



EMHA Practice Scheduling/Ice Time FAQs

We would like to take this opportunity to answer some of the most frequently asked questions that we receive regarding the scheduling of practices and ice times.

1. How many teams does EMHA have on their roster?

EMHA supports 29 rostered teams for the 24/25 season. 1 - U5, 6 - U7, 2-U8, 2 - U9, 4 - U11, 5 - U13 (including one RS), 4 - U15 (including one RS), 1 - U16, 3 - U18, and 1 - U21. We also support a goalie clinic that runs every other Tuesday morning at 7am.

2. How many guaranteed hours of ice does EMHA acquire each week?

EMHA has 52.5 hrs of guaranteed ice per week between Ennismore, Lakefield, Warsaw and Apsley arenas. This includes 7am time slots in Ennismore as well as 10pm time slots in Ennismore and Lakefield. This also includes Apsley ice on Sundays. On occasion EMHA is offered extra ice during the week if something becomes available at different arena locations.

3. How much ice time should each team receive per week?

EMHA strives to provide two ice times per team each week. One being a practice and one being a home game. Please note that depending on the age of the team, some games are 1 hr in length and others are 1.5 hrs in length.

4. U9 and down are half ice. Does EMHA double up and put two teams together for these age groups for practices and games to open up more ice for the other teams?

Yes we do, however, U9s are moving to full ice games in January and our younger ages have the highest registered participants, so for safety reasons and management of

players on the ice for the coaches, we are limited to the number of players we can have on the ice at a time so we need to also take that into consideration.

5. Roster Select teams are extra above and beyond their regular teams. Do they also receive one practice per week from EMHA?

As RS teams are extra for players who want to develop beyond their LL teams, EMHA is unable to provide a guaranteed practice to these teams per week. RS teams are encouraged to source out their own ice for practices. When EMHA commits to hosting RS teams we do commit to providing game slots for these teams outside of our regular team games and when ice is available to do so.

6. Can you clarify the team funded ice times that occur for some teams on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 7am in Ennismore?

7am practice times have been offered to teams at their own cost for an extra practice due to the lack of interest in this practice time. Many teams have expressed that they do not want to practice at 7am as it is inconvenient. These time slots are EMHA rentals and when teams have been slotted into them for a “team funded” practice, they are paying EMHA their rental cost for that time slot out of their team fees. Most teams wanting team funded extra practices need to source out the extra ice on their own, but recently we have been able to assist some teams with this by allowing them to utilize EMHA 7ams for this purpose.

7. Why do we have 7am and 10pm practice time slots? These are inconvenient and can sometimes be very hard on players to get up early before school and/or get home so late after a practice on a school night.

We agree! Unfortunately these are our only options at the moment to get close to the amount of ice times needed to run our program and provide each team with one weekly practice. In the last few years, EMHA has pushed for an ice allocation policy with Selwyn Township by sending proposal letters and having numerous conversations with council members regarding an ice allocation policy, but we have not been successful in getting one implemented yet. Recently, three EMHA executive members attended a meeting with the Township and a consulting company regarding their Recreation Service Plan. The new recreation plan for Selwyn Township was finalized in November and points 16 and 17 speak to the Township developing an ice allocation policy and monitoring ice usage to gauge the potential need for another arena in the future. We are hopeful that this will be implemented soon! Please see the attached link to read the plan in full.

<https://www.selwyntownship.ca/en/township-hall/resources/Recreation/FINAL-Recreation-Services-Plan---Nov-26.pdf>

How can you help? You can help push for an ice allocation policy with the township by submitting letters to the Selwyn Township Council at councillors@selwyntownship.ca

In addition to the push for an ice allocation policy, we were contacted by Curve Lake First Nation on Dec 4 2024, regarding the build of a state of the art recreation complex including a covered arena with its own refrigeration system and everything needed for hockey practices, games and tournaments. The executive submitted a letter in support of this initiative and Curve Lake's request for funding from the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund.

8. Has EMHA looked at other centres to see how they schedule their practices?

Yes we have. Unfortunately EMHA is an unique organization. We are much larger than our surrounding rural centres with higher team numbers and participants and we have limited ice times. Organizations in Peterborough are much larger and have access to more ice. It is very hard for us to compare to them.

9. Why can't my team practice on the same night and at the same time every week? Why do we rotate?

We recognize that not everyone wants to practice at 7am and 10pm or drive out to Warsaw, Lakefield or Apsley. We rotate teams to keep things fair. It would be very unfair of us to make one team practice at 7am every week or have one team constantly practice in Warsaw. By rotating teams we are attempting to minimize each team having the less desirable times and locations. Some coaches/teams have offered to take the less desirable times as their regular weekly practice which helps us by having to rotate less teams through them. This permits these teams to practice at the same time and night every week.

10. If extra ice becomes available, how will EMHA fairly distribute that amongst all teams?

Our ice scheduler keeps a list of all teams and when extra ice becomes available the ice scheduler will reach out to teams that will be appropriate to take that spot. For example,

if a 10pm practice time becomes available it will be offered to the older age groups etc. Our ice scheduler also needs to look at who is available and do they already have a game or practice that day. Extra ice times are recorded and the goal is to have it all equal out at the end of the season but sometimes that is impossible given all of the factors that need to be considered.

11. What programs are used to assist with the management of ice scheduling?

Currently, our ice scheduler uses two programs to assist in the management of ice schedules. The OneDB is connected with all of our leagues and centres that we play against. This is utilized to schedule games. The Sportsheadz Scheduling feature that is built into the back end of our EMHA website is a great management tool to help organize ice times and practices. As with every scheduling app or program there are limitations and circumstances that these programs will never be able to take into consideration.

12. Can tournaments be loaded onto the calendar in advance?

Yes, our ice scheduler can start to load tournaments once your team has a confirmed spot in the tournament. Currently, they were being loaded once the travel permit was submitted to OMHA for approval.

We hope that this information was helpful in understanding the difficult situation EMHA is in when it comes to scheduling practices and games. We have done our best to answer our most frequently asked questions, but as always if you have any further questions please feel free to reach out. As an organization we need to take all of our teams into consideration and do our best to make sure everyone is getting an equal opportunity to practice and play games at our home arena.