

## Team Selection & Player Evaluation Process

**Teams:** Middleton Youth Hockey intends to have three teams at the Squirt, Pee wee and Bantam levels, in addition to one Midget (U16 or HS2) team. 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 & C 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. Goalies may also have the option to play up.

**All skaters are placed on a team!**

**Team Size:** Mite teams may vary from 8-10 players. Squirt teams can expect smaller team sizes. While several factors contribute to team size, the primary deciding factor is skill level. If the skill level of the players changes noticeably after the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> player, the coaching committee may recommend a smaller or larger 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 Pee wee 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. Pee wee and Bantam teams may have 2 goalies on the roster. Roster size for the Midget or HS2 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 3 on-ice sessions. The first two sessions will be a mix of skill and competitive games where players will be evaluated on their skill sets. The 3<sup>rd</sup> session will be a scrimmage.
  - All players are asked to participate in at least 2 of the 3 designated evaluation ice times in order to fully evaluate the player. Participating in all 3 evaluation times is strongly recommended for best evaluation results.
    - 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.
- ⊖ Upon completion of the first session, players (including goalies) will be ranked and divided into two groups for the next session. 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.
  - Evaluations will be done using a scale of 0 (low) to 10 (high). Scoring numbers will be whole numbers only: 0,1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Or 10.
- **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 & ALD (Age Level Director) 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 the 3 sessions. 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 amongst those conducting the on-ice activities and those evaluating players without distraction or fear of comprising sensitive player data or feedback. MYH is confident this will provide a more relaxed environment for the players and allow them to focus on participating in the drills without the risk of family distractions or pressure.
- **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 then be assigned to participate with skaters in both the 2nd & 3rd sessions.
  - Squirt level players wishing to play goalie are expected to skate as an on-ice player in all 3 evaluation sessions, and will be evaluated for their non-goalie skill sets for team placement. Once teams are selected all players will take turns at the goalie position throughout the season so a player’s development is not stagnated by being in the goal all season long. This discretion is necessary as the club continues to encourage players to try the goaltending position.
  - Peewee & 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 Peewee 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.
- **Bubble Skaters:** If necessary, the club will utilize an extended evaluation period (typically 1-2 weeks following initial evaluation process) to continue to evaluate the players that were noted to be 'on the bubble' for placement on a team. The coaches of that appropriate age level along with the ACE director will monitor these placements, along with involvement of the age appropriate ALD (Age Level Director).
  - During this period, additional factors may be taken into consideration by the evaluators and current year coach. Those factors include: player behavior (willingness to learn/grow, i.e., 'coachability'), input from past coaches, discipline history, impact to the team (i.e., positional skill), age of skater (first or second year at level), transfer player from another club.
- **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 during the first week or two (longer if necessary) of practice to continue to evaluate players prior to finalizing the roster. This may be a result of player conflicts with other fall sports, or just out of the necessity to continue evaluating and/or differentiating players. In these cases, the higher level (A) team will be posted with a smaller number of players prior to final rosters being posted. If three teams exist, the B team may also have a lean roster initially. Rosters will be posted on-line on the [MYHA Website](#). Followed by 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.

Dave Ruhly, MYH ACE Coordinator