



Goaltending Guidelines

The Nashoba Youth Hockey Association (NYHA) wishes to set forth guidelines for the position of goaltender to help inform coaches, parents, and players of the association's stance on the goaltending position.

This document is not intended as, nor shall be considered, an NYHA policy. A policy established by NYHA applies to all players on all teams, association-wide. With the position of goalie, NYHA believes differing requirements are appropriate for differing age & ability levels. These guidelines are intended to provide for these differing requirements and age levels, and to give guidance to coaches who are confronted with the various possible scenarios that may arise during the course of the season. Coaches are encouraged to be communicative with parents and work out the situations that may arise when several players want to try playing goalie.

NYHA is foremost a community-based, instructionally oriented youth sports program. It is the goal of NYHA to further the development of our players at all levels while providing a fun and enjoyable experience. We start with this basic foundational premise.

These guidelines attempt to encourage development of our players and new goalies as well as enable coaches to work out different situations with minimum basic requirements. At the same time, NYHA believes it is important to recognize the commitment of players who have already made the choice to be full time goaltenders.

Definition: A full time goalie is defined as a player who has been evaluated as a goalie and who is placed on appropriate team, based on skill, with only one evaluated goalie. Note: when the number of evaluated goalies exceeds the number of teams at a particular level, there could be more than one "full-time" goalie placed on a team.

Description: A full time goalie can expect to play in all league and non-league games played by his/her team. However there is a potential that the full time goalie splits his game ice time with players who have spent time developing their goalie skills in practice and clinics; full time goalies would play a minimum of 50% of each game. This will be at the head coach's discretion. The full time goalie also has the option to skate out and play forward or defense for those games when the decision is made that another player will tend the net. When skating out, the head coach shall be responsible for determining the position. The head coach has the final say as to which games the full time goalie will share ice time, but it is recommended that the coach work with the goalies and their parents to plan and determine an acceptable schedule for all.

Mites & Squirts (Developmental)

NYHA believes that players at the Mite and Squirt age levels are still in their developmental stage. They should continue to develop skating skills and hand eye coordination and not be limited to a single position. With regard to goalie, any players expressing an interest in playing the position should be encouraged to try.

As specified above, if a full time goalie is placed on a Mite or Squirt team, they can expect to play a minimum of 50% of each game if they do not want to skate out. If other players express interest in

playing goal, those players will be rotated through in turn, sharing a portion of the game along with the full time goalie.

Players interested in playing goalie who did not evaluate as goalies and do not meet the definition of a full time goalie are required to play goalie in practices and attend goalie clinics before seeing game ice as goalie. The number of practices and clinics required will be determined by the head coach.

Peewees & Above

NYHA recognizes that at the Peewee and above levels, a significant time and financial commitment is required at the goaltender position. Player safety at these ages is also a concern. By Peewee age, it is anticipated that the majority of players will have decided on a “permanent” position.

For Peewee, Bantam, and Midget age players, a player who evaluated for the goaltender position and is placed on a team as a full time goalie will in most situations own it. If there is no full time goalie for a team at these levels, the rules noted above apply. However, there may be exceptions.

In the rare cases where a player decides at this age level to try the goalie position, he or she should be allowed to do so. That player will be required to complete a more significant number of practices and clinics in order to develop the required skills as well as for his or her own safety, again to be determined by the head coach. That player will only be allowed to share duties in games with the full time goalie if the head coach determines they have attained the required skills. If that player wants to be a full time goalie, he or she must evaluate at the end of the season for a goalie position for the next season.