

# Southeastern CT Youth Hockey



## Player Evaluation Policies and Procedures

Each season the SECYH Board of Directors and various volunteers give careful consideration to the placement of children on appropriate level teams through a formal player evaluation process. Player evaluations can be one of the most difficult tasks for a youth hockey association to perform. They can also be the foundation for which an association is built upon. The ultimate goal of the player evaluation process is to provide players with the best possible experience in an environment where they can grow as hockey players and young people.

SECYH will also use player evaluations as a tool to develop players based on their individual strengths and weaknesses. Having this evaluation process in place will help make the placement and development of players a lot easier. Not only will it give SECYH a reference point in educating players and parents, but it will also give the coaches a starting point to recognize each player's skill-level.

We ask players and parents to understand that the evaluation of players is a challenging process and finite scores are not always assigned to individual players' various skills and weaknesses. We work hard to make this process as unbiased and accurate as possible. Below is a statement of our player evaluation procedures and policies for the 2010/2011 season.

### Evaluation Schedule & Fees

- Player Evaluations for the following season shall be conducted at the conclusion of the current season. Player evaluation dates will be published on the SECYH website and distributed via email.
- Each evaluation participant will be required to complete the online evaluation registration and provide a non-refundable fee.
- There will be a minimum of 2 evaluation sessions.
- For players offered a position on a travel team, a signed letter of commitment and a non-refundable deposit payment are required when accepting a position on a team. This will typically be 2 weeks following completion of the evaluation sessions.

### Selection Committee

- There will be a selection committee for each division that will perform evaluations and selections for teams within that division. The committee will be comprised of the Division Director plus impartial player reviewers who do not have a child in that division. We will endeavor to find evaluators from outside the SECYH organization such as college and high school hockey coaches and players, etc.
- Coaches with children in the organization may be asked to be an evaluator, but at an age group that differs from that of their child.
- The committee will determine the structure, drills and duration of the evaluation. Volunteers utilized on the ice and benches during evaluations will have no say in the selection process.
- Committee members can individually consult and discuss player attributes with anyone they wish before or after the evaluation session. However, under no circumstances will any person, other than the committee members, be allowed to vote in the selection process.
- Coaches will have no say in the majority of the selection process. If the committee is deadlocked on the last few players to be selected for a team, current and former coaches of those players may be consulted for input.

### Skill Evaluation

- To make it easy for the selection committee, each player is assigned a scrimmage vest. The number assignment is done before the evaluation session begins so time is not wasted. Therefore, all players are

asked to arrive to the rink one hour before the first session begins. Each evaluator will receive an evaluation sheet with all the associated numbers. The players are then evaluated on each applicable skill with a rating from one to five, with five being the highest.

- Evaluations shall consist of skill evaluation in the areas of skating, passing and receiving, stick handling, shooting, play making, stamina, and checking (if applicable). Goaltenders will be also evaluated based on their skill in making saves and controlling rebounds.
- The selection of evaluation drills will be based on recommendations from notable sources such as Hockey Canada's "Minor Hockey Development Guide – Player Evaluation and Selection".
- Players will also be evaluated in scrimmage or game situations to determine positional play and competitiveness.
- The ratio of skill testing to scrimmage will depend on the level. For example, at the Mite level there will likely be more of an emphasis on evaluation of basic skills rather than individual and team tactics. Similarly, physical characteristics such as strength and endurance will be more relevant at the Midget level category than at the younger levels.
- Located under the DOCUMENTS tab is a sample evaluation form. There is a separate form for skaters and goalies.

## Team Placement

- The number of evaluation participants offered and accepting a travel team position will determine the number of travel teams that SECYH will field in the coming season.
- Any requests for an individual player's team placement based on special circumstances or constraints must be communicated by the parents to the Division Director or member of the selection committee prior to the beginning of the evaluations. The requests will only be considered if the request is deemed reasonable by the selection committee and the team placement request is at same or lower level than which the player was assigned.
- Selection of players for travel teams is limited to those who attend the evaluation. Players who do not attend evaluations are limited to the lowest available travel team as roster space permits. A player who is unable to attend the evaluations due to extenuating circumstances, for example, due to an injury or relocation may be considered for travel team selection at any level by approval of the selection committee. Former coaches, assistant coaches, directors, etc. may be consulted to determine proper placement for that player.
- Once the players have been rated, the evaluation sheets are processed and the evaluations are computed with an overall final rating number computed by averaging all the categories. The players are then listed in order by the overall average.
- The Selection Committee will look at the players that are on the bubble between teams and determine the ideal placement of the players.
- At the conclusion of the final evaluation session, travel and house team rosters will be finalized within a week and participants will be informed on their placement.
- If more players attend the evaluations than there are travel roster slots available, a waiting list will be published.

## Coach Selection

- Prospective coaches will be solicited to submit letters of interest, coaching qualifications and resumes to be considered for a coaching position prior to the beginning of the evaluation sessions.
- The Board of Directors will use these resumes, coaching feedback forms from the previous season and personal knowledge of the coaches to create a prioritized list of all candidates. If a non parent coach is the top candidate they will be notified as to which team they are assigned. Parent coaches will be notified of team assignments as soon as their child has been placed on a team via the evaluation process.