

# Play of Players Policy

The three goals of the youth travel program are: to develop the skills of individual players, to teach teamwork and proper position play.

At times these goals may seem to conflict. We do not condone a coaching attitude of “win at all costs;” we do recognize that winning is important and sometimes requires discretionary deployment of players in critical situations where winning is in the balance. What the children want from their playing experience is a balance of team wins and individual accomplishments, a balance of “us” and “me”. The guidelines for the coaches will attempt to provide both.

At all times we demand that coaches be considerate of the players’ feelings and that tradeoffs be employed if a player has been shortchanged in a certain situation. We believe that a good coach can maximize team success while simultaneously maximizing individual development and ensuring fairness.

The following rules are to be used by coaches:

## **POSITIONS:**

All **Mite, Squirt and Pee Wee B or C** players must have an opportunity to play the forward and defense positions. For Pee Wee A and above, player positions are left entirely up to the coach, but, will be encouraged by the Coaches Committee and Player Development to rotate players to different positions.

**RULE** Mites, Squirts and Pee Wee B and C must rotate defense to forward and/or forward to defense for a minimum period of 3 consecutive weeks AND a minimum of 8 games whichever is longer.

Subject to the exceptions below, coaches must play three lines (9 forwards and 6 defensemen) unless players are absent or injured.

## **PLAYING TIME:**

Each player should play in every game, and over the season all players should have approximately equal playing time. Goalies should be rotated, but in critical situations the coach may use his discretion, and over the course of the season, we expect the goalies to play approximately the same amount of time. In tournaments each goalie must play at least one game, barring injury, including district, region and state play. Exception, **Pee Wee A**, Bantam A’s and Jr. Gold can play one goalie during district, region and state play.

**Guideline - All players are expected to demonstrate the following behaviors:**

- A. Positive team oriented attitude**
- B. Strong work ethic at practices and games**
- C. Coachability**

Coaches may reduce playing time for players who do not demonstrate these three qualities and will communicate with the player in order to correct the problem.

## **LINE PLAY:**

All players will play on an equal line rotation basis. Equal line rotation basis means that lines are skated on a regular shift basis, not necessarily minute for minute.

In critical situations, PeeWee A, Bantam A and Jr. Gold coaches may selectively rotate lines or players. However, over the course of the season, it is the responsibility of the head coach to assure that approximately equal playing time is given to all players.