



Southern Maryland Sabres Hockey Club

P.O. Box 6350
Waldorf, MD 20603

Southern Maryland Sabres Travel Player Development Program (Practice Players)

The key purpose of a Sabres travel Practice Player is to further develop the skills of a player whom a Head Coach determines is a player on the fringe of making the travel team .

If the player does not tryout for the travel team, they cannot be added to the practice squad. Any exception to this shall be submitted in advance by the Head Coach to the Travel Director for Board approval.

The benefit to the club of having a Practice Player is:

- a) To develop the club's pool of talented players
- b) To grow interest in the travel program at each age level
- c) To increase participation in travel program tryouts

The choice and selection of having any Practice Player(s) is strictly the Head Coach's decision. If a Head Coach chooses to add a Practice Player(s) he/she must submit that name(s) to the Travel Director in advance of any offer, with Board approval necessary.

Understanding the overall benefit to the club, yet in respect of other members, the Board feels appropriate that the Travel Player Development Program cost will be equal to a discounted 40% of the budgeted ice and dry-court time costs through the regular season; currently \$300 (free for goalies).

A team will be limited to three (3) total Practice Players plus goalies.

To be a travel team Practice Player he/she must practice and attend games for the Sabres Rec team he/she is registered with -- no exceptions.

If the Practice Player's Rec Head Coach expresses that the player is not making sufficient effort with their Rec team, or missing Rec practices or games, then a joint meeting will be held by the Travel and Rec Directors to include both Head Coaches, the player, and their Parent to determine ability to continue participation.

The Practice Player cannot participate in any actual travel team games, including league, non-league and tournaments.

A practice player is not to attend any travel team practice or event which is in conflict with the player's obligation to their primary Sabres Rec team schedule.

The player/ parent must commit to attending all travel team practices and the coach will commit to coaching the player, unless there are grounds for a separation.

The travel team Head Coach has the ability to stop a Practice Player from participating if they become a distraction to the travel team or it appears the player's skill is not developing as expected. The Head Coach must notify the Travel Director of any practice player separation, who will keep the

Board informed. Upon separation, the Treasurer will calculate any appropriate prorated refund to be made to the player for practice fee paid for the remaining unused portion.

The Practice Player should be informed of all team events (i.e. parties, fundraising, charity events, etc.) as a matter of courtesy, yet it is the Practice Player/ parent's choice whether to participate with any activities outside of team practices. The primary purpose of the program is to develop the Practice Player's skills through on and off-ice practices. The Practice Player is to keep the travel Head Coach informed of their availability and interest in extra activities.

The Practice Player should **not** be informed of the possibility that they can be added permanently to the travel team roster.

The travel Head Coach can submit to the Travel Director to add the Practice Player(s) to their team roster, which requires Board approval. The travel Head Coach is not to discuss any potential offer with the Practice Player until approved. Board approval will be based on the following criterion:

- 1) The addition to the roster of the Practice Player(s) cannot cause the overall travel team player quantity to exceed the stated maximum in the current Sabres Travel Member Handbook.
- 2) The subsequent removal of the Practice Player from their Rec team, per league rules that do not allow a player to be rostered on both a Travel and Rec team, cannot cause the overall Rec team player quantity to drop below the stated minimum in the current Sabres Rec Member Handbook.

If either situation described above applies, then the Practice Player will **not** be allowed to add to the travel team roster.

Decisions to add the Practice Player to the travel team roster must be submitted by the Head Coach to the Travel Director and approved by the Board prior to the December holiday break to allow for sufficient time for the player to make payment and the Sabres Registrar to meet the 12/31 league deadline for such additions.

The Sabres Treasurer will provide a calculated prorated registration cost figure based on current budget to the Board as needed for any travel team roster additions. This calculation will include the appropriate prorated cost of adding to the travel team (i.e. for January and February) minus the calculated prorated credit for the discontinuation of participating with their Rec team.

In the event that a Practice Player(s) is approved and then offered to be added to the travel team roster, the Practice Player/ parent must pay IN FULL the registration prorated cost difference for time remaining in the season. This additional cost must be paid BEFORE player's name will be added to the travel team T1 roster.

In the event of any Game Jersey number conflict created to the travel team by player's addition, the added Practice Player(s) would be provided a loaner Game Jersey set to use for the remainder of the season. Or if none available then the added player will need to utilize a practice jersey solution in appropriate jersey colors with temporary numbering, with any associated costs the responsibility of the added player in order to join the travel team.

Once added to the travel team roster, the Practice Player is now bound to all obligations as a travel team player as set forth by the club, the Travel Member Handbook and previously communicated obligations applicable to all players of that travel team.

Any questions regarding this Travel Player Development Program can be directed to the Sabres Travel Director at TravelDirector@somdsabres.org or member of the Sabres Board of Directors.

Adopted by SMSHC April 2015; updated June 2016.