



Our tryout process is designed to place players at a level in the program where they will have the opportunity to compete at the appropriate level based upon their skill. However, the tryout process cannot always properly judge a player's and their family's commitment to hockey.

Players and parents at all levels should expect that hockey at each level will require a significant commitment of time. The expectation at all levels is that players attend practices, clinics, and games. The policy for each team regarding excused and unexcused absences will be communicated early in the season by the Head Coach. Communication is key in keeping the Coaches informed of absences from any team activity.

The Orono Hockey program attempts to achieve development of athletes throughout the season in school, family, spiritual, and personal aspects of life, in addition to hockey skills. There will be conflicts with scheduled hockey events as a result of these other activities. However, hockey is a team sport and each player has a responsibility to participate in scheduled team activities to insure that their development, improvement, conditioning and game preparation is on par with their teammates. We strive that each player receives approximately equal playing time, however, players who do not participate equally in development may find themselves with less playing time than others.

There is a higher level of commitment expected at the A level over the B level and at the B level over the C level. By earning a spot on the roster of an A or B team a player is displacing another player from that team.

If you or your child has any question as to their ability to make the time commitment expected for the level of play where their talent may place them, please contact the Level Representative listed on the Orono Hockey web site prior to tryouts. It is important to the Board that all players and teams achieve their potential each season.

Commitment, Expectations & Coaching Guidelines (Players, Parents & Coaches)

Philosophy:

Orono Hockey Boosters believes that each player should receive approximately equal ice time during the course of the season provided they participate equally in the development of self and team.

Commitment:

Hockey is a team sport and therefore each player is important to the success and development of the team. A player that joins a traveling team (Squirt/U10 and older) is committing to participate fully in all team activities on and off the ice. Generally the commitment level is highest for "A" teams, with the greatest flexibility on "C" teams. However, each head coach will provide a written excused/unexcused absence policy that will define the level of commitment for their team and resulting consequences. If you have concerns about the level of commitment for any team, you should contact the head coach or the Coaches Board to view a suggested excused/unexcused absence policy prior to the end of tryouts.

Expectations & Coaching Guidelines:

The following expectations are accepted by players, parents and coaches who participate on each team or level of play:

- **Mites/U8 and Under:**

Players are expected to have substantially equal ice time. No unexcused/excused absence policy applies. Coaches may discipline a player for dangerous play, foul language, or impeding another player's ability to learn by removing them from the ice for a short period of time.

- **Squirt/U10 teams & All U12, U14, Pee Wee & Bantam teams not listed below:**

Coaches have discretion in the following:

- To create and use distinct power play/penalty kill units during the 3rd period of games or during overtime.
- To reduce a player's ice time as a form of discipline if the player displays poor sportsmanship, is disruptive to the team on or off the ice, is purposefully lacking effort/not working hard during practices or games, is not following team rules, or for taking bad penalties.

It is expected that all players are given the opportunity to participate on power play/penalty kill units regularly during games. Coaches should make it a priority to strive for equal ice time for all skaters during the course of a game and for all goalies during the course of the season.

- **Pee Wee A, Bantam A, U12 A, U14 A:**

Coaches have discretion in the following:

- To create and use distinct power play/penalty kill units during the course of the game
- To reduce a player's ice time as a form of discipline if the player displays poor sportsmanship, is disruptive to the team on or off the ice, is purposefully lacking effort/not working hard during practices or games, is not following team rules, or for taking bad penalties.

It is expected that all players are given the opportunity in practices or games to earn a position on a power play/penalty kill unit. Coaches should use their best judgment and strive for equal ice time for all skaters during the course of a game and for all goalies during the course the season.