

WHALER TRYOUT GUIDELINES FOR THE 2013-2014 SEASON

OVERVIEW: The purpose of tryouts within The Whalers Youth Hockey Organization is to place players on the appropriate team for the upcoming 2013-2014 hockey season. The placement of players will be based on the following:

- 1) Assessment of their individual hockey skills (skating, puck handling, shooting, passing);
- 2) Assessment of their performance and hockey sense (game play, effort, team play, situational awareness, positioning, impact) in game situations;
- 3) Assessment of team need by position commensurate with individual skill level and team play.

Players will be assessed individually and in relation to all other players trying out at the same level.

ATTENDANCE: The tryout schedule will be posted to the Whaler website (WWW.WhalersYouthHockey.Com) no later than ten days prior to the first try out session. The tryout schedule will be approved by the Whalers Board of Directors (BOD) dependent on ice schedule and availability. All players must attend at least one of the tryout sessions.

LOCATION: All try out sessions will be held at Champions Rink, 6 Progress Drive, Cromwell, CT.

FEES: The tryout fee for each player will be \$100 pre-registration, \$125 for walk-ins. This fee is non-refundable once paid. This fee will cover both the expenses for those attending the A and non-A tryout sessions.

REGISTRATION: All players must be registered for the tryout prior to participating. Registration will be conducted through an on-line registration process. Walk up registration will be allowed for all sessions.

SESSIONS: The Whalers will be conducting try out sessions for A teams at the Squirt, Pee Wee, and Bantam Levels. There will be three tryout sessions for the A teams. All players with an interest in being assigned to an A team are invited to attend these tryout sessions. At the conclusion of these three sessions, the A team will be posted, via piney number, on the web site. All other players and those not being selected to the A team will be required to attend the next three tryout sessions at that level for placement on additional teams at that level of play. There is no additional cost associated to attend these sessions. At the conclusion of the tryout sessions, all teams will be posed, via piney number, on the web site. During the A team tryout sessions, if readily apparent a player is assessed to not have a commensurate skill level of other players trying out for the A team, the player may be advised further attendance at the A team tryout sessions is not required.

ASSESSORS/EVALUATORS: Try out assessments and evaluations will be conducted by the following individuals at each level: Head Coach for the level's top team; Whaler Organization Coaching/Skills Director; Select Other Coaches; Whaler Organization Hockey Director; Whaler Organization Vice President

Whaler Organization President will attend all tryouts to oversee the implementation of the tryout process

SKILLS

Players will be evaluated based on the following hockey skills:

- Forward skating to include speed, balance, transition, turns, stopping;
- Backward skating to include speed, balance, transition, turns;
- Puck handling to include skating with the puck, control, speed;
- Shooting the puck, to include ability, accuracy, power, form;
- Passing the puck, to include ability, accuracy.

Specific drills by which to assess skill performance will be determined prior to the first tryout session. The On Ice Tryout Director, under the direction of the Coaching/Skills Director, will have responsibility for communicating, demonstrating, and implementing the drills.

TEAM PLAY

Players will be evaluated based on the following categories of team play:

- Effort;
- Team Play;
- Impact;
- Positioning; and,
- Overall hockey skill and ability.

Individual teams will then be composed of the players at each tryout session. Each team will have two adults on each bench. Players will indicate whether they prefer to play offense or defense. Each line of five players will be alternated every minute. Individual shifts will start with a center ice face off. The On Ice Try Out Director will serve as the referee.

GOALIES

Those players wishing to be assessed and evaluated as a goaltender will so indicate at the time of registration. Goalies will be required to participate in all individual skating drills. Goalies will not be required to participate in any other skill assessment. Those drills will be designed to end with shots on net from which the specific goalie evaluation process will begin. When multiple goalies are trying out, goalies will be switched every five shots. During team play, goalies will be switched every ten shifts. Input from In the Pro Crease Goaltending will also be included in the assessment.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Each player will be assessed individually and in relation to the performance of other players at the tryout. The Assessors/Evaluators will assign a player a team designator with the completion of a player's assessment during each individual skill drill. Likewise, a player will be assigned a team designator with

the completion of the first session of team play. The Assessors/Evaluators will be permitted to discuss their observations, thought processes, and conclusions. At the end of the first tryout session, each player will be tentatively assigned an individual team grade (A) (1), A1 (2), B (3), B1 (4). Additional tryout sessions will be used to confirm assessments made and to fully assess those players whose performance does not determinatively place them on one team.

As a result, through multiple sessions, a comprehensive and holistic assessment of a player's individual hockey skill and overall team play can be evaluated and assessed.

The Head Coach from the player's last team may be consulted as to a player's sportsmanship, team play, and hockey acumen to ensure the appropriate placement of the player for the upcoming season.

TEAM PLACEMENT

Once each player is assessed as a result of their performance during the tryout sessions, they will be assigned to a specific team. A player assigned to the top team in any division can be approached by the Head Coach at any time after team placement and will be required to commit to the Whaler Organization and the team within 24 hours after being advised of their selection. All other players will be required to commit to the Whaler Organization by the deadline imposed by the Board of Directors.

EVALUATION FORMS

Forms used to evaluate and assess the performance of each player will be maintained by the Head Coach throughout the tryout process. At the conclusion of the process, these forms will be maintained by the organization secretary until final rosters are determined. If requested, a review of the evaluation form may be requested.

APPEALS

Each Head Coach designated by the Board of Directors at the time of the tryout will be the initial selector of the final team roster. The Whaler Organization President, Vice President, Hockey Director, and Coaching Director will be required to approve the final roster for each team. The determination of team placement, when offered, will be final. Questions concerning the tryout process and the designation of a player's team will be directed to the organization President.