

## Shortened 48-Game NHL Schedule Gets Underway on Saturday

*Printablebrackets.net Analyzes Compressed NHL Hockey Schedule and What Fans Should Expect*

After nearly 120 days, the NHL lockout is finally over. The labor dispute between league owners and the player's union has reduced this year's NHL schedule for each team from 82 to 48 games. The lockout forced the cancellation of a total of 510 games that were originally slated on the NHL schedule.

So just how will teams and players react to being back on the ice? Printablebrackets.net says this is far from uncharted territory.

"Unfortunately, compressed schedules in sports are nothing new," said Printable Brackets spokesperson Zaniel Worth. "Fans went through the same situation with the NBA just last season. It took some time for the quality of play to be where it usually is in the NBA, and fans will likely have to expect that same sluggish period early on in the NHL."

The NHL hockey schedule opens with 13 games on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. The defending Stanley Cup champion Los Angeles Kings will be at home to clash with the Chicago Blackhawks. Rivalries will also be renewed Saturday, as the Flyers will host the Penguins, the Rangers will battle the Bruins and the Canadiens will clash with the Maple Leafs.

"The NHL schedule certainly opens with a bang," said Worth. "Fans who have been starving for NHL hockey should have plenty to feast on."

To celebrate the curtain being raised on the 2013 NHL hockey schedule, Printable Brackets is offering hockey fans a complimentary bracket template. The templates were designed so fans can attempt to predict the playoff bracket before the season gets underway. These brackets will also be helpful once the Stanley Cup playoffs get underway.

"The day many hockey fans believed they may not see this year is almost here," said Worth. "We encourage fans to use our bracket to see how many playoff teams they properly predicted at the end of the year."

For NHL brackets, March Madness brackets, Super Bowl squares and much more, please visit [Printablebrackets.net](http://Printablebrackets.net).