



Tournament Bound Selection Policy

1. Objective

- a. The purpose of the Tournament Bound Selection policy is to establish the process by which Elmira Corning Youth Hockey Association (ECYH) will select players to teams declaring as tournament bound.
- b. This policy also establishes the process by which ECYH will select players to a team declaring to compete in Snowbelt Hockey League's Gold Division should one be supported by Snowbelt.
- c. Moving forward, ECYH has determined that Tournament Bound is indicative of either State Bound or Independent teams.

2. Head Coach Selection Process

- a. The Head of Coaches shall establish an application for interested candidates no later than (30) days prior to the start of evaluations.
- b. Candidates wishing to be considered for the head coach position of an ECYH Tournament Bound team shall apply.
- c. Every effort shall be made to appoint a head coach at a minimum of two weeks prior to the start of evaluations. The Head of Coaches shall nominate a Head Coach for the age group being evaluated to the ECYH Board of Directors, for approval.
 - i. The Board, at its discretion, may establish a Coaching Selection Committee. This committee will be comprised of a minimum of 5 participants including the Head of Coaches and league President.
- d. Announcements regarding the selected Head Coach will be made via the ECYH website and social media.
- e. The evaluation staff shall be appointed and will consist of the following:
 - i. Head of Coaches
 - ii. Head Coach for the team being evaluated.
 - iii. At minimum, two additional evaluators that are not associated with the age group being evaluated – these individuals may be non-league members.
- f. The Head of Coaches will make every effort to meet with all evaluators at a minimum one week prior to the selected evaluation date to explain the expectations of the evaluation process and scoring.

3. Evaluation of Players

- a. Tryout / Evaluation Schedule
 - i. Tryout dates, times, and locations will be posted on the home page of our website and any other social media pages. Tryouts will be held in March and April in accordance with USA Hockey Guidelines.
 - ii. The tryout schedule is subject to change from year to year due to USA Hockey rules. It is highly recommended that all prospective players register online through the ECYH website prior to tryouts. Online registration speeds up the check-in process on the day of tryouts and allows the organization to communicate with each player utilizing the email address on file.
 - iii. A secondary tryout is sometimes warranted later (prior to declaration of tournament bound status) to fill vacant team positions. The secondary tryout date will be posted on ECYH website.
- b. Practice Plan
 - i. Evaluations shall be comprised of a minimum of (2) 1-hour on-ice sessions. Additional time shall be considered at the discretion of the Board of Directors if schedule and finances allow.
 - ii. The on-ice sessions will be conducted by the selected Head Coach of the team being evaluated or someone of their choosing. The Head Coach may determine which assistant coaches if any will assist with the evaluations.
 - iii. The evaluation practice plan shall be drafted by the Head Coach of the selected team with final approval given by the Head of Coaches.
- c. Fees
 - i. An evaluation fee may be required to attend tryouts.
 - 1. The fee will be decided by the Board of Directors and published prior to evaluations starting.
 - 2. If applicable, will be due prior to evaluations starting, and will be used to cover ECYH costs for the utilized ice time.
 - 3. It is a non-refundable fee.
 - ii. A commitment fee may be required prior to the player evaluating. The decision on a commitment fee will be announced prior to tryouts.
 - 1. The commitment fee if paid by check is only cashed in the event your player is offered and accepts a spot on the team and will be applied towards their registration fee.
 - 2. The commitment fee if paid by check will be destroyed at the completion of evaluations if your player is not selected for the Tournament Bound team.
 - 3. The commitment fee if paid by cash will be applied towards the registration fee for the season if the player is offered and accepts a spot on the team.
 - 4. If the commitment fee was paid with cash and your player does not make the team, a refund check will be sent to the address that you registered with.

5. Once a player is offered a spot on the team and the player accepts, the commitment fee becomes **non-refundable**, regardless of whether the player changes their mind later.
- d. Eligibility
 - i. If a player with an ineligible birthdate wishes to participate in evaluations, they must provide a Request for Player Movement form to the Head of Coaches and ECYH President.
 - ii. This player must be approved by the Head of Coaches and ECYH President prior to attending tryouts.
 - e. External Associations and Financial Obligations
 - i. If a player is coming from another organization, and they have an outstanding financial obligation with their previous organization, they will not be permitted to try out with ECYH.
 - ii. Any player/family that wishes to evaluate that has an outstanding balance with ECYH from current or prior seasons will not be eligible to evaluate.
 - f. Rescheduling Evaluation
 - i. Generally, no consideration to make up evaluation dates or times outside of the scheduled evaluation period will be permitted.
 - ii. In the event of circumstances beyond ECYH control, supplemental evaluations may be scheduled with approval of the Board.

4. Evaluation Criteria

- a. Position
 - i. Upon registering for evaluations, players will be able to state a preference for the position they would like to evaluate for.
 - ii. Players shall understand that if selected, they are not required to play the position nor is it promised that they will play the position for which they evaluated.
- b. Criteria
 - i. The evaluation process will be 80% scrimmage and 20% skills over the proposed evaluation dates.
 - ii. Players shall be rated on a scale of (1-5), where (1) represents the lowest score and (5) represents the highest score. Evaluators may award fractional scores of .5 (+/-).
- c. Non-goalie players shall be evaluated on five different skill aspects weighted as follows:

Criterion	Description	Weight
Skating	Speed, Agility and Control	15%
Puck Control	Stick Handling, Puck Possession, etc.	10%
Shooting	Velocity, Accuracy, Timing, etc.	15%
Effort	Perceived effort by evaluators, attitude, etc.	20%
Hockey Sense	Positional play, forecheck/backcheck, communication, etc.	40%

- d. Goalies shall be rated using the same scale, on the following skill aspects:

Criterion	Description	Weight
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Skating	Crease movement, recovery, transitions	10%
Positioning	Save Angle, depth control	35%
Quickness / Reaction	Glove/Blocker Speed, Puck Tracking	10%
Rebound Control	Securing or Directing rebounds and loose pucks near the crease	10%
Effort	Perceived effort by evaluators, attitude, etc.	35%

- e. Evaluators shall track player ratings on a score sheet (see appendix for scoresheet example) provided by the Head of Coaches prior to each evaluation session. Score sheets shall have no player names. Evaluators shall enter a rating based on the guidelines above for every player on their score sheet. The Registrar of ECYH will keep the master list of all players and jersey assignments for evaluations.
- f. At the end of each evaluation session, off-ice evaluators will submit their score sheets to the Head of Coaches or President of ECYH.

5. Selection Process

- a. The Tournament Bound Team size shall be determined by the Head Coach and Head of Coaches based on the historical data from previous season's registration numbers.
- b. All players evaluating must participate in **ONE** evaluation session to be considered for the team.
- c. Attendance at all evaluation sessions is **STRONGLY** recommended. The evaluation team reserves the right to make cuts after the first evaluation session.
- d. Players may be added to the existing roster by the selected Head Coach or recommended by the Board of Directors if there are extenuating circumstances. Ex: a new player to the area, increasing the team roster if needed, etc. Requests must be provided in writing, with approval by both the Head of Coaches and the Head Coach of the team in question.
- e. When cuts are made, players that have not been selected to move on in the evaluation process will be notified by the Head Coach at the end of each evaluation session.
- f. At the conclusion of the evaluation process, the Head of Coaches will tabulate and average the scores of the evaluators for all players and goalies remaining after the close of evaluations. The Head of Coaches will share the evaluation results with the appointed Head Coach and ECYH President only on the final day of evaluations.
- g. The appointed Head Coach reserves the right to move players based on his/her discretion, with valid reasoning, provided there is a simple majority vote amongst the evaluators. The reasoning must be documented in some capacity (scores from evaluation, written statement, or other sufficient evidence to support).
- h. **Once** the roster is finalized, the players chosen will receive a verbal invitation to play for the team from the Head Coach. Players who accept the invitation to play for the Tournament Bound team will have **48 hours** after the completion of evaluations to provide a signed commitment form to the Head Coach. This form is then forwarded to the President of ECYH to be signed and stored for NYSAHA.
- i. The final roster will be posted on the ECYH website once all players are notified and have accepted.

- j. Individual player results can be requested from the Head of Coaches.

6. Grievance Policy

- a. In the event of a disagreement with the evaluation results, an individual may file a grievance with the Board of Directors.
- b. Grievances must be provided in writing to the ECYH President and Vice President within 3 days of the posting of evaluation results.
- c. Grievances shall include:
 - i. Description of the reason for the grievance.
 - ii. The outcome the person filing the grievance is hoping to receive.
- d. After receiving a grievance, an Executive Oversight Committee of a minimum of 3 people shall be appointed by the Board.
- e. The Executive Oversight Committee will field and resolve grievances through the following process.
 - i. Will determine if the grievance requires arbitration.
 - ii. Will meet and discuss the grievance with the Head of Coaches and the Head Coach prior to agreeing to meet with the individual who filed the grievance.
 - iii. If the grievance is deemed valid, the Executive Oversight Committee will arbitrate resolution of the issue within 21 days of the completion of evaluations.
 - iv. If the grievance is deemed invalid, the decision will remain as determined by the original decision.
 - v. The Executive Oversight Committee will disband within 21 Days.

7. Revision Record

Revision	Description	Date	By
C	Adjustment for Tournament Bound (State/Independent) and updates to secondary evaluation date and process.	3/21/2025	K. Magliocca (President) Joe Heverly (V. President) J. Melanson (General Manager)
B	Add Snowbelt 10U Gold, Score Weighting updates, Format updates.	2/28/2024	B. Stumper Head of Coaching
A	Migration of Document from Elmira Jackals Youth Hockey Policy	2/17/2024	B. Bryan Digital Director

8. Appendix

ECYH Evaluation Form

Season:

Skating (Speed, control, agility)

Effort (Perceived effort by evaluators-executing drills quickly, racing to loose pucks, battling on boards, etc.)

Puck Control (Stick handling, puck protection, puck possession)

Shooting (Velocity, accuracy, timing)

Hockey Sense (positional play, forcecheck, backcheck, communication)

Scale of 1-4 where 1 represents the lowest and 4 represents the highest.

Evaluators can award fractional scores by using a +/- notation (ex. 3+ or 2-)

Function	Skating	Effort	Puck Control	Shooting	Hockey Sense
Ranking	%	%	%	%	%
Player					

Figure 1 – Example Evaluation Score Sheet