

The 5000 Puck Challenge | Program Overview

The Cambridge Isanti Youth Hockey Association is pleased to present the 5000 Puck Challenge for their members. The program was created as a development opportunity for hockey players to develop their shooting & scoring skills at home.

There's evidence to show that daily micropractices are effective and often superior to longer practice sessions once or twice a week. When you practice a little each day, skills don't erode. In fact, they consolidate. It's like a bank account earning compound interest: a virtuous spiral where skill accrues quickly.

So, how well do you think your shot would improve if you were to take 5000 shots over a 10-week period?

Think it can't be done? Think again! We have created a plan for players of all ages and abilities to follow over 10 weeks to accomplish this goal.

*GOAL: Increase shot speed, quickness and accuracy
The Plan: Shoot 5000 pucks in 10 weeks
Weekly Goal: 500 shots per week
Daily Goal: 100 shots per day (5 days per week)
Dates: June 11-August 24, 2018*

Signed tracking form due to CIHA by Aug. 29, 2018

All players that complete the 5000-puck challenge will be entered into a drawing to win 1 of 4 **\$125** gift certificates to Letterman's.

All players will also receive a certificate for their accomplishment and a 5000 puck Tshirt.

Getting Started | What you need

- A regulation size net (Street hockey, or ice hockey, even drawn on a concrete wall)
- Shooter tutor or targets (Can be made from plywood or purchased)
- Shooting surface (concrete floor, driveway, 3'x3' heavy plastic sheet)
- 10-100 pucks
- Hockey gloves
- Stick (should be a few inches shorter than the one used on the ice as player will not be wearing skates)
- Players must follow the directions for each week and meet the minimum number of shots required for that week. Players may and are encouraged to shoot more than the minimum required shots per week.
- If player cannot hit the upper corner of the net, they can shoot to the lower corner or the middle level of the net until they can hit the upper corner. Form and mechanics are more important than accuracy at the top of the net.

Create a Daily Practice Routine

- Get into a routine. Choose a time when you can practice at the same time every day
- Plan ahead for days that you can't practice
- Have a dedicated place to shoot.
- Be accountable – Do what you can without technique breaking down or losing your focus – don't just go through the motions. Break your workout into smaller chunks - for example, do half the workout early in the day and finish the rest later that day
- Get 20 pucks and shoot 5 sets of 20 for 100 pucks in a day. This should take about 20 minutes given no distractions.

Tracking your Progress

- Players must track your shots on the 5000 Puck Challenge Tracking Sheet
- The challenge begins January 1, 2015 Tracking Sheets to be returned to the CIHA Secretary by September 1, 2015 to be eligible to win prizes.
- Parents are required to sign-off on the number of shots completed each day
- Must be under the age of 18 and a member of the CIHA to participate.

Weekly Shot Instructions for Mites and U8

- Get your friends involved, whether they play hockey or not. (Only those registering for hockey next fall will get a t-shirt.) It will make it more fun if you do it together.
- Mix up the kinds of shots you take. Scoring goals is a combination of strength, quickness, and accuracy. Here's one possible way to vary your shots.
 - 50 Distance shooting to increase strength and accuracy
 - Mites should shoot from 15-20 feet out from net,
 - 25 Close in shots to increase quickness and accuracy. Practice both high and low shots.
 - 25 One-time shots again to increase quickness and accuracy. Have partner pass the puck to you from the side or from behind the net and shoot off pass.
 - Or line up 10 or more pucks and shoot them as quickly as possible. Make sure to aim for corners.
 - Combine wrist, snap, and backhand shots. Slapshots are also okay from farther away.
- Get in the habit of shooting on regular schedule, and mark your calendar ahead of time to stay on track.
- Plan your schedule ahead, vacations, rainy days, or other unplanned interruptions can put you way behind. Build some make-up time in your schedule.
- 100 shots a day is a good number, but if you are feeling good, keep shooting and get ahead of schedule.
- Wear roller blades to make the shots more realistic. Take some shots standing still and take other shots skating in, and practicing moves.
- Aim for corners or smaller targets.
- The greatest improvement will come from working on your weaknesses. If your wrist shot or backhand is not as strong as you would like, spend extra time on those areas.

Weekly Shot Instructions for Squirts, U10 and up

100 pucks per day / 5 days [500 Pucks total]

- Week #1 Wrist shots
250 to lower corners & 250 to upper corners
- Week #2 Backhand shots
250 to lower corners & 250 to upper corners
- Week #3 Snap shots
250 to lower corners & 250 to upper corners
- Week #4 Wrist shots – Balancing on One foot Back foot should be elevated on a bench or bucket equal to knee height
250 to lower corners & 250 to upper corners
- Week #5 Snap shots & Backhand shots
50 each per day / 250 each per week
All corners
- Week #6 Drag & Shoot
250 to lower corners & 250 to upper corners
- Week #7 Slap Shots
250 to lower corners & 250 to upper corners
- Week #8 Stickhandle & Quick Release
250 to lower corners & 250 to upper corners
- Week #9 Players' Choice Alternate shots and alternate targets
- Week #10 Players' Choice Alternate shots and alternate targets
- Bonus One-Timer
This drill can be performed as an option in Week #9
or if player wishes to continue past 10 weeks

Drill can be performed with partner or using a hockey or tennis ball and passing off wall

Shot Descriptions

Wrist Shot

- The hand grip is similar to that used for stickhandling. When possible, the lower hand moves slightly down the shaft for greater power.
- Puck starts at the heel of the blade and moves toward the toe as you sweep. Spin the puck heel to toe.
- The weight of the player is transferred to the stick and the skate nearest the puck by flexing the trunk laterally.
- The grip tightens and the puck is propelled with a snap of the wrists. In one motion, the top hand snaps forward then back towards the body while the wrist is extended. The bottom wrist flexes and whips the stick through towards the target.
- Front foot points towards target and the follow-through will dictate the height and accuracy of the shot.
- Eyes should always be on the target, not on the puck.

Wrist shots – Balancing on One Foot

- Back foot should be elevated on a bench or bucket equal to knee height
- All weight should be on front foot and extra snap of the wrists will help generate more power to the net.
- Eyes should always be on the target, not on the puck

Backhand Shot

- The backhand shot is maybe the most difficult for a goalie to save, and probably the most difficult to master.
- The hand grip is similar to that used for stickhandling. When possible, the lower hand moves slightly down the shaft for greater power.
- Puck starts at the heel of the blade and moves toward the toe as you sweep. Spin the puck heel to toe.
- Transfer body weight from back foot to front foot and the puck is released with a quick snap of the wrists while turning the blade upward. The longer the follow through, the higher the shot.

Snap Shot

- The hands are usually held slightly wider than in the stickhandling position.
- The stick blade is drawn behind the puck at a distance and height dictated by the time available and the distance of the target. The blade should never go higher than the hip.
- The stick should meet the ice approx. 1 inch behind the puck.
- The grip tightens and the wrists are usually locked at the moment of impact.
- Front foot points towards target and the follow-through will dictate the height and accuracy of the shot.
- Eyes should always be on the target, not on the puck

Drag & Shoot

- This drill includes a set-up move prior to the shot changing the angle of the shot and creating more speed on the shot
- Hands are extended away from the body with hands close together
- Pull the puck towards the body and slide bottom hand down stick slightly wider than in the stickhandling position.
- In one motion, the top hand snaps forward then back towards the body while the wrist is extended. The bottom wrist flexes and whips the stick through towards the target.
- Front foot points towards target and the follow-through will dictate the height and accuracy of the shot.
- Eyes should always be on the target, not on the puck

Slap Shot

- The hands are spaced wider on the shaft of the stick than during normal stick handling grip.
- The puck is close to the body, centered between the legs.
- After a quick look at the target, the eyes remain fixed on the puck.
- The player is sideways to the target, bending over the puck and transferring one's weight from the back leg, to the stick, to the front leg.
- Wrists are locked and held firmly as the stick comes into contact with the ice, slightly behind the puck ($\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1").
- As you hit through the puck, snap your wrists. Bottom thumb down and top palm up to ceiling. The harder the snap of the wrist the harder the shot will be.
- Follow-through will dictate the height and accuracy of the shot.

Stickhandle & Quick Release

- This drill includes a set-up move prior to the shot reinforcing quick hands and quick release
- Player executes one quick stickhandle and quickly snaps pucks on goal
- Similar to the Wrist Shot and Snap Shot, the grip tightens and the puck is propelled with a snap of the wrists. In one motion, the top hand snaps forward then back towards the body while the wrist is extended. The bottom wrist flexes and whips the stick through towards the target.
- Puck is shot from in front of the player's body meaning this shot will not have as much power but if executed properly will not allow goalie time to set-up for shot

Bonus: One-Timer

- A difficult skill to master, but well worth practicing, the one timer slap shot can be executed while stationary, or in motion, and again as with any one timer shot, timing is the key.
- The backswing should be timed so that the downward swing begins as the puck nears the shooter.
- Players can also practice the one timer on their own by dragging the puck toward their body and shooting while it is still in motion.

Remember ...

Build a foundation of technique skills *Be consistent/accountable * Increase proficiency & confidence

*Have fun building your skills!



5,000 Puck Program – Tracking Form

Name _____

Level _____

SHOTS TAKEN	PARENT INITIALS								
100		1100		2100		3100		4100	
200		1200		2200		3200		4200	
300		1300		2300		3300		4300	
400		1400		2400		3400		4400	
500		1500		2500		3500		4500	
600		1600		2600		3600		4600	
700		1700		2700		3700		4700	
800		1800		2800		3800		4800	
900		1900		2900		3900		4900	
1000		2000		3000		4000		5000	

GOOD LUCK AND GOOD SHOOTING!

Turn in to the Registrar's box at the Arena or email to hallbergs81101@yahoo.com by Aug. 29, 2018

Parents Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Please write legibly to be entered in the drawing for 1 of 4 \$125 Letterman's gift cards

T-Shirt Size: Youth SM, Youth M, Youth L, Youth XL Adult SM, Adult M, Adult L, Adult XL