



Hockey Canada's – New Player Development Model (PDM)

Cross-ice/Half-ice Implementation

As mandated by Hockey Canada, the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) and the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL), **ALL** Hockey

Canada sanctioned House League programs in Canada, including Avenue Road Hockey Association will be implementing a new Player Development Model (PDM) for the 2018-19 season.

This new model (incorporating Cross-ice and Half-ice hockey) will introduce some changes to our Tyke division (6-and 7-year olds) in 2018-19 season and will transition into our Minor Novice division (8-year olds) in 2019-20 season.

What is the PDM?

The PDM is a new methodology in which to introduce players to the game of hockey. The program focuses on skill development, having fun and keeping players engaged while on the ice. This program involves a transition from practicing and playing games on smaller, more compact ice surfaces (cross-ice/half-ice) to the more traditional full-ice surface over time.

What are the Benefits of the Program?

The PDM program has been developed to right size the playing surface for young players. You don't put 5-and 6-year olds on a full-size soccer pitch, or expect them to play basketball on a full-size court without any height adjustments for the net, etc...hockey is no different.

Cross-ice/half-ice hockey allows young players the opportunity for more puck-touches which promotes greater opportunity for skill development (puck-handling, shooting, skating, co-ordination) and decision-making. As per Hockey Canada's studies, it has been identified that players on cross-ice/half-ice are more engaged in the play and have been shown to receive five times more passes and six times more shots than when they are on a regular, full-sized rink. The games will be faster-paced, will have less whistles and stoppages and players will overall benefit from more ice-time than afforded to a full-ice game.

More details about the implementation of the Cross-ice/Half-ice program within our organization will be made available over the next few months.