

MDHA Ice Scheduler Report

2025-2026 Season

The scheduling strategy aims to distribute the approved ice hours for training and skill development as outlined in the budget. This ensures full utilization during the active seasons: September through mid-February for Rep B teams, and mid-September through mid-March for House League participants.

This was a difficult year with ice scheduling due to the extended closure of the rink at Blackburn. Additional ice was provided by the city however it caused delays with releasing some of the schedules at the beginning of the hockey season.

Evaluations

Ice was provided at the beginning of the season for house league evaluations. We endeavoured to follow the Hockey Canada Player Pathways program with our ice scheduling.

For example, for U11 house:

- Minimum of four practices and/or skill sessions prior to formal player evaluation/selection/tryouts.
- Player evaluation/selection/tryouts must be a minimum of three formal sessions.

All house teams received the ice outlined in the Pathways program.

For the competitive teams, the house league evaluations started after final releases from the competitive tryouts.

Teams

This year there were the following teams which needed scheduled ice.

- U7 - six teams; black, blue, orange, red, purple
- U9 - six teams; A1, B1, B2, B3, B4, C1
- U11 - four teams; A1, B1, B2, C1
- U13 - four teams; A1, B1, B2, C1
- U15 - three teams, A1, B1, B2
- U18 - four teams, A1, B1, B2, B3
- U21 - no regularly scheduled ice
- Competitive - six teams; U10, U12, U14, U15, U16, U18

In total, there were 33 teams where the practice ice was scheduled. This was the same number of teams as the 2024-2025 season.

Ice Allocation

All teams were above the budgeted practice ice for the season by the end of the season. Practice ice allotted to MDHA is provided to us via GHA from the City of Ottawa. Additionally, the MDHA rents ice at the Winchester rink to supplement the hours given by the city on Sundays.

The ratio of distribution of the ice was provided similarly to last year where the majority of our allocation was during the weekend. Due to this allotment ratio, practice scheduling was challenging, as most teams have games on weekends.

In addition, it was noted that a significant volume of our practice ice was in later hours requiring the older age groups to see the majority of their practice ice during these times. This also led to a heavier allocation to the older age groups as we cannot schedule, for example, U9 at 9PM. The times used for the age divisions followed the GHA rules for when games can be scheduled.

On average, per age division, the teams received the following percentage of the budgeted hours.

- U7 house: 18.5 hours average per team, 103% of allocation

- U9 house: 19.0 hours average per team, 106% of allocation
- U11 house: 23.6 hours average per team, 131% of allocation
- U13 house: 24.4 hours average per team, 136% of allocation
- U15 house: 26 hours average per team, 144% of allocation
- U18 house: 12.8 hours average per team, 128% of allocation
- Competitive teams U10-U16: 45.3 hours average per team, 116% of allocation
- Competitive team U18: 33 hours, 110% of allocation (U18 team receives less practice ice due to the shorter season)

Development sessions are included in the allocated practice hours.

Additional ice was used for the development camp and exhibition games against the Capital City Condors.

Future

Going forward, with the closure of the Metcalfe rink we expect another year of difficult scheduling.

This year presented a new format for the competitive team playoffs. It should be noted the required ice that needs to be held for these playoffs for next year so that we are prepared with adequate hours.

J