

# Atlantic Hockey Federation Scheduling and Importance of Spring Parity



### Team Declarations: What's the Process?

- Hockey Directors self-declare the age group and division for their teams.
- To assist in this process, the AHF hosts a parity event, providing valuable insights for Hockey Directors.
- The AHF League Office will conduct meetings with each club to review team placements and offer recommendations.
- Ultimately, the final decision on team divisions rests with each club.



## Spring Parity: What's the Purpose?

The Parity Event provides teams with an opportunity to showcase their abilities before the AHF finalizes league seeding

#### Event Dates:

- April 5-6: 9U–12U
- May 3-4: 13U–18U

#### Event Format:

- Each team will play **three 30-minute running time** games.
- Teams will compete against a variety of opponents in the time equivalent to 1-2 Level 2 games.
- No individual stats will be recorded—only game scores will be tracked.

#### This structure ensures a fair and competitive evaluation process for all teams.



# Scheduling : What's the Goal?

AHF Commitment to Competitive Scheduling

- Impact of Parity Attendance: Nearly 50% of games with a four-goal differential during the 2023-24 season involved teams that did not attend the Parity Event.
- Competitive & Travel-Conscious Scheduling: The AHF is committed to creating a competitive schedule while considering travel demands, especially for younger teams and those in the McDavid, Gretzky, and Lemieux Divisions.
- Balancing Competition & Travel:
  - Competitive matchups are prioritized to ensure teams experience high-quality games.
  - "AA" teams are generally more willing to travel for increased competition.

Scheduling Process:

- Each team builds its own schedule.
- The league provides a matrix outlining required matchups.
- Club schedulers are responsible for structuring their team's final schedule within this framework.

This approach ensures a balance between competition and travel while giving teams control over their schedules



### Season Preparation Timeline: When & What?

- March / April
  - Tryouts
  - Spring Parity Challenge
- May
  - League builds the schedule matrix
- June
  - Club schedulers create and submit their team schedules to the league
- July
  - League uploads the finalized schedule to the website
  - Teams have until August 1 to request schedule changes
- August 15
  - Season begins



### Key Reminders

- Nearly 50% of games with a four-goal differential during the 2023-24 season involved teams that did not attend the Parity Event
- Competitive matchups are prioritized to ensure teams experience high-quality games.
- Teams are encouraged to participate to ensure players have the best possible experience throughout the season.

For more details, visit www.atlantichockeyfederation.com