

**SIouxLAND YOUTH HOCKEY
TEAM PLACEMENT AND TEAM FORMATION POLICY**



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POLICY PURPOSE

This policy was written to establish a set of rules to govern the team placement process used by Siouxland Youth Hockey (SYHA) for assessing the skills of participants in its hockey program.

POLICY DESCRIPTION

The team placement process used by SYHA 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) Place Skaters on teams that reflect their respective skill level.

This team placement process is used to place members on a team that will enable the skater to develop their skills with other similarly-talented players. This policy also strives to assign teams to levels of play that will be competitive, as well as challenging, for all team members.

PROCEDURE/CONTENT

All players understand they are participating in team placement sessions in an effort to be placed on the top team (gold team). Team placement sessions will be held in order to place skaters on an appropriate team based on their skills. Skaters shall participate in the team placement process. See Section 10, Injury/Missed Sessions.

The team-size roster range for all teams will be determined by the SYHA Player & Coach Development Committee (PCDC). This Committee is comprised of the Coaching Committee. The PCDC shall determine roster-size ranges for each team after considering the number of registered players, the number of teams desired, desired roster sizes for each age level of play, the overall talent pool at each playing level, and the recommendation of the team placement evaluators and coaches at the given age level. Ideal team sizes are thirteen skaters, but this is not always feasible due to the above-mentioned factors. The driving factor in determining team sizes is overall development of the skaters of the age group.

Team placement will be executed using the processes set forth in this policy. Any issues not specifically addressed by this policy must be presented to the PCDC and resolved by the Committee as a whole.

1. Registration Deadline

Players participating for team placement on SYHA travel teams must be registered 15 days prior to the commencement of any team placement sessions. Registration, for team placement purposes, means registered and paid with SYHA. Late fee of \$150.00 (non refundable) and approval from the board to participate in team placement sessions if a player is not registered 15 days prior to team placement sessions.

2. Team Placement Fees

A fee will be charged for players participating in team placement for SYHA travel teams. This fee will be set by the SYHA BOD and is based upon the ice fees incurred by SYHA for the team placement process

and will be collected prior to team placement sessions. Upon request, the team placement fee may be waived and no fee charged with prior approval of the SYHA BOD.

3. Team Placement Notification

In advance of the team placement sessions, the parents/guardians of each skater in the team placement process will be supplied via the SYHA website with the following information:

- a. The team placement group they will be skating with during the ice sessions (squirts, peewees, bantams, etc.).
- b. The dates and times of the skater's team placement sessions.
- c. General Information including, but not limited to, the format for team placement sessions/process, player check-in, parental behavior, and notification of team placement.

A copy of this team placement policy shall be posted on the SYHA website prior to the commencement of team placement sessions.

4. Evaluators

Evaluators will be selected on their hockey experience and ability to assess a hockey player without bias regarding the identity of the player. The same evaluators shall be present for all team placement sessions for the group(s) they are evaluating. The PCDC shall select the evaluation team.

No evaluators will be used for a level where they have a child, familial relationship, or legal dependent participating.

Evaluators may be located on the ice, in the player boxes, or any other segregated area that they would like to use for the purpose of evaluating players. No coach, parent or other person shall be allowed contact with the evaluators except the PCDC members in performance of their duties. Harassment of evaluators is strictly prohibited and may result in expulsion from SYHA.

5. Team Placement Process

- a) Team placement at each age level will consist of up to three sessions.
- b) During the sessions, players shall be identified by number only throughout the process. The evaluators will not be provided the names of the players.
- c) Skaters may desire to be evaluated as a skater and/or a goalie and prior notice of this desire is required before team placement sessions begin. Evaluators are instructed to pick the best hockey players regardless of position, i.e., there are no predetermined number of "defensemen" or "forwards" targeted for each team.

6. Skater Evaluation Sessions

Skaters will be evaluated in both skills practice & scrimmage/game situation sessions that will give insight into the skater's level of ability to play the game of hockey. The first session will be in a

skating/skills practice format using a combination of skills drills and small area games (SAG's) in order to assess skater skills.

The second and third sessions will be in a SAG and/or scrimmage format. After the second session, adjustments may be made if the evaluators and PCDC determine it is warranted due to number of players, variance of skill level of players on the ice, or a variety of other factors. Accordingly, players that register for team placement are not guaranteed to participate in all sessions.

The evaluators will place players on teams after considering each player's performance by considering the player's skills (skating, stickhandling, passing, shooting) and hockey performance (demonstrated hockey IQ/hockey sense, backchecking, forechecking, 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 place players on teams. Consensus skater placements by evaluators on teams shall be "lock selections." Where evaluators place skaters on multiple teams, those skaters are considered "bubble skaters." After the sessions are complete, and the evaluators have submitted their team placements, the PCDC will then consult with current coaches, if needed, and finalize team placement for "bubble skaters."

7. Goalie Selection

All goalie candidates will participate in the skills evaluation session that will take place during the first session. During this session, goalies will be evaluated by goalie evaluator(s) selected by the PCDC. Other persons may be used during this process as shooters, so consistency, puck speed and accuracy can be controlled. These individuals will have no input into the evaluation of the goalies.

In addition, the goalie candidates shall participate and be evaluated during the scrimmage sessions. Every effort will be made to equalize the number of minutes a goalie is on the ice, but this may be affected by the number of goalies participating in each age grouping. Goalies shall be rotated to provide exposure to different skater groups throughout the team selectin process and to be evaluated against as many of the other goalies at their age grouping as possible.

If possible, goalies will be evenly assigned amongst teams at the same age level. In the event that an unequal number of goalies exist to be distributed amongst the teams at any given age level; the PCDC shall determine the number of goalies on each rostered team after receiving a recommendation from the evaluators regarding the abilities of the goalies at the age level being evaluated. The number of goalies placed on each team shall adhere to the rule that the goalie differential between teams shall not exceed one, e.g., you cannot have three goalies on one team and one on another.

8. Players seeking to be evaluated as both a goalie and a skater

For a goalie candidate who also wish to be evaluated as a skater, the goalie candidate will be placed in a group with other skaters and informed as to when he or she will be skating or playing goalie for each session. This player will skate in at least one scrimmaging session and play goalie in at least one scrimmaging session, in addition to participating in the goalie skills session.

If a player is placed on different level teams based on their skating and goalie session, they must elect to be placed on the team:

- a. Based on their goalie placement, or
- b. Placed at the higher of the two levels. If this is the level based on their skating-out placement, they shall not have any expectation of playing goalie for their team but may do so if the coach determines it serves the best interests of the team.

9. Injury Policy/Missed Sessions

If a skater is unable to participate in team placement due to an injury, a doctor's release will be required to be released from team placement sessions. If an injury occurs prior to or during team placement sessions, for which there is a valid doctor's excuse, after consulting with the previous year's coach and the current age-level coaches, the PCDC will determine team placement at the conclusion of the sessions. If someone is unable to attend team placement session(s) for a non-medical reason, after consulting with the previous year's coach and the current age-level coaches, the PCDC will determine team placement at the conclusion of team placement sessions. Note: non-medical absences must be approved by the SYHA BOD prior to the team placement schedule.

10. Player Placement

All player placements will be announced after the team placement sessions following the next SYHA BOD meeting. See Section 6 above for the process.

Once validated by the PCDC, and approved by the board, the decisions regarding team placement are final.

11. Team Formation: Multiple Teams at Same Level

If there are enough participants for more than two teams at the same age level (e.g. Gold, Green, and White teams), the team players will be assigned according to the above and may dictate the roster size of the Gold, Green and White Teams. This is determined by the PCDC and approved by the BOD.

Any questions regarding SYHA's Team Formation Policy should be directed to: PCDC at SYHacoaching@gmail.com