

## **III. Tryout Placement Procedures**

### **1. Session Format**

Only skaters, coaches and evaluators will be allowed in the rink area during tryout sessions. Parents and others family members will be asked to remain in the lobby area. The purpose of this requirement is to minimize distractions that may cause the skaters to lose their focus. The tryout placement procedure will consist of multiple sessions for each level. All sessions will concentrate on skills and competitive situations. The skills will focus on hockey fundamentals, i.e. skating skills, stick handling and shooting. The competitive situations will focus on game type situations. The Tryout Committee will design and submit a list of drills and competitive situations to the on-ice coaches. To the extent possible, similar drills and situations will be used at all levels.

### **2. Evaluators**

In-house evaluators will be used for skater evaluations at each level. For Goal tenders both in-house and outside evaluators may be used for evaluations. Evaluators will come from the age level being evaluated and, if needed, from other levels within the club. A minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 evaluators are recommended. A Lead Evaluator will be appointed for each level. The Lead Evaluator will be responsible for submitting a list of evaluators to the VP of coaching, the ACE coordinator and the Age Level Director (ALD) for review and approval as qualified evaluators. The Lead Evaluator will ensure qualified evaluators will be present for all tryout sessions for their respective age level. For consistency, the same evaluators should be present for all sessions. The Lead Evaluator will be responsible for coordinating with the tryout committee to develop the tryout plan, staffing the tryouts, coordinating with on-ice coaches for player match-ups and for collecting and submitting the evaluations to the Placement Committee.

### **3. Rating System**

Skaters will be rated on each skill. At the end of the last tryout sessions, the skaters will be ranked from highest to lowest according to the rating

scheme used by the evaluators. These rankings will be given to the evaluators to be used during placements. The rankings will be used along with the evaluators own evaluations to place skaters on the appropriate teams. The evaluators, the ALD's, the VP of the Coaching Committee, and past coaches will comprise the Placement Committee and will be involved in the placement process. Once teams have been formed the ALD's will give the list of players' names and contact information to the head coaches of each team. The head coach and their assistant(s) will contact each player to inform them of their team placement and first practice hour.

#### **4. Placement Considerations**

When making placements, the Placement Committee will consider tryout rankings/results as well as input from past coaches regarding such things as coachability, physical, mental and emotional maturity and attitude. All teams within each age level will have an equal number of skaters whenever possible. If a difference in the number of skaters per team is necessary, it will not be greater than two unless the Coaches Committee and Board determine it is in the skater's and/or club's best interests. Unless extenuating circumstances as determined by the Coaches Committee and Board exist, a skater making a team cannot refuse the spot to skate on a lower level team.

- It is not the intention that this paragraph be applied mechanically so that skaters of significantly lower ability are placed in higher teams solely to meet this variance requirement. When evaluating an age level, natural breaks in ability can be considered in determining if a deviation from the above rule is appropriate.

- In determining the number of skaters on a team for purposes of this paragraph, the number of dedicated goalies shall not be considered. For example, if the top team at an age level had one dedicated goalie and 14 skaters and the second team had two dedicated goalies and 13 skaters, the variance in the number of skaters for the purposes of this paragraph would be one.

When two or more skaters are evaluated as being very similarly skilled and all are vying for limited “bubble” spots, a second year skater’s experience playing at that age level should be given consideration as a potential “tie breaker” as between that skater and other first year skaters.

Bantams will participate in tryouts in accordance with general club policies. If the Board and Coach's Committee determine circumstances warrant, final rosters will not be determined until after area WIAA High School hockey team placements have been finalized. If this option is used, Bantams will be placed on squads of roughly equal skill and ability on a composite team basis for the purpose of playing and practicing. During this interim period, the tryout committee and coaches will continue to evaluate player performance and may shift players in between squads during the interim until final team designations are made. All team rosters will be set by December 1 of the year of the tryouts.

## **5. Goalie Placements**

- In order to encourage and promote the development of goalies, dedicated goalies will not be permitted at certain Squirt levels. At these levels all skaters are required to go through the skater placement process.
- At the Squirt level, primary dedicated goalies may be placed on the 1A and 1B teams. The primary goalie will compete and practice as a goalie up to 90% of the time. The remaining time will be open to other members of the team desiring to try the position. The goalies not chosen for the 1A or 1B teams will be placed on a team in accordance with their general skating and hockey skills.
- Goalies at the Squirt 1A, 1B, Pee wee, Bantam and Midget levels will be rated during the placement sessions. If necessary, separate goalie sessions will also be used.

## **6. Missed Sessions**

Any player that misses a session will be evaluated on the sessions they attend, the input from previous coaches, and the coaches of the current level. If a player does not attend the tryout sessions they will be evaluated by the coaches of that level in conjunction with team practices. Players will only be excused from tryouts for injuries, health issues, or family requirements. Board approval must be obtained in writing in order to be excused from tryouts.

## **7. Vacancies**

If, after tryouts, a team permanently loses a player or players to such things as injury, family relocation or making a high school team, the Coach's Committee will determine if adding a player from the next lowest team is warranted. If it is determined that such a move is warranted, consensus on chosen player(s) will be obtained from the coaches of both teams, the skater and the parents.