

WHK Tryout Process

The purpose of the WHK tryout process is to evaluate a player's skating ability, hockey skills and commitment to teamwork, in order to place them on an appropriate team that will provide the best environment for improving their self-confidence and enjoyment of the sport of ice hockey.

The tryouts for WHK Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget teams are held at the end of the current season.

Tryout dates and times will be posted on the WHK website (www.whkhawks.org). **In order to tryout, a player must be paid in full for the prior season and an initial non-refundable registration fee made for the upcoming season.** The number of tryout sessions will vary with each level. We want to provide the skaters with every opportunity to show their skills, while at the same time trying to obtain thorough and consistent evaluations at the tryouts.

All skaters and goaltenders that wish to be considered for a WHK team must attend tryouts.

The following guidelines have been established and there are no exceptions to these guidelines without approval of the WHK Board of Directors.

Evaluations

Each Level Director (Mite Director, Squirt Director etc.) will create a committee of evaluators. Evaluators will use a standardized scoring system that will assess skating ability and hockey skills at each level during scheduled tryout sessions. The Level Director will attempt to select evaluators for a given level who do not have children trying out at that level. If an evaluator happens to have a child skating at that level, the evaluator is not allowed to score his own child. Evaluation sheets are issued to the evaluators without the names of the players – they are only given pinny numbers.

Evaluation Guidelines

Mite and Squirt Tryout sessions will consist of a skills session and scrimmage. The skill session will consist of drills that will allow players to display their individual skating abilities along with shooting and passing skills. Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget tryouts will be scored based on a scrimmage format.

Evaluators will be in the stands and are instructed not to share comments with each other on any players being evaluated.

Evaluators are instructed to rate players using a standardized evaluation system, with an overall score, taking into consideration the following:

- Skating Skills
- Hockey skills
- Team work
- Situational/Decision making

Placement into Initial Scrimmage Tryout Session

Placement into appropriate tryout scrimmage is done primarily by using the current year end coach's evaluations. All coaches are asked to evaluate each of their players at the end of the season. The coach will be asked to recommend a tryout level for each of their players. They can select from the following options "A", "A/B", "B", "B/C", "C". Coaches will also give a full evaluation of each player on skating, puck skills, game sense and character. Player Evaluation forms also provide space for comments for the individual players. These coach's evaluations are not only used to place the player in the appropriate tryout but also as an additional data element to assist in making team selections, if needed. New players to the program are generally placed in the first tryout unless we have previous knowledge that would push them to a future scrimmage placement.

Mite tryouts:

2 Session Format:

Session 1: Skills

- There will be either one group or multiple groups, depending on the number of total players.
- Groups will be divided alphabetically.
- The Mite skills tryout is based on the USA Hockey skills requirements for that level and will primarily evaluate skating, shooting and passing.

Session 2: Scrimmage:

- Players will be placed in a scrimmage session based on the coach's recommended tryout placement on the player evaluation form balanced against the number of players trying out at each level. Evaluation scores assessed from the skills session will be considered as an element of placement.
- Scrimmage will be 3 on 3 on a mini ice surface if available. If mini ice is not available, dividers will be used for 3 on 3 game play.
- Tryout Score = Average of Skill Session and Scrimmage Session scores.

Mite Goalies: Goalies are typically not formally evaluated at the Mite level. If there are multiple Mite goalies that are considering being goalie for more than half the games, these goalies will be evaluated during assigned 3 on 3 scrimmages.

Squirt tryouts:

2 Session Format:

Session 1: Skills

- There will be either one group or multiple groups, depending on the number of total players.
- Groups will be divided alphabetically.
- The Squirt skills tryout is based on the USA Hockey skills requirements for that level and will primarily evaluate skating, shooting, passing, and edge control.

Session 2: Scrimmage

- Players will be placed in a scrimmage session based on the coach's recommended tryout placement on the player evaluation form balanced against the number of players trying out at each level. Evaluation scores assessed from the skills session will be considered as an element of placement.
- Scrimmage will start out as 5-on-5. At times during the scrimmage the players will play 4 on 4 or even 3 on 3 depending on the numbers.
- Players will be asked to play an equal number of both offensive and defensive shifts during the scrimmage.
- Tryout Score = Average of Skill Session and Scrimmage Session scores.

Squirt Goalie Evaluation:

- Goalies will be evaluated during tryout period and placed on a team based on their overall evaluation results.
- Goalies will be evaluated during goalie specific sessions and during scrimmage sessions.

Goalie Specific Sessions

- Goalie specific tryout sessions may be handled by an independent evaluating team. The team will provide written rankings based on their evaluation form. If this method is used, WHK is still responsible for final placement of goalies. This is just used as an element of the overall process. If not using an independent team, the goalie specific session will be run and scored by evaluators gathered by Squirt Level Director.

Goalie Scrimmage Sessions

- Goalies will be placed in a scrimmage session based on the coach's recommended tryout placement on the evaluation form balanced against the number of goalies trying out at each level. Evaluations will be handled by WHK using a team of evaluators gathered by the Level Director(s).
- Goalie Tryout Score = Average of Skills and Scrimmage scores.

Pee Wee/Bantam/Midget Tryouts

First round: Scrimmage

- Players will be placed in a scrimmage session based on the coach's recommended tryout placement on the player evaluation form balanced against the number of players trying out at each level. Scrimmage will start out as 5-on-5. At times during the scrimmage the players will play 4 on 4 or even 3 on 3 depending on the numbers.
- Bench coaches will do their best to accommodate players' requests for specific positioning (forward vs. defense).
- During the scrimmage, forwards will be evaluated as forwards; defensemen will be evaluated as defensemen.
- Goalies will be notified in advance if they are to be evaluated during the scrimmage session.

Additional Scrimmage (s)

- Divided by Results of players in first round and players targeted for specific session based on the coach's recommendations. Top X number of players advance and will be split into equal teams with players targeted for this session.
- Scrimmage will start out as 5-on-5. At times during the scrimmage the players will play 4 on 4 or even 3 on 3 depending on the numbers.
- During the scrimmage, forwards will be evaluated as forwards; defensemen will be evaluated as defensemen.
- Goalies will be notified in advance if they are to be evaluated during the scrimmage session.

Tryout Score = Average Scrimmage Session scores.

PW/Bantam/Midget Goalie Evaluation:

- Goalies will be evaluated during tryout period and placed on a team based on their overall evaluation results.
- Goalies will be evaluated during goalie specific sessions and during scrimmage sessions.

Goalie Specific Tryout Sessions

- Goalie specific tryout sessions may be handled by an independent evaluating team. The team will provide written rankings based on their evaluation form. If this method is used, WHK is still responsible for final placement of goalies. This is just used as an element of the overall process. If not using an independent team, the goalie specific session will be run and scored by evaluators gathered by the relevant Level Director.

Goalie Scrimmage Sessions

- Goalies will be placed in a scrimmage session based on the coach's recommended tryout placement on the evaluation form balanced against the number of goalies trying out at each level. Evaluations will be handled by WHK using a team of evaluators gathered by the Level Director(s).

Goalie Tryout Score = Average of Goalie Skills and Scrimmage scores.

Goalie Selection/Placement

Goalies are placed on a team based on the results of the tryouts plus coaches evaluations. In the situation where there are multiple goalies per team, the goalies will be placed at their appropriate talent level. For example, if there

are only 2 teams (A, C) and the goalie tryout results prove that there is one goalie evaluated for an A level and 3 goalies evaluated at a lower level, WHK will not place an additional goalie at the A level to balance the teams. WHK wants to avoid placing a goalie at an inappropriate level. WHK will place a maximum of 2 goalies per team based on the numbers. In the situation where we potentially have more than 2 goalies placed on an individual team, the WHK board will discuss the circumstances and determine the best course of action.

Team Composition

Team selection will be based on a combination of the player ratings obtained in the tryouts and player evaluations from the coaches from the prior season. The combination of both tryout scores and player evaluations from coaches are important to provide as complete an evaluation, as possible, for each player. In the event scores and evaluations are very close, second year players will be given priority over first year players at that level.

- Coach's input for last 3 selections at the A level:
 - After a coach is selected but prior to the team announcement the head coach is allowed to give input on the last 3 spots for the A team. This discussion will take place regarding the next 7 players in the evaluation results. The coach would present his input on these selections with a recommendation to the VP and/or LD.
 - We believe that it is very important when making these final selections to know a child's past few teams, his/her attendance history, coach's evaluations, willingness to learn, etc... All of these items are considered to try to place the player at the most appropriate level.

Coach Selection:

After the evaluation process the applicants for coaching are reviewed and Head Coaches are then selected. The Head Coaches for all WHK teams must be approved by the Board of Directors. Rosters must be approved by their Level Director. The Board of Directors will reassess the selection of coaches in the fall for the upcoming season and make any adjustments that may be appropriate.

Notification

Once the evaluation process is completed, and the initial rosters are created and approved by the Level Director, the players and parents will be notified. Notification will generally take place within a month from the date of the last tryout date.

Discipline

It should be noted that inappropriate behavior by a skater or parent on or off ice during the tryouts will not be tolerated and could eliminate a player for consideration on a WHK team. Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to penalty situations such as illegal checking, elbowing, tripping, and harassment of other skaters on or off the ice and use of foul language. All players must read and sign Players Code of Conduct found on the WHK web site. This will be submitted as part of the registration process at tryouts for the upcoming season.

Exceptions

The WHK Board of Directors will give ample advance notice to parents regarding the timing of tryouts. The Level Director can place players who miss tryouts, due to a SERIOUS illness or injury, at an appropriate level. The WHK Board of Directors will reserve the right to use its discretion to place players at the C level if there is an unexcused absence at the tryouts. A separate evaluation could be done for that player that missed tryouts by a group including the VP, LD and additional board member/coaches. In order for a player to be placed above a C level, the player would need to be above and beyond the talent level of the top players on that team.

Grievances

Any parent who has a concern with the selection process and/or a player's placement should contact the Vice President.

Note to Parents:

- Help your child deal constructively with the evaluation and placement process. Your encouragement to play hard, and have fun, will do more to promote a prolonged involvement in hockey than anything else.
- Please understand that the tryout process is not an exact science and that there is a subjective element to the process. Evaluators must make difficult decisions. The Board has created what it believes to be a fair process that relies on good, thoughtful, and fair people doing the best they can.

We hope that this summary of the tryout and team selection process has been informative and helps clarify the tryout procedures. Please keep in mind that we are doing our best to evaluate your children and place them on the correct team that will allow them to improve as hockey players but more importantly to have fun. Experience has shown that an individual player will achieve the most success and make the most developmental progress over the course of the season if that player is competing at the proper level for his or her ability.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact the Vice President of WHK Youth Hockey or a Board Member. *Do not contact the Head Coach.*