

# RUSHMORE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## TRYOUT POLICY

### I. INTRODUCTION

The following tryout policies and procedures have been established to govern the manner in which tryouts will be conducted.

### II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the tryout process is:

- A. To fairly and equitably evaluate each skater's present skating ability and hockey skills.
- B. To rank each skater's ability and skills in comparison to the other skaters at the same age level.
- C. To place each skater on the appropriate team based on each skater's performance during this year's tryouts.

### III. STRUCTURE

A. Hockey Development Committee (HDC) will oversee the Tryout Process.

1. The HDC shall assign level representatives for each level; Bantam, Pee Wee, Squirt.
2. The HDC will be responsible for finding evaluators for the tryouts, subject to approval by the Board.
3. The HDC will be responsible for distributing randomly assigned numbered jerseys to each player and the collection of them upon completion of tryouts.

B. Evaluators

A minimum of three (3) and a maximum of six (5) evaluators will be used at each level. Evaluators will be chosen by the HDC. It is the intention of the HDC to have some evaluators evaluate all sessions at an age level to insure consistency. Evaluators will be chosen based on their hockey knowledge and impartiality to the age level they are evaluating. No direct relatives of any player trying out will be allowed to evaluate at that skater's age level, unless such is approved by the Board in advance of tryouts.

### IV. TRYOUT FORMAT

The hours of ice devoted to tryouts will be set by the HDC and may vary depending on the number of skaters, availability of ice, and other factors. Generally, the following format will be employed at all levels:

1. One to two hours of graded fundamentals.
2. two to three hours of graded scrimmages.

## V. EVALUATION

### A. Skater Evaluation

Player evaluation sheets will be used by the evaluators for all skaters. All fundamental drills will be graded one (1) through nine (9), with nine being Excellent on a composite basis. Fundamental drills to be used will be determined by the HDC. The fundamental drills for each level will be distributed at the first session of tryouts.

Scrimmage scores will be graded one (1) through Nine (9), with nine being Excellent. The scrimmage will be skated either 3 vs. 3, 4 vs. 4, or 5 vs. 5.

All evaluators will grade fundamental skills and scrimmages separately and independently without consulting with other evaluators. All completed score sheets will be given to the HDC representative immediately at the end of each session and logged.

### B. Goalie tryouts

Goalies will be evaluated on their skating skills as well as their goaltending skills at the fundamental sessions. They will be evaluated on their goalie skills during the scrimmages.

### C. Score Tabulation

Final evaluation scores are determined by using the following steps:

1. Compile the total scores for both fundamental and scrimmage sessions.
2. Total the scores for the final score.

### D. Coaches selection

1. Non-parent coaches may have input on the last two team positions with review and agreement from the HDC.
2. Parent coaches may have input on the last team position with review and agreement from the HDC.

## VI. TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

### A. Score calculation.

All scores will be calculated under the direction of the HDC. Each player's scores will be tabulated several times to ensure accuracy. Scores will be tabulated as soon as possible, but there will be no deadline. Accuracy will be more important than speed.

## B. Team selection

The total number of skaters placed on each team will be reviewed by the HDC and a recommendation will be made the Board of Directors after the tryout sessions have been completed. These decisions will be based on things such as, the number of players trying out, established maximum/minimum teach sizes, and what is in the best interest of the teams at that level. The HDC will also consider the skill classifications and physical requirements of that age level in determining team size. Teams will not necessarily have the same number of skaters. It will be the goal not no more than 14 (13 skaters and 1 goalie) on each Squirt team and no more than 17 (15 skaters, 2 goalies), on the teams in RHA. Final numbers for each team are dependent upon the number of players at each level. The HDC will make recommendations on team sizes, with input from the coaches at each level, subject to RHA Board approval.

## C. Tie breakers:

1. Preference goes to the second year skater at that age level based on DOB.
2. Highest average of evaluators composite scrimmage scores.
3. The Board of Directors reserves the right to alter team selection to accommodate coaching assignments and/or any other unusual circumstances.

## VII. INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLAYERS AND PARENTS

A. Skaters will NOT be allowed on the ice unless registration and insurance forms are completed and the appropriate fees are fully paid based on the fee schedule.

B. Players will be allowed to tryout at only one age level. A player must have received RHA Board approval to play up one level, and have such in writing at tryouts, before trying out at the higher division level, pursuant to the play up policy of RHA. Players not attending all tryout sessions will automatically be placed on the lowest level team of that age group unless approved by the Board prior to tryouts. There will be no exceptions or appeals to this, absent documented injury or illness prior to the tryout sessions.

C. No name tags (including nicknames) will be allowed on helmets or jerseys. No self-identifying equipment may be worn by the players.

D. Make tryouts a priority. The results of tryouts will determine how you and your skater will spend the next six months. Skaters will need to be on the ice, with assigned pullover, at the appropriate time and ready to skate. They will not be allowed to make-up any drill that they may have missed by arriving late.

E. If a player is not present during an evaluation session, they will receive no score.

1. New players to RHA that miss tryouts will be placed on the lowest team for his/her level. The player will be evaluated by the coach and HDC representative and moved up accordingly if the player possesses skills not appropriate for the lowest team. This evaluation may be conducted at practice and/or games.

2. Any player missing tryouts with a valid excuse will be placed accordingly by the coaches and HDC based on player knowledge and history with RHA. Should the player possess no history with RHA, the "new player to RHA" rule will be used.

3. Existing and/or past players who miss tryouts without a valid excuse will be placed on the lowest team for his/her level. The player will be evaluated by the coach and level director and moved up accordingly if the player possesses skills not appropriate for the lowest team. This evaluation may be conducted at practice and/or games.

F. All problems and complaints should be brought to the attention of the HDC immediately. Any injury and/or illness will require medical documentation PRIOR to the tryout sessions.

G. Parents are strictly forbidden to discuss the tryouts, their skater, or any subject relating to tryouts with the evaluators or coaches before, during or after any tryout session. Parents must adhere to the code of conduct during tryouts and are not to yell out to or identify their skater in any manner.

H. Players will be notified of their team placement as soon as practical following tryouts, following Board approval, if applicable.

I. Players must wear the appropriate equipment, including mouth guards, for their particular age level.

J. The HDC shall rule on any subject not specifically addressed in these policies and procedures as may be deemed necessary.

K. Following the completion of tryouts each year, the Board may request from the HDC a report and summary of the tryout process for that year.