We have not received any 6:00 a.m. Ice times in 2023-24. We continue to receive 5:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. time slots on weeknights. These were primarily allocated to younger age groups in order to get them out on weeknight hours.

An increased volume of later hours at Armstrong, Bob Macquarrie and Blackburn Arenas did cause a lot of distance driving for many of our older aged players.

Other observations and notes:

An ongoing effort will continue to ensure that there are 24 hours between the last Rep B cuts and the first House evaluation session.

Thank you to the season's executive for your support as I navigated the ice scheduler role in my first year as Ice Scheduler. - Lesley