

Jr. Gold Exceptions to WYHA Tryout/Selection Policies

Purpose: This document outlines Jr. Gold exceptions to the WYHA Tryout and Team Selection policies and procedures drafted and approved in spring 2013.

OVERVIEW/CONTEXT:

A key difference between Jr. Gold and the younger levels of WYHA is that this is the age where players split into one of two tracks. After Bantams, players either continue with JG or move into a high school program. For many, JG is and will be the one and only option or choice. For others, the paths may intersect between the two programs once or twice during those remaining years. Our association needs to account for this dual-track environment as we determine how best to retain, serve, and develop the players within this diverse age group. And that can't be done effectively unless we manage our JG program, in some respects, slightly differently from the younger age levels, and by maintaining much of the flexibility and related structures and policies which have served JG well in the past.

EXCEPTIONS:

The exceptions below are not a comprehensive overview or description of JG processes, policies, or procedures, but are relevant to the scope and detail of certain items of the underlying WYHA Tryout/Selection Policies documents. They address the level of specifics necessary for ensuring that our tryouts and team selections can be managed and executed in a manner most appropriate for our Jr. Gold program - yet while still maintaining the spirit of the newly detailed association-wide tryout/selection policies & procedures.

A.) The JGA coach will have some presence at the Wayzata HS tryouts as an observer and will work with the HS coach to get perspectives on HS cuts. The JGA coach will serve as the primary JG advocate, encouraging these players to continue playing. Based on both his evaluation and the recommendation of the HS coach, he will direct players to the appropriate days/sessions of JG tryouts. (Note: HS cuts are encouraged to join JG tryouts as soon as possible, with the default expectation being that they participate from day one. However, it is possible that some players may be inserted into the A pool at some point after the first day of tryouts. Those specific decisions are subject to whatever is determined to be an acceptable/logical entry point for each player, based on potential recruitment and retention factors).

B.) The quantity and levels of JG teams will not be fully determined until the player quantity and respective talent/skill level is established and assessed at tryouts.

C.) The assumption is that the Tryout Assistant will be the primary on-site point person for managing evaluators and evaluation data throughout JG tryouts. Other association-level resources (e.g. President, VP-Travel, VP-Administration, Chair- Coaching Committee, Metro League reps, etc.) will participate as required. The JG Level Coordinator and components of the JG coaching group (designated/approved head and assistant coaches) will be utilized as necessary/appropriate for the tryout process (all subject to necessary restrictions if JG parent). The JG Level Coordinator (primarily) and JGA coach (secondarily) will work closely with the Tryout Assistant to determine coordination of ownership of various tryout logistics (e.g. ice schedules, resources, communication, sign-in, etc.). The JGA head coach (as JG Player Development representative), working with JG coaching group, will determine on-ice activities, as well as specify additional information required from players at check-in (e.g. position preference, 16 vs. 18 level preference, etc.)

D.) Goalie-specific evaluators will be utilized as available. They will serve on a consultative-basis only (i.e. coaches maintaining selection authority).

E.) In keeping with the 3:2 independent-to-coach evaluator ratio described in the WYHA tryout policies, coach evaluations for all sessions will weigh 40% of total JG evaluation scoring (assuming at least 3 non-coach/independent evaluators). The coaches' scoring may come from one set of scores, with a sub-set of coaches (e.g. JGA coaching staff scoring the A pool) providing that data for a given pool.

F.) The initial day of tryouts concludes with a discussion by the evaluator/coach group to determine the appropriate A pool for Day 2. The objective is to utilize the first day's evaluation/rank data but also to collaboratively ensure that all potential A players get assigned to the Day 2 A pool.

G.) For the subsequent days of tryouts, the pools are determined specifically per evaluation/rank data. Because of the relatively compressed tryout timeframe and the inherent fluidity/uncertainty of JG numbers, JG coaches can collaboratively define the exact pool sizes/cut-offs (per the target ranges defined in the process overview slide).

H.) Head coaches are able to directly engage and utilize approved assistant coaches throughout the tryouts and team selection process.

I.) Assumed/target roster sizes are 15 skaters. However, based on total player numbers and the quantity of teams, the decision may be made by JG coaches/mgmt to adjust roster size.

J.) The JGA coach must select the top 8 skaters from the final evaluation rankings. He will then select his remaining skaters (7 assuming roster of 15) from the next highest 14.

K.) Trades are allowed, and friend requests considered, only across teams of the same level.