

Wayzata Youth Hockey Player Qualities by Age Group



WYHA is committed to providing evaluations that focus on specific player qualities that correlate with WYHA's PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY. The table below illustrates the desired player attributes as a player progresses through the specified age group. Player QUALITIES include standards THAT CORRELATE with WYHA's four cores of player development.

C		B1/B2		AA/A			
Never		Sometimes		Often		Consistent/Always	
Peewee/U12		Technical Skills					
Skating		Player demonstrates ability to use all four edges. Player shows high quickness, speed, and strength on their skates. Player is proficient in transition skating including forward-to-forward pivots.					
Puck Control and Passing		Player can make a variety of passes including: one-touch, two-touch, backhand, forehand, saucer, area pass, and indirect pass. Player uses their body to protect the puck. Player receives passes cleanly and with their hands away from their body.					
Shooting		Player can utilize a variety of shooting techniques including: slapshot, pullshot, snap release, backhand. Player begins to show ability to shoot directly off the pass.					
		Offensive Principles					
Puck support		Player understands the difference between close puck support vs. puck support away. Player begins to move immediately to a new area of the ice after passing.					
Ice Awareness		Player creates odd man situations by utilizing “give and go” hockey. Player anticipates what to do with the puck before it arrives to them. Player understands to attack through the neutral zone with speed and with the puck in the middle of the ice.					
Driving Offense		Player understands how to create space and when to exploit and confuse defensive structure. Player uses timing to not skate themselves into the defensive structure. Player consistently attacks and attempts to create offensive opportunities.					
		Defensive Principles					
1v1 Skills		Player consistently has his/her stick on the ice and in position to create a turnover. Player keeps their body in position between the puck carrier and the net. Player shows relentless effort in 1v1 defense.					
Time and Space Management		Player consistently maintains good gap control on opposing rushes. Player closes time and space in the defensive zone when opposing players have back turned to the net. Player uses good angles through the neutral zone to create turnovers before opposition can reach the center red line.					
Ice Awareness		Player understands the importance of “The House” and high danger areas. Player anticipates where the opposition is going with the puck next. Player understands where low danger areas of the ice are. Player backchecks through the middle and can read whether to pressure the puck, or pick up a different opposing player.					
		Transitional Thinking					
5 Second Press		Player applies immediate pressure when the puck is lost. Player understands their role in the team’s effort to win the puck back.					
First Movements		When team gains possession, player understands his role in attacking up the ice quickly. When team loses possession, player understands their role in the defensive structure to win the puck back.					
First Pass		Player consistently completes the first pass after gaining possession. Player completes the quickest and safest first pass to promote prolonged team possession.					