



## Appendix 3 ESHA Tryout Policy

### **Tryout Overview:**

The Board of Directors has developed procedures to facilitate the manner in which teams are selected. There are numerous ways that teams can be determined, and we understand that none are perfect. The Board annually assesses how we can enhance every aspect of the Team Selection Process in an effort to foster consistency, transparency, and fairness. There will always be parents who are disappointed with the tryout results and their child's team placement. Human nature dictates that people will have differences of opinion. It is important to remember that team selection is never made by a single individual within our organization. Quite the contrary is true. At every level, we have developed a process that requires the consensus of multiple individuals before teams are announced. The Board reviews for accuracy and legitimacy, every placement on every team at every level to ensure that rules were followed, and the pre-determined process was adhered to.

It is in the player's best interest to attend **BOTH** of the tryout sessions to ensure the evaluators get the most accurate assessment of each player. A player's prior experience, level and/or club affiliation are not a guarantee that a spot will be held. There should be **NO** expectation that just because a player played at one level the previous season means they will play at the same level the following season; for example a player that was rostered on a Blue team last season doesn't mean they will necessarily be on a Blue team the following season, they could move to a Red team and vice versa.

### **Tryout Objective:**

The objective of the tryout process is to ensure that each player is given a fair evaluation and they are placed at the most appropriate level and, on a team that most closely matches their hockey skill and ability. In doing so, we hope to provide every player the best opportunity to succeed and compete.

### **Rating and Scoring:**

All players at each level (10U-18U (Squirt - Midget)) will receive a numerical grade for each skill which will then be tabulated. (i.e., 1 – 5). Evaluators will do their best to evenly distribute players among the five possible scores for each category: the bottom 20% of the player pool will receive a 1 rating, the top 20% of the player pool will receive a 5 rating, etc. At the conclusion of tryouts, each evaluator should have a near even distribution of all possible scores (1-5) with roughly 20% of the player pool rated at each score.

The evaluators will consider the following:

- The player's skating ability

- The player's individual hockey skills, (puck handling, passing, receiving, shooting, and positioning)
- The player's team skills, both offensive and defensive
- The player's situational play, teamwork, game skills, awareness
  - Note: The number of goals a player gets during scrimmage play does not necessarily mean he/she will receive a higher score for Situational Play. A player's Situational Play rating is based on his/her overall demonstrated knowledge of the game during the scrimmage portion of tryouts. Factors such as puck control, passing, shooting, back-checking, aggressiveness to the puck, ability to anticipate the play, and ability to be in position all contribute to the overall Situational Play Score.

Tryouts are led by our Hockey Director and his/her tryout staff. Players will be evaluated by a group of evaluators from the hockey community that will, wherever possible, have no personal relationships with the players and/or their families, and will make unbiased assessments. The final player rankings are based on a roughly equal weighting of a player's tryout performance **and** most recent coach's evaluations.

#### **Scores and Team Placement:**

At the conclusion of tryouts, scores will be tabulated by the Board and verified for accuracy. A numerical ranking will be established from highest rated player to the lowest rated player. Head coaches, with input from the Board of Directors, will use these rankings as a tool to assist in the team selection process and establish the appropriate number of teams and the team rosters, taking into consideration an equitable (not necessarily equal) number of players per roster.

#### **Team Creation:**

The minimum number of players per team shall be no less than 11 players (10 skaters 1 goalie), with a maximum of preferably no more than 17 (15 skaters, 2 goalies). This all depends on the number of players that register and tryout per age division. The Board will make every effort to adhere to these guidelines unless circumstances prove unavoidable to increase the number of players per team.

The numbers of teams per age division and the number of players per roster will not be determined until after registration and tryouts. It is important that all players planning to play on an ESHA team attend tryouts. This helps the Association see the entire pool of players and create the most advantageous number of teams and team size.

#### **Post Tryout Notification:**

At the end of the formal evaluation process, players may be assigned to a team for their specific age division based on the team selection process noted above. Players will be notified by a phone call from the Head Coach, Hockey Director, or a designated person from the Board of Directors notifying them of the team they have been selected for.

Upon selection for a team and notification thereof, players/parents will have five (5) days to fill out the Letter of Commitment to play for the team the player was selected for. This and the initial season fee payment, as noted during registration, are needed in order to guarantee

their spot on the assigned team. This requirement is necessary to ensure that all teams have a minimum number of players to support the team, both competitively and financially. This requirement will be provided at the time that the players are contacted in regard to team assignment. Final Teams will be posted on the [www.eastonhockey.org](http://www.eastonhockey.org) website as soon as possible but no later than May 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Absent from Tryouts:**

Any player who is absent from both tryout sessions will automatically be placed on the Red or White team. Depending upon availability, coach's input, number of players on a team, and approval by the ESHA Board of Directors, a player may be moved up to a higher level. Skill level is considered only in situations where team placement would disrupt the overall make-up of the team. Special circumstance will be given special consideration. If a player cannot attend tryouts due to unavoidable circumstances, please notify the ESHA Board of Directors via email as soon as you become aware that the player will miss both tryout sessions. Your written communication should detail the specific reason(s) why the player will miss tryouts along with any supporting documentation, including a doctor's note, travel itinerary, and/or other supporting evidence. The Board will evaluate the circumstances of each player's absence independently and make a determination on the best placement for the player, taking into consideration all affected teams and players.

Valid reasons for missing tryouts may include:

- Injury, illness or other Medical Reason
- Planned vacations
- Important school events

Invalid reasons for missing tryouts may include:

- Trying out for Select Teams, Club Teams, and/or any other team.
- Participation in other sports activities – baseball, soccer, basketball, etc.

Absent from part of tryouts:

Any player who misses part of the tryouts (one session of the two for example) will be placed accordingly by the coaches and Board of Directors based upon the aforementioned guidelines.