

Player Evaluations and Team Placement

Player Evaluation:

The “player evaluation” process will be utilized to place all players on teams within the accepted framework, rules and guidelines of the Duluth Amateur Hockey Association (DAHA) and the oversight of the Players and Coaches Committee of DAHA. The primary purpose and goal of the evaluation process is to place each skater at the appropriate playing level to maximize the individual skill development of all players during the coming season.

Skaters will be evaluated on their proficiency of hockey specific skills, understanding of hockey concepts, work ethic, compete level and coachability. Every effort will be made to place skaters at the level that best fits their respective skill set in the listed categories. DAHA strongly endorses the USA Hockey philosophy of focusing on “long term development” and thus understanding the importance of placing each participant in the best position to grow, develop, and have success and maximize fun.

By utilizing independent evaluators selected by the Players and Coaches Committee and the Head Coaches at the AA and A level we are working to have a transparent process selecting the appropriate number of teams and players for each team at all levels,

The number of teams and number of players per team will be determined and adjusted by the Players and Coaches Committee. Some of the factors will be number of players registered at each level, overall quality, and input from coaches.

THE EVALUATION PROCESS:

Because the number of players registering will vary each year, the process for the assignment of players may also vary. Although the basic premise of evaluating will be utilized for all levels, the number of sessions and number of participants for each session could vary from association to association as well as from one level to the next. At all times, having a quality evaluation process with an appropriate number of participants and sessions for each level will be closely monitored.

After registration, players will be assigned a random number and which initial sessions he/she is to attend. Parents will receive an email from DAHA indicating the session their child is to attend. The initial tryout session assigned is arbitrary and has no reflection on talent or skill level. Jerseys with the player's assigned number will be handed out during check-in the first day of tryouts. Jerseys are to be returned after the final session.

Once a player has taken the ice for any reason, no refund of any fees will be permitted. If a player has not begun skating with a team and the activity related to their level of play (this includes the tryouts, participant camps, etc.) have not begun, a refund of the following fees may be permitted: DAHA initial assessment, DAHA fees and/or the tryout fee.

After each session is completed, players may be reassigned to different sessions to enhance the process. These assignments can be found on the DAHA website under Tryouts.

The players name will not be used to identify session assignments. The assigned jersey will be used to identify all players.

INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED DAILY AND REMAIN ON THE WEBSITE UNTIL THE START OF THE NEXT SESSION. IT IS THE PLAYERS AND PARENT/GAURDIANS RESPONSIBILITY THIS TO CHECK THIS INFORMATION AND MAKE SURE THE PARTICIPANT IS AT THE CORRECT SESSION.

Every effort will be made to have an appropriate number of players in each evaluation session with emphasis placed on giving every participant the ability to be evaluated in depth by the evaluators and Head Coaches at the AA and A. A change in sessions should not be construed as a team selection. Although rarely done, a player could be asked to skate in two consecutive sessions. If this were to occur, every effort will be made to contact the parent or guardian of the player to avoid the parent or guardian sitting outside the arena for extended period of time.

For DULUTH EAST only, at the conclusion of the fourth day of tryouts, the head coaches of the AA and A teams will have up to 4 additional days after tryouts to hold practices and scrimmages with their pool to select the appropriate number of skaters and 1-2 goaltenders for their team. These practices and scrimmages are open to the public. During this time head coaches and assistant coaches are not allowed to discuss the status or performance of any player being considered for the AA or A teams beyond their staff, appropriate members of the DAHA Players and Coaches Committee and the independent evaluators.

During this time, coaches of the B teams will hold practices/scrimmages with the B skaters to determine overall skill level of the players. Afterward, the coaches will divide the B pool players into teams with an emphasis of creating parity among the teams based upon skill level and number of players on each team.

Player selection for each team is based on overall ability. However, player selection of "AA" and "A" pools may also be position oriented; meaning that in addition to overall skills and knowledge, a particular player's skill at a given position may be a factor in the selection process,

Exception: For those players that can't participate due to injury or illness, please contact the DAHA office. The DAHA Coaches and Player Development Committee along with current and past coaches will determine the placement of the player.

EVALUATORS' ROLE DURING THE PROCESS:

DAHA will select and approve what we believe to be the best qualified evaluators. These evaluators will be determined by their hockey knowledge and their ability to assess and evaluate. Strong consideration will be given to evaluators with limited personal ties to the coaches and participants. Evaluators will not have the names of the players available to them during tryouts as players are only identified by the number on their provided jersey.

All decisions by the evaluators and coach's relative to pool placement is final and will not be reviewed by DAHA.

COACHES ROLE DURING THE EVALUATION PROCESS:

The AA and A coaches will be responsible for conducting the on-ice sessions for their respective playing levels. The AA and A coaches will have input into the final roster decisions. The "B" team coaches (who could be parents) may not be selected until after the tryouts are over and teams have been selected (team selection is done by the independent evaluators if coaches have not been selected, with emphasis to have equally balanced teams in size (number of participants) and skill.

PLAYER'S ROLE DURING EVALUATION PROCESS:

On the first day of tryouts the players should be at the rink they will be skating at 45 minutes to one hour prior to start time. This will ensure enough time to check in and receive the proper tryout jersey and locker room assignment.

Helpful thoughts in preparing for the players best performance:

- Be in the condition you want to be in.
- Take advantage of opportunities to be on the ice prior to Evaluation Sessions
- Have your equipment prepared, proper size, sharp skates, etc...
- Be on time and ready to skate at the appropriate time
- Be attentive, to ensure that drills are being done consistently for all participants
- Do not hesitate to ask questions to the on-ice assistants
- Bring liquids to hydrate during the tryout. DAHA will not be providing water bottles

- Work hard... have fun...don't have regrets about your effort afterward. The coaches and evaluators are looking forward to watching all participants. They are looking for players to do well not fail. Stay positive!

PARENTS ROLE DURING TEAM PLACEMENT PROCESS:

Parents play a critical role in their children's life. Tryouts can be a difficult time for everyone. Your role as a parent can help alleviate some of these pressures for your child. There are fabulous articles and positive information available on the internet. If you are looking for any great information you will find it there.

Here are some additional ideas you may consider.

- Be sure participant gets plenty of sleep during evaluations
- Provide nourishment for your skater e Make sure skater is hydrated prior to skating and send him or her with a water bottle to ensure skater is at the rink with plenty of time to get ready for their session
- Parents, relatives, friends, etc. will not be allowed in the Duluth Heritage Center or Fryberger Arena, including the lobby before, during, and after tryout sessions.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS:

After the final session has concluded, the player's name will be posted on the DAHA website with each team designated along with the head coach's name and contact number and the first practice time. If the coach has not been appointed, the players will be contacted with their coach's name, first practice time, and parent's meeting.

"AA" & "A" Levels - These teams will play "competitive hockey" at the highest level of competition for their age group. USA Hockey has defined the term "competitive hockey" as that program where a balance of skill development, teaching hockey concepts, increased emphasis on team systems, and advancing competitiveness with an emphasis on sportsmanship. A primary goal is to provide an opportunity for those having the skills and knowledge to participate in a more competitive environment.

"B1 and B" hockey teams are generally comprised of players who have solid basic skills, but need some additional opportunity to further develop those skills and to expand their knowledge of the sport. At is level, the program will put more stress on skill and hockey concept development, although there is some emphasis also placed on winning and playing with a high level of

sportsmanship. If more than one B level team is created, talent will be divided equally between the teams. Team numbers may change based upon actual registration numbers.

Levels of Play:

During the 2021-22 season the following levels of play are anticipated to be rostered.

Denfeld Association:

- Pee Wee A and B
- Bantam A and B (*Lakers*)

East Association:

- Pee Wee AA, A, B-1, and B
- Bantam AA, A, and B

Ice Breakers:

- U10 B
- U12 A and B
- U15 B

City Wide:

- Squirt A, B-1, and B