

March 2014

Parents,

Many parents and players ask every year about the tryout process and more specifically how the make-up of each team is determined. To help answer these questions, we wanted to explain the decision-making process and the steps that are taken to attempt to hold the most objective and unbiased tryouts possible.

First-at the end of the 2013-14 season all coaches are asked to rank and evaluate their players on a variety of factors concerning not only skill and hockey sense, but also discipline, work ethic and whether they are a good teammate.

Second-we hold 4 days of try-outs and we ask coaches to evaluate the players anonymously (no names only sweater color and number). Except in rare circumstances, MYHA coaches will not be allowed to evaluate tryouts in which they have a child participating. We also bring in outside evaluators that have no affiliation with parents or players in the program (this year we had Manhattanville college hockey players, including a specific goalie evaluator). Players are evaluated on skill level, especially skating, as well as work ethic and hockey sense.

Third-we ask the evaluators to group the players as an "A", "B" or "C" player. Players that are close to either side are considered an "A/B" bubble or a "B/C" bubble.

Fourth-the evaluators then sit in a room to discuss their assessments and try to come to a consensus on team placements. This year we had 16 evaluators (half of whom had no ties or kids in the program) and each person is given a vote. We ask the room, without using names, "Orange 12- is he/she an A, B or C player? # of Votes for A? # of Votes for B? # of Votes for C?" We then get a consensus of a clear majority of A, B and C players.

Fifth-while the first votes help with the majority of the consensus players, this then leaves the "bubble players." With these players, we then do another round of voting and the clear top vote getters are moved up. If there is a tie or a close group of kids, we then do another round of voting to try and separate.

Sixth-if there are still ties or close voting, we reference the coaches' evaluations of players from the previous season. Kids of similar skill who are good teammates, work hard, are not disruptive and coachable, will generally be awarded the higher spot over kids that lack discipline or work ethic.

Seventh-by this point, a high percentage of the teams have been chosen. If there are two to four "bubble" kids left for one to two spots, the MYHA Coaching Committee (Brian Payne, David Boren, Michael Loga, Steve Pearson, Jim Coady) then vote on the final spots by examining a variety of intangibles (for instance, one of the intangibles can be does the team need an extra defenseman versus a forward). In our experience, the Coaching Committee has only had to get involved in final player selection a handful of times each season (generally 1 to 4 players across the program per year).

Eighth-results are posted, but are always subject to change. Rosters do not have to be finalized under the LIAHL rules until November 15th and occasionally parents ask for their son or daughter's release to try out for a different program. This can then cause some movement, generally up to another team.

The Coaching Committee hopes that this helps explain the process to all the parents and helps to give a better understanding of how the system works. We take great pride in making this as fair as possible and also take pride in making decisions that are based on not only skill and hockey sense, but also on being coachable and a good teammate. If you have any questions about the process, please contact a member of the Coaching Committee.

Sincerely,

The MYHA Coaching Committee