

BALTIMORE YOUTH HOCKEY TRAVEL HOCKEY

Mission Statement

The mission of Baltimore Youth Hockey (BYH) is to teach the youth of the community the sport of ice hockey and to develop team play and individual skills through clinics and programs of ice hockey competition which emphasize sportsmanship, cooperation, self discipline, self confidence, individual responsibility and respect for others. The BYH hockey program is intended to be fun for the players and an opportunity for personal growth and development.

Winning is not the main objective of Baltimore Youth Hockey. Our goal for BYH is to provide a positive hockey experience to youth of all ages and abilities in an environment that promotes player development, team concepts and fun. Winning is a by-product of accomplishing these goals.

As BYH coaches, we have many responsibilities throughout the year.

First week of the season:

Parent Meeting:

- Identify a team manager.
- Identify any potential Assistant Coaches (if needed).
- State Team Objectives and Goals.
- Discuss expectations of the parents and players, and their expectations of you.
- Discuss Club Policies & Rules
- Discuss Team Policies & Rules
- Explain the importance of Communication. This is one of the key elements to having a successful season.

Players Meeting:

- State Team Objectives and Goals
- Discuss expectations of the players and their expectations of you.
- Discuss Club Policies & Rules
- Discuss Team Policies & Rules
- Earn the players respect; do not demand it.

During the Season:

There will be two practices per week. The Mite Travel team will have two ½ ice practices. The Squirt and Pee Wee Travel teams will have one ½ ice practice and one split ice practice. The Bantam Travel teams will have one ½ ice and one full ice practice

each week. The Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee and Bantam Travel teams will all have two skill sessions each month which will be conducted during the respective ½ shared ice slots. The Midget teams will have one combined skills session and one full ice, one hour practice. It is very important for you to come to every practice prepared. All Mite and Squirt practices will focus on improving players individual skills while still improving team play. At the Pee Wee level the focus will be on improving both individual skills and team play. At the Bantam and Midget levels the focus will be on improving team play without ignoring individual skills. Remember it is our primary goal, to have every player improve their skills over the course of the season.

½ Ice practices:

These practices should focus on skill drills, team play, defensive play and small games. Skill drills can be accomplished by setting up stations. Three stations can easily be performed on a half sheet of ice. Not only do these enhance individual skills, but the stations keep kids active and motivated. At each station it is very easy to get at least two kids involved at one time. If three stations are set up, six kids at any given moment will be involved. On a team with a roster of 13 – 15 skaters, almost half the team is constantly active. Be creative in the implementation of skills while sticking to practice goals.

Full ice practices:

These practices should focus on team strategies (e.g. Power play, Penalty Kill, Breakouts, regrouping in the neutral zone, forechecking strategies, 2 vs. 1, 3 vs. 2 etc) The last 10 – 15 minutes of a full ice practice can sometimes be used to play 5 vs. 5. Use the scrimmage time to make sure players are performing team systems.

Games:

At the travel level you can have one or two games per weekend. Come to all games prepared. Have a game plan. Make sure you know who will not be available for each particular game. Make sure the players come to the rink at least 30 minutes before each game. For Bantam and Midget teams, it is recommended that players come to the rink at least 45 minutes before the game. This allows time for a team warm up, stretch and meeting. Let the players know what the lines are, who is on the power plays and penalty kills. Know what the ice time policies of the club are for the given level.

Tournaments:

Travel teams will participate in 3 tournaments throughout the season which are already included in the fees. The Mites will have the option to play in at least one tournament and the Squirts will play in two tournaments unless decided upon otherwise by the respective Coaches and parents. Tournaments for Midget teams should be completed by Thanksgiving so we can be supportive of the large number of BYH players who also skate for high school teams.

BYH will attempt to send as many teams to the same tournaments as possible. We will kick off the season with a Labor Day Tournament. These tournaments throughout the season will increase both team chemistry, unity and club spirit.

Communication

Communication is the key to a successful season. Coaches must communicate with both the players and the parents. It is recommended that Coaches do not speak with parents regarding an on ice incident until at least 24 hours afterwards.

Tryout Evaluations

Players at each age level will be randomly grouped into 4 sections on the first night of Tryouts. There will be 2 unbiased evaluators who will watch a section of players go through the 4 on ice stations as well as the full ice scrimmage. The evaluators will rank their respective group beginning with the most skilled player.

On the second night of Tryouts, the top 2-4 most skilled players from each of the previous night's sections will be placed in a group together. The next group of most skilled players from each section will also be placed in a group together. This format will be used to place all of players into groups for the second night. The same system of evaluating will then be used on the second night of Tryouts.

On the third night of Tryouts some players may be asked not to participate. This group of players will be those who have demonstrated over two nights that they should be placed on the team playing at the highest level possible in their specific age category. This will also give the evaluators the opportunity to watch other players more closely.

Choosing Teams

After the Tryouts, the Hockey Director will be provided with a depth chart in regards to skill at each playing age level. Depending on the number of players at each level, the top 8 most skilled players will be given the opportunity to play at the highest level with the specific age category. This will be regardless of whether the player is a first or second year within the age category. Players from 9-19 might be then shuffled to give second year players the opportunity to play at a higher level.

Teams will be chosen by the respective Coach with assistance from the Hockey Director. The Coach of the higher playing level team within each age category will choose their respective team first.

Ice Time Policy

All Mite players will receive equal ice time.

Squirt Coaches will attempt to give players equal ice time but may change line combinations for power play and penalty kill situations. This may affect the ice time of some players.

B Teams

Coaches will attempt to give equal play time to all players on B Travel Teams. These teams may have up to 15-17 skaters and two goalies.

A Teams

Coaches will attempt to give equal play time to all players in regards to 5 vs 5 situations. Line combinations for power play and penalty kill may change. This may affect the ice time of some players. These teams will have at least 13 skaters and 2 goalies but may have up to 15-17 skaters.

AA Teams

Coaches will give play time as they see fit throughout an entire game. Power play, penalty kill and line matching will affect the ice time of some players. These teams will have at least 13 skaters and two goalies.

Changing Teams

It will be possible for a player to leave a lower level team to join a higher level team during the season. If the Coach of a higher level team would like to add a player from a lower level team, the Coach may ask the Hockey Director to make a roster change. If the Hockey Director, Coaches and parents involved feel that it is foremost for the benefit of the player involved, the player may be asked if they would like to change teams.

Coaches at the AA Levels generally do not speak with parents about ice time. If players at the AA level, especially the Bantam and Midget Levels have concerns they are encouraged to approach the coaches themselves. As with any on ice concern, it is advised that players wait until 24 hours after a game to approach the coach.

Attendance Policy

If a player misses 1 practice or 1 game in a given month **WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION**, that player will sit the first period of the following game. If the same player misses either 2 practices or 2 games in the same month **WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION**, that player will sit out the first two periods of the following game. If a player misses either 3 practices or 3 games in the same month **WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION**, that player will serve a one game internal suspension. **NOTE:** That player will be required to attend the game. If a player misses a either a fourth game or practice in the same month, the player and their parents will be asked to meet with BYH board members or the Hockey Director to discuss commitment to the team and program.