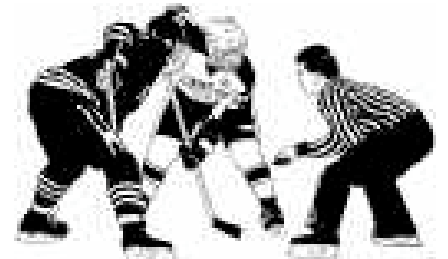




What Is Traveling Hockey?

A Parents Guide To Brooklyn Park Traveling
Hockey

Boys & Girls -- A, B & C Levels



Brooklyn Park Youth Hockey Association

What Is The Objective Of The BPYHA Traveling Hockey Program?

The objective of the traveling program is to provide an opportunity for players to participate at a level of competition that will challenge their skills and give them an opportunity to be successful.

Who's In The BPYHA?

The BPYHA is made up of active parents that want the best hockey experience for their child. In short, you are! **Any child in that lives in the City of Brooklyn Park is welcome to play in the BPYHA.** You are encouraged to be a part of it too, the first Wednesday of every month the BPYHA Board meets at Brooklyn Park Community Activity Center to discuss the overall program.

What Is The Structure Of The BPYHA?

The BPYHA is governed by a Board of Directors (21 positions). Five Board members are elected by the membership and they comprise the Executive Board. They are responsible for conducting the “business” of the Association. The hockey “operations” are run by the Hockey Operations Committee that reports to the Executive Board.

Who Would I Call With Questions?

Registration - Kelli Logelin Partidge

Phone 763-586-9936

Operations – Tom Gorman

Phone 763-493-5033

President - Jim Lee

Phone 763-493-8405



Age Levels

What Are The Various Age Levels?

In BPYHA Traveling Hockey, we have 3 age levels (by July 1st of the year) for both boys and girls, they are:

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Ages</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Ages</u>
Squirt	9-10	U-10	10 or Under on June 30
PeeWee	11-12	U-12	12 or Under on June 30
Bantam	13-14	U-15	15 or Under on June 30

For those young people that do not make their high school team, or choose not to play high school hockey, we do offer a Junior Gold level, to allow those players to continue to enjoy the great game of hockey. Junior Gold is currently only available for the boys.

What Changes At These Age Levels?

Some of the rules change as the levels increase. For example, the Squirt level does not permit checking. Checking enters the game at the PeeWee level, and the major change from PeeWee to Bantam is basically the size and speed of the players, their shots and the game itself. The girls rules prohibit checking, but as the girls get older, they do encounter some level of physical contact.



Competitive Levels

What Are The Various Levels Of Competition?

Within each age level, there are 3 basic levels of competition, these are A, B, and C. The A teams are geared toward the highest level of competition for that age group. The B level is focused more on developmental skill building, while still offering an excellent chance for competitive play. The C level, still a traveling team, is focused more at the recreational player that does not want the more intense time commitment of the A or B levels.

What Levels Do We Offer In Brooklyn Park?

Since the boys program has the number of participants to support this, we offer an A, usually 2 B and a C team at each age level (Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam). In the PeeWee and Bantam programs we offer a B1 and B2 experience, but for Squirt B teams we try to make both B teams of equal talent and ability. For girls, we currently assess the strength of the program each year and offer a level that is appropriate for the talent base.

How Does My Child Get Onto A Team?

For the A and B levels, we conduct tryouts to determine where the players skills and abilities lie. Even if your child wishes to play on a C team we request that they participate in tryouts with all of players in their age classification.



Game Information

How Many Games Do We Play?

The amount of games that you can expect will depend upon two factors, your child's age level and their team's success. There is a game limit of 35 games for Squirts and girls U-10s, 43 for PeeWees and U-12s, and 43 for Bantams and U-15's. In certain cases, teams that do remarkably well in their District and Regional tournaments may continue on to the State tournament, and these games would not count against the above game limit.

What Other Teams Do We Usually Play?

Brooklyn Park plays in Minnesota Hockey District 3, so most of our games will be against foes from Osseo, Maple Grove, St. Louis Park, Armstrong, Cooper, Wayzata and Hopkins. We will also play a variety of other teams in out-of-District scrimmages as well as tournaments.

How Many Tournaments Do We Enter?

Again, this varies by age level. Squirts and U-10s can play in 4 tournaments, PeeWees and U-12s can play in 5, while Bantams and U-15s are allowed to play in 6 tournaments. A maximum of 2 tournaments may be held out-of-town, requiring an overnight stay.

What Is Our Game To Practice Ratio?

BPYHA strongly believes that much of your child's skill development comes from their practice time. Therefore we encourage a 2:1 practice to game ratio and require all teams to meet a minimum of 1.5:1.



Hockey Equipment & Care

What Equipment Is Required?

All players are required to wear the following protective equipment any time they are on the ice: gold helmet, with facemask, colored mouthguard, shoulder pads, elbow pads, gloves, black breezers, shin pads, protective cup (boys) or pelvic protector (girls), and skates. We also require wearing a neck guard to protect against slashing neck injury. You are also responsible for providing stick(s).

What If My Child Wants To Play Goalie?

Because goalie equipment is very expensive, BPYHA makes a special effort to help our goalies with this expense. You can rent goalie leg pads, chest protector and gloves for just \$40/season plus a refundable \$50 security deposit. The equipment may also be rented for summer seasons for \$50.

What About The Locker Room?

Generally coaches prefer the parents to stay out of the locker rooms before and after games/practices. Of course when circumstances dictate (injury, illness, etc.) parents are very welcome to assist that player in any way required. This will vary by team, so check with your coach or manager for their preference.

What Else Do I Need To Know About Equipment?

All BPYHA game jerseys are required to be carried in garment bags, not in equipment bags or loose - in order to protect the investment in those jerseys. Make sure you keep your child's skates sharp, they will need sharpening several times per month.



Teams

Who Selects The Teams?

The teams are selected by a group of evaluators who are knowledgeable in hockey and what it takes to succeed at your child's level. The evaluators are selected by the Hockey Operations Committee and the head coach from the A-level that your child is participating in. The target size for all BPYHA teams is 15 skaters and 2 goalies.

Who Sets The Team Rules & What Are They?

The team rules are set by the team's head coach and manager. BPYHA also has passed down guidance to assure that all teams follow the same general code of conduct and practice of good sportsmanship. Your team manager will go over these rules with you at the team's fall meeting.

What Guidance Do We Give To The Coaches?

BPYHA follows a common sense approach in providing guidance for coaches. Coaches are to conduct themselves as responsible leaders of young people at all times, are encouraged to teach and practice good sportsmanship and are charged with developing the kids to their fullest potential but never at the expense of having fun!

What Are Some Tips For Helping To Bond The Team?

Make sure you encourage your child to play hard, listen to the coach, and enjoy their teammates. If they do these things expect great results!



Team Organization

Who Are The Coaches & How Are They Picked?

The BPYHA Hockey Operations Committee interviews all coaching candidates, makes a selection at each level, and sends that recommendation to the Executive Board for approval. Selections are based on hockey experience, overall coaching philosophy and a love to teach kids the game of hockey. We strive to select non-parent coaches whenever possible. BPYHA also requires that all coaches have attended coaching classes and are certified by USA Hockey.

What Is The Team Manager & What Do They Do?

One of the most important jobs on the team is the team manager. The team manager makes sure the players/parents have the current ice schedule, communicates plans for upcoming events, and keeps the team coordinated in every facet of the game. Within the team they are also the prime liaison with the head coach, and keeps track of the slush fund to pay tournament expenses, etc.

What If Something Happens That I Don't Like?

If things are not going along in a satisfactory manner, you have a number of options. First, you can directly address these issues with your team manager. If that does not resolve the issue, you may arrange to speak with both the manager and head coach. If the issue is still not resolved, each level has a Hockey Operations Committee liaison person that can facilitate resolving those issues with all parties involved. The final step is for all parties to bring the matter before the Executive Board, for a final ruling. Executive Board rulings are final and may not be appealed.



Parents Role

What Is Going To Be Expected Of Me?

As parents, you will be expected to conduct yourself in an exemplary manner. Good sportsmanship is the responsibility of everyone on the team, whether on the ice or in the stands. Encourage your child to always work their hardest in practice and in games, and always be supportive of your child's performance. Finally, be supportive of the coach and manager, your child will see this as a sign of class and respect. Remember, life's lessons start in the mirror!

What's This All Going To Cost?

Registration fees do vary by level, but this is to equate the fees with the ice time consumed. But the costs don't stop after registration. Teams need money to pay for tournaments, common items (socks, nameplates) and other items during the year. This is what BPYHA calls the slush fund. Slush fund fees range from \$200-400 for the year and are paid to the team manager. The team manager can give you an accounting of the funds throughout the year. Any left over is refunded to you in full after the season is over. You will also be asked to provide some of your time to support the games themselves, including running the clock, filling out the score sheet, and running a penalty box.

Why Do I Have To Participate In Fundraising Activities?

Due to our fundraising activities, BPYHA enjoys by far the most affordable traveling hockey program in the district. But you, and your participation in the fundraising activities, are the key to keeping hockey affordable for all!



Players Role

What Is Going To Be Expected Of Them?

Players will be expected to follow all team rules, which will be discussed at your team's fall meeting. They will be expected to show up at least 30 minutes before the scheduled practice time, work hard, listen carefully to the coach, and for the hour or so that they are on the ice be dedicated to learning and improving their skills. BPYHA wants the kids to learn all that they can about the sport of hockey and of course - HAVE FUN doing it!

What Defines A Good Team Player?

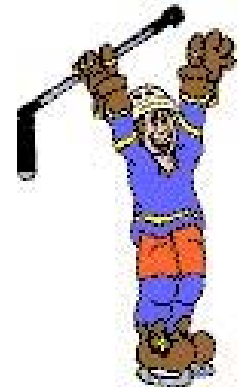
A good team player works with their teammates and coaches to assure that the team meets all of it's objectives. They are also good sports (win or lose) and ambassadors of the BPYHA.

What About Grades, Church, And Other Stuff?

Grades and school progress is very important to the BPYHA. We also understand that there will be other conflicts that arise (church activities, family trips). Communicate these to your team manager and most everything can be worked around. Remember, it's our goal to develop young people to the fullest, not just rink rats!

What About Injuries?

Unfortunately, injuries do happen in hockey. Work with your manager and coach to keep them informed regarding the injury and when it is safe to return. Whatever you do - don't rush the return and risk further injury!



The Tryout Process

What Is The Purpose Of The Tryout Process?

The tryout process is intended to separate the players by their talent level and determine the appropriate level for that particular player. This is accomplished over a period of time by using a combination of skills drills, open ice scrimmages and competitive play against a team from another association.

Who Is Responsible For The Tryout Process?

The Hockey Traveling Committee oversees the entire tryout process. The committee works with the A level head coach to define what the tryout process will consist of and to arrange 5 fair and impartial evaluators. Note: one cannot be an evaluator if they have a child skating in that age level.

What Are Some Tips To Help Us Make It Through Tryouts?

Tryouts can be a very stressful period in your child's life. During this time it is important for you to be very supportive and encouraging to the child. Always emphasize they should go out there and give it their best, but you should remind them to focus on the fun of playing hockey. Make sure your child gets plenty of rest during tryouts and eats well. Also understand that during the actual tryout, you should be mindful of your behavior as well. You have a lot of influence in your child's life, make sure it's directed in a positive manner!



The Tryout Process

What Are The Evaluators Looking For In The Tryout Process?

The evaluators are looking for a combination of a number of things. Generally, these include:

- Skating Skills
- Puck Handling Skills
- Passing Awareness & Ability
- Shooting Awareness & Ability
- Teamwork Concepts
- Awareness of The Game (Movement Without Puck)
- Speed, Quickness, Hustle
- Sportsmanship
- Ability to Follow Directions
- Checking (PeeWee & Bantam Only)

What Should My Child Wear To Tryouts?

Your child should wear their entire uniform any time that they are on the ice, including tryouts. They are NOT permitted to wear any jerseys from All-Star teams, traveling jerseys, or anything with their name on it. They will be given a number to identify them during the tryout.

What If My Child Is Injured Or Ill For Tryouts?

You need to immediately contact the Hockey Operations Committee Director and advise them of the situation. You should also document this situation with a note from you and/or your doctor. Measures are in place to deal with this, but if your child misses a night of evaluations, they score a "0" for that night's work.



Positions

What About Positions And Where Does My Child Fit?

The BPYHA philosophy is that every player will get a chance to play every position that interests them during the course of the year. What that means is that if your child starts out the year and plays defense, they will get the chance to play forward as well - maybe not next game, but sometime during the year. That is unless the child tells the coach that they do not want to do this.

What About The Position Of Goalie?

Since goalies require some specific skills, most skaters do not get the opportunity to play goalie. If your child has interest in playing goalie, BPYHA does sponsor goalie clinics and training specifically for goalies, and they certainly would be welcome to try out as a goalie in the future.

If My Child Isn't The Superstar Will My Child Get To Play?

BPYHA endorses the policy of "equal play" for all. Simply stated, all players will play the same amount of time over the course of the year. Many other associations do not endorse equal play and may "shorten the bench" during tight games, or in certain situations. All BPYHA teams are required to support this equal time policy. The only exception is the Bantam A team is allowed to have a power play and penalty kill squad, but is encouraged to rotate all players into these positions throughout the year.



Ice Time and Cost Comparison

(based on 2003/2004 season)

Squirt A and B (“Traveling”)

- cost \$495 registration fee + about \$400 team fee
- Season: mid-October -> mid-March
- Typically skate around 100 times per season
 - Including tournaments
- About 60 practices
- About 35 games
- 0 to 10 scrimmages (up to coach)
- 2 out-of-town and 2-3 in-town tournaments
- => skate around 3 to 5 times per week

Squirt C

- cost \$280 registration fee + about \$200 team fee
- Season: mid-October -> mid-March
- Typically skate around 60 to 70 times per season
 - Including tournaments
- About 30 to 40 practices (including outdoor)
- About 20 to 30 games
- 0 to 10 scrimmages (up to coach)
- 1 out-of-town and 2-3 in-town tournaments
- => skate around 2 to 3 times per week

U10

- cost \$380 registration fee + about \$200 team fee
- Season: Mid October -> Mid March
- Typically skate around 70 to 80 times per season
 - Including tournaments
- About 50 practices
- About 25 games
- 0 to 10 scrimmages (up to coach)
- 0-1 out-of-town and 1-3 in-town tournaments
- => skate around 3 to 4 times per week

Mite – Squirt/U10 Parent Meeting

- Introduction
- What Is Traveling Hockey document
- Age rules (June 30/July 1)
- Options
 - Squirt A/B or C
 - U10
- Ice-time and cost
- Evaluations
- Petitions to play at a higher level
- Questions