



INFORMATION BULLETIN 23-04

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U9 Pilot Project – full-ice option starting February 1

Effective February 1, 2024, Hockey Alberta, along with some Member associations, is implementing a full-ice Pilot Project at the U9 level of the Intro to Hockey program.

The U9 Pilot Project focuses on the adoption of Hockey Canada's End of Season Phase, allowing teams the option to play 5-on-5 full-ice hockey from February 1 to March 30 each season.

Teams may continue to play half-ice hockey for the full season. The Preparation/ Evaluation and Development phases of Hockey Canada's U9 Pathway are not impacted by this Pilot.

Participation in the Pilot is optional and is being implemented only for one-time event sanctions.

The Pilot Project is based on the recognition that players are missing game play skills and tactics when they transition from U9 to U11. The Pilot allows players to have more success at U11, allowing more enjoyment of the game.

Feedback was provided by minor hockey associations across Alberta. As well, input was sought from Hockey Canada's provincial branches across the country. Regardless of whether teams are playing 4-on-4 half-ice, or 5-on-5 full-ice, the focus continues to be on development of individual skills, individual and team tactics for U9 players across the province.

NOTE: League games take priority over one-time event sanctions within the Pilot Project. Failure of a team to fulfill its league obligations may result in discipline, fines and/ or removal of permit/ sanction privileges for the remainder of the season.

For details on the new U9 Full-Ice Transition Pilot Project, and the updated Intro to Hockey model, check the Hockey Alberta website:

[INTRO TO HOCKEY MODEL >](#)

For questions or more information:

Stephen Pattison, Manager Hockey Development
stephenpattison@hockeyalberta.ca