

CHIPPEWA YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

PLAYER PLACEMENT PROCESS

POLICY PURPOSE

This policy was written to establish a general set of rules to govern the player placement process and team formation process used by the Chippewa Youth Hockey Association (CYHA) for assessing the skills of participants in its hockey program and for assigning players to teams.

POLICY DESCRIPTION

The player placement process used by CYHA is designed to: A) provide a fair and unbiased approach to evaluate overall hockey ability of each youth player; B) ensure that the integrity of the process is maintained; and C) to ensure that each player is placed at the most appropriate level for their abilities. This placement process is used to place members on a team that will enable the skater to develop their skills with other similarly-talented players. The policy also strives to assign teams to levels of play that will be competitive, as well as challenging, for all team members. The parameters of this policy were assembled to provide a process to place players on teams with these goals in mind. The player placement process consists of several separate sessions, usually over a course of three sessions.

EVALUATORS

Evaluators will be selected on their past experience and ability to assess a hockey player without bias regarding the identity of the player. When possible, a combination of inside and outside evaluators will be used to assess all skaters at each level involved in the placement process. The CYHA Player Development Committee (PDC) shall recruit and select the members of the evaluation team, with notification to the CYHA Board of Directors.

Evaluators selected by the Player Development Committee will be responsible for evaluating all the players who wish to participate in the placement process. The evaluators will rank all participants according to their performance. The PDC will do its best to engage non-parent evaluators; however, this is not a guarantee. No evaluator which has a son or daughter going through the placement process may be involved with the player placement process at the level at which their child skates.

ON ICE EVALUATION PROCESS

GOALIES: Prior to the evaluation, any player that wishes to be placed as a goalie, must participate in the goalie placement process. The player must **DECLARE** to the PDC that he/she wishes to be placed as goalie. The player will be evaluated either as a goalie or skater based on his/her declaration. When a player is placed as a goalie after his declaration, the player will be expected and required to play that position throughout the

season, unless requested to play a different position by his/her coach. It is hereby understood that the coach has complete and uncompromised authority to decide where each player plays on the team.

The placement sessions will be led by the evaluators and will consist of a combination of drills and scrimmages depending on the level and preferences of the evaluators. Placement drills are designed to test individual skills, hockey awareness, and team play. Desire, hard work and self-control are also determining factors in evaluation and selection. An objective of the scrimmages is to have the players skate on various player combinations of lines and positions throughout the placement process and to evaluate each player's abilities in game like situations. Evaluators will be reviewing the following:

- The player's skating skills
- The player's individual hockey skills (puck handling, passing, receiving, shooting, body positioning)
- The player's team skills, both offensive and defensive
- The player's position play, teamwork, game skills, awareness.

The evaluators will rank players after considering each player's performance by taking into account the player's skills (skating, puck ability, playmaking, scoring, shooting) and hockey performance (demonstrated hockey IQ/hockey sense, aggressiveness, back checking, fore-checking, playing team defense, playing your position, making your teammates better, etc.). Each session, every attempt will be made to provide each skater and each goalie with the same amount of ice time as possible.

Each evaluator shall independently rank the players by providing, at the end of the three sessions, a total ranking score based from scores within each category for skating, puck ability, playmaking, hockey sense, scoring ability, shooting, defense ability and aggressiveness. After the placement process is complete, and the evaluators have submitted their rankings, the player placement evaluators will discuss all the rankings from each individual evaluator for each player number to determine the players' total ranking and then attach the player names to the player numbers.

Resources required for Selection Process:

- Determine try out dates –check on youth football, the start of high school, etc.
- Practice plans to be determined by the PDC. Practice plans will change throughout the placement process due to the needs of the Selection Committee
- Jerseys/Pinneys
- List of players trying out at each level
- Check in process
- Locker room issues on North Rink due to only 4 locker rooms
- On ice Selection Committee member
- Pucks
- CYHA board observer at each level.

ABSENCE FROM PLACEMENT PROCESS

Excused Absences

If a Player will miss a placement session for other than medical or health related reasons, his/her Parent must communicate the reason for missing prior to the placement dates. This request will be reviewed by the PDC. If it is determined that the absence is excused, the Evaluators will attempt to accommodate the Player's schedule and, if that is not practicable, will score the missed placement process using:

1. The Player's attended placement process scores;
2. Past abilities of the player;
3. Interviews with past coaches; and
4. An assessment as to placement that is in best interests of the Association and the player (as is the case with all players participating in the placement process).

Unexcused Absences

A Player missing a placement session for an excused absence will be warned that the failure to attend placement process may result in that Player being placed on a lower team than had that Player attended all placement sessions.

Medical Absence

Players who are unable to take part in the placement process because of health or medical reasons must notify the PDC Chairman in writing at least 24 hours before the placement process begin. If a player is unable to finish the placement process, he or she must contact the appropriate coordinator and PDC Chair, immediately.

A player must verify his or her medical problems in writing from a medical doctor. The PDC may request additional documentation or proof at their sole discretion. The committee's decision will be based on:

1. Past abilities of the player;
2. Interview with past coaches;
3. Severity of injury/sickness;
4. The players ability to play without medical restriction; and
5. An assessment as to placement that is in best interests of the Association and the player (as is the case with all players participating in the placement process).

TEAMS

The PDC will recommend the anticipated teams and team sizes to the CYHA Board on or before the September Board meeting based on last year's numbers:

- Number of teams per level (Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam, 10U, 12U and 14U)
- List of potential coaches for the upcoming season
- Levels of teams for the upcoming season.
- Composition of each team: Team size numbers will vary based upon total number of skaters at each level and the desire to have skaters with like abilities skate together.
 - Mites – evenly place numbers of players on teams trying evenly split talent at this level.
 - Squirt A, B, C Green, C Black - preliminary based on estimated numbers
 - Pee Wee A, B, C, preliminary based on estimated numbers
 - 10U preliminary based on estimated numbers
 - 12U preliminary based on estimated numbers
 - Bantam A, B, preliminary based on estimated numbers
 - 14U preliminary based on estimated numbers

EXPECTATIONS FOR SEASON AND AT EACH TEAM LEVEL

General Expectations for Players

Hockey is a team sport and attendance at all practices (to include dryland activities), games, and tournaments is part of the commitment that your child, and your family, is making to their teammates and coaches. The typical week includes at least two hours of practice and two games, with travel times of up to 90 minutes from Chippewa Falls. CYHA understands that, while over the course of the season 100% attendance at all events may not be possible, the expectation is that players will make every effort to honor their commitment to their team. In all cases where practice or games will be missed, the reason for missing should be conveyed to the coach as soon as practical and preferably at least 24 hours before the event. Missed games and practices shall result in a loss of playing time, to be decided at the coach's discretion, based on the legitimacy of the absence. Legitimate absences include, but are not limited to illness, injury and participation in mandatory school and religious activities

Players who accept a position on a CYHA travel team agree to attend all out of town tournaments and an end of season State Tournament. Tournament if the team qualifies. Families are responsible for additional travel related expenses such as transportation, food, lodging and possible tournament fees. Additionally, Families have team responsibilities for working home games and other events, These duties include, but are not limited to, concessions shifts, score booth duties, penalty box duties, Zamboni driving and chuck a puck duties at NAHL games. Families are also required to work many shifts at their home tournament. If families cannot make their assigned duties, they are responsible for finding other family members to fulfill their duties.

“A” Level Teams

“A” level teams are generally for advanced players who have participated in an organized hockey program and are ready to be a part of a competitive and organized team with high expectations for effort and attitude at practice and all games. “A” level teams will have a full game schedule, rarely with any weekends off, and are expected to travel long distances for games against teams which will challenge our skaters. Overnight stays are quite common with this level teams. Mandatory attendance at practices and dryland is common at this level.

“B” Level Teams

“B” level teams are generally for good players who have participated in an organized hockey program and are ready to be a part of a competitive and organized team with high expectations for effort and attitude at practice and all games. “B” level teams will usually have full game schedule with a rare weekend off, and are may be asked to travel long distances for games against teams which will challenge our skaters. Overnight stays are common with this level teams. Mandatory attendance at practices and dryland is common at this level.

“C” Level Teams

“C” level teams are generally for players who are limited on their skills or are new to the game, and are either not ready for the advanced full travel schedule or are looking for a place to develop their skills before moving to a higher level of hockey. The focus of this level is skill development while the program is on fun and giving the players a challenging, well designed and active team to learn the sport of hockey. Most of the travel will be local, however, some overnight stays are common, but not on a regular basis. Attendance at practices and dryland is highly recommended at this level to spur skills development.

PLAYER PLACEMENT ON TEAMS

At the conclusion of placement process, the evaluators, after discussion, will place the players at each level on the A, B and C teams as the case may be. Final team size for all teams will be determined by the Player Development Committee with input from the coach of the team, if a coach has been identified. The number of goalies per team may change depending on the number of goalies available, and on the grades given by the evaluators. The PDC will then recommend the placement of the players on the teams to the CYHA Board which shall approve the teams. The CYHA Board will then post the team rosters on the CYHA website.

APPEALS OF PLACEMENT OF PLAYER(S)

The decision of the PDC and the CYHA Board of Directors is final. No appeals will be allowed or heard as to player placement.

POLICY MODIFICATION

This policy was written to establish a general set of rules to govern the placement process

and team formation process. However, in the event of unforeseen situations or as otherwise necessary to accomplish the goals of properly evaluating and assessing the skills of participants and placing players on a team that will enable the skater to develop their skills with other similarly-talented players in the CYHA program, the PDC will make decisions accordingly, as needed, to make necessary changes/modifications to these general rules (examples include but are not limited to providing more or less ice time to certain players to allow the evaluators more opportunities to see certain players compete directly against each other).

CONCLUDING MESSAGE

Please keep in mind: This is a great, fun game. So please allow situations like this to be a life lesson for your player. We all have disappointment in our lives. We are all told at some point in our lives that our services are no longer needed. Sports are a microcosm of life—life will go on if your player did not make the team. Let your player enjoy the game and play at a level that will allow him or her to flourish and want to play again next season.

"The best motivation always comes from within." *Michael Johnson (Gold Medal Sprinter)*

"To succeed...You need to find something to hold on to, something to motivate you, something to inspire you." *Tony Dorsett (NFL Running back)*

"Difficulties in life are intended to make us better, not bitter." *Dan Reeves (Former NFL athlete and head coach)*

"If you can't accept losing, you can't win." *Vince Lombardi (Legendary Football Coach)*

"The rewards are going to come, but my happiness is just loving the sport and having fun performing." *Jackie Joyner Kersee (Track and Field Legend)*

"Do you know what my favorite part of the game is? The opportunity to play." *Mike Singletary (Hall of Fame Linebacker & Former NFL Head Coach)*

"Nothing will work unless you do." *John Wooden (Basketball Coach)*