

Team Selection & Player Evaluation Process

Teams: Middleton Youth Hockey intends to have teams at the Squirt, Peewee, Bantam and Midget levels. The number of teams at each level is dependent both on the number of skaters registering and availability of coaches. All teams will be selected by skill level (A, B, C1, C2 teams) unless otherwise announced through the evaluation process.

At the Mite level (skaters predominately 7 to 8 years old), teams will also be formed by skill level. Unlike Squirt and above, Mites will not participate in the evaluation process. Mite teams are formed by the coaching staff after observing the skaters for the first few weeks of practice. The format for Mite hockey will emphasize development and fun with smaller teams and local games. Mites will play half ice games throughout the season. WAHA rules do not allow full ice games at the Mite level. The Mite program is encouraged for players seeking to play hockey as Squirts.

If any player wishes to “play up” at the next age group, the player must be ranked in the top 5 of all skaters at that next age group after evaluations are completed. If the player is not in the top 5, the player will go back to their age appropriate level of play.

All skaters are placed on a team!

Team Size: Mite teams may vary from 8-10 players. Squirt teams can expect team sizes of 10 to 13 players. While several factors contribute to team size, the primary deciding factor is skill level. If the skill level of the players drops noticeably after the 10th or 11th player, the coaching committee may recommend a smaller team if this does not create hardship to other teams at the same age level (i.e., too small or too large).

The skill level of players will also drive team sizes for the Peewee and Bantam levels, though as a result of a physically more demanding game (checking and 1.5 hour games vs 1 hour games), those teams will tend to be larger (13 to 15 players). Peewee and Bantam teams may have 2 goalies on the roster. Roster size for the Midget team may vary as the primary goal is to accommodate all eligible Middleton districted players (max roster is 20).

Player (Skaters/Goalies) Selection Process:

- **Sessions:** Evaluations of Squirts and above will consist of a series of on-ice sessions.
 - Players are asked to participate in as many of the designated evaluation ice times as possible in order to fully evaluate the player.
 - If you are not able to make an evaluation session, please notify your ALD (Age Level Director) at least 24 hours ahead of the scheduled evaluation session.
 - If your skater is injured and cannot participate in any of the scheduled evaluations, please contact your ALD. An evaluation will be conducted when the skater is ready to return to play.

- ⊖ If certain age levels contain a larger number of skaters, it may be necessary to divide the group for effective evaluations. The groups will be posted on the MYH website no later than 24 hours after the last session in preparation for the next evaluation session.
- **Evaluators:** Parent coaches will be used at age levels where they do not have a skater participating. We will also be utilizing veteran coaches from the area with no club/player affiliation to evaluate the groups for unbiased selections.
- **Statisticians:** At the end of every evaluation session the evaluators turn in their scores to the statisticians. These statisticians are not evaluators and will turn in their compiled rankings to the ACE for player rankings. Scores are compiled to allow ranking of players in preparation for the next session and ultimately final placements.
- **Environment:** The evaluation process will be conducted in a 'closed environment' format. During these sessions, parents will not be allowed to remain in the rink area (lobby is ok). For players still requiring assistance, parents will be allowed to accompany their skater to the locker room to facilitate getting dressed/skates on.
 - The closed environment format allows greater interaction among those conducting the on-ice activities and those evaluating players. It also minimizes distractions for the players. MYH is confident this will provide a more relaxed environment for the players and allow them to better focus on participating in the drills.
- **Goalies:** Goalie evaluations will only be conducted at the Pee Wee level and above. Goalies will participate in a 'goalie only' skill session and will also participate with skaters sessions at their level.
 - Squirt level players wishing to play goalie are expected to be evaluated as an on-ice player, and will be evaluated for their non-goalie skill sets for team placement. They are welcome to attend the goalie session as well. Squirt goalies will be placed on teams primarily by their skater ranking to allow the ability to skate out. This allows other squirts to try the goaltender position during the season as well. This helps encourage more goalies within the club for all future years.
 - Pee wee & Bantam goalies may also skate in the player skill evaluation session if they desire to do both during the season. Please contact the ACE if your Pee wee or Bantam level goalie wishes to skate out.
- **Goalie Shortage/Overabundance:** In the event an odd number of goalies are being evaluated at a given age level (i.e., 3 goalies trying out for placement on one of two teams), the highest rated goalie will be placed on the most competitive team (A team) with the two remaining goalies placed on the next competitive team (B team). If in the event goalies are considered to have similar skill level, the coaching committee has the discretion to place two goalies on the more competitive team.
 - If two teams exist and 4 goalies are being evaluated, the top 2 goalies may be placed on the A team.
 - In the event more than 2 goalies per team are being evaluated (at any age level), only the top 2 goalies per team are insured placement as a full-time goalie. Only under special or

unique circumstances will more than 2 goalies per team be considered. In those situations, placement will be at the discretion of the coaching committee.

Evaluation Extension: If necessary, the club will utilize an extended evaluation period (typically 1 week following the initial evaluation process) to continue to evaluate the players.

- **Late Moves into MYHA Territory:** Families may move into the community after our initial evaluation process has been completed. Consistent with the intent of the evaluation process, new players joining the club will be provided an opportunity to participate on a team that is most consistent with or similar to their skill level as long as it does not create hardship (too many players) to that team.

Posting of Teams

At the conclusion of the evaluation sessions, preliminary rosters will be communicated within 72 hours of the final session. As previously stated, the ACE may utilize an extended evaluation period if necessary. Rosters will be posted on-line on the [MYHA Website](#). There will be a notification email sent to all association members providing the website location of rosters.

Questions or Concerns During Tryouts

The ACE coordinator is responsible for the running of the evaluation process across the entire club. During the process, the ACE may not have time to directly respond to parent inquiries. If you have any questions about the status or placement of your player during the initial or extended evaluation process, please first contact your applicable Age Level Director (ALD). The ALD is responsible for communication with families during the evaluation process, will be in attendance at the evaluations, and will serve as the liaison between families and the Association Coaching & Education (ACE) Director responsible for conducting player evaluations.

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