

## 2016-17 ECHO Travel Team Evaluation Policies and Procedures

The following policies and procedures govern the Eastern Connecticut Hockey Organization (ECHO) Travel team evaluations for the 2016-17 Connecticut Hockey Conference season.

- Travel team evaluations for the 2016-17 season shall be conducted after the conclusion of the 2015-16 season. Evaluation times and dates, as well as registration forms and information, can be found on the ECHO website.
- Each season, the ECHO Board of Directors and other volunteers who assist in the evaluation process give careful consideration to the placement of players on the most appropriate level team. We ask players and parents to understand that the evaluation of players is a challenging process and that the assessments will be based on both quantitative and qualitative factors. Please be assured that all volunteers work diligently to make the process unbiased and as accurate as possible.
- There will be a selection committee (committee) for each age group (i.e. Bantam, Pee Wee, Squirt, Mite and Girls) that will perform evaluations and select teams for the 2016-17 season. A committee will be comprised of a coordinator and impartial player evaluators who do not have a child trying out for placement in the relevant age group. The coordinator and one or more evaluators may or may not be affiliated with ECHO.
- The committee, along with the on-ice facilitator or facilitators assigned to assist the committee, will determine the structure and duration of the evaluation sessions. We ask that all parents respect the time of the members of the selection committee and the on-ice facilitators by refraining from any contact with them during the evaluation process beyond simple greetings. On-ice facilitators do not have a vote in the selection process. In addition, other volunteers may be secured (e.g., to open and close the bench doors for the players) to assist in the process but will have no input into the selection process.
- Player placement in a specific evaluation session will be determined jointly, and at the discretion of the evaluation coordinator and ECHO Presidents applying the following:
  - For the first evaluation session at each age level where multiple groups are required, the group assignments will be based on the player's last name, although there may be exceptions (e.g., walk-ins).
  - For each subsequent evaluation session, players will be assigned to a session based on the combined player evaluation results from the previous evaluation sessions.
- Players are evaluated on the basis of a number of factors including, but not limited to, skating skills, shooting and passing skills, stick-handling and puck control, overall

hockey sense, motivation, and performance during the scrimmages held during evaluations.

- A player's evaluation ranking will be based on the majority consensus of the committee during the evaluation process. The player's evaluation ranking will be based on 1) "tryout" evaluations and 2) "Player" evaluation forms. "Tryout" evaluations are based on Player and Goalie on-ice performance assessments that evaluators will be filling out during the evaluation sessions. "Player" evaluation forms were submitted to the ECHO President by head coaches at the end of the prior season for the purpose of assessing a player (or goalie) in comparison to the rest of his or her teammates on the basis of that player's (or goalie's) performance over the course of the entire 2015-16 season. The committee coordinator will facilitate a discussion with the evaluators to rank Players and Goalies based on a combination of information included in the "tryout" evaluations and "Player" evaluation forms. The "tryout" evaluations will be the main input used to place most Players and Goalies on teams. The primary use of the "Player" evaluation forms will be to help identify and resolve any discrepancies on Player or Goalie skill or team play assessments.
- To ensure the most competitive environment possible, and for the benefit of all participants in the evaluation process, an "A" player returning for a second year is not guaranteed a spot as a second year "A" player. Likewise, a "B" player returning for a second year is not guaranteed a spot as a second year "B" player. Preference may be given to a returning ECHO player (a player who had been rostered at ECHO for the 2015-16 season) when that player would be placed on a waiting list rather than the lowest level team for that player's age group—in other words, between a returning ECHO player who has been rated the same as or similar to a non-returning ECHO player in the evaluation process, the returning ECHO player would be placed on the lowest level team, *if space permits*, and the non-returning player would be placed on a waiting list. Note, however, that *there is no guarantee* that a returning ECHO player will be placed on an ECHO Travel team.
- Selection of players generally is limited to those who participate in the evaluation process; players who do not participate in the evaluation process are generally limited to the lowest available Travel team as roster space permits. An exception to this is a player who is unable to participate in the evaluation sessions due to an extenuating circumstance (e.g., injury, illness). It is within the discretion of the Board of Directors to determine whether an extenuating circumstance exists. In such cases, placement shall be determined by the coordinator, with the assistance of the other members of the committee. In making that determination, the coordinator may use the information in the 2015-16 player evaluation forms and may consult with that player's former head and assistant coaches. Absences from one or more evaluation sessions must be communicated in advance to and approved by the ECHO Presidents.
- Potential coaches with a child trying out in a particular age group will not be assigned to coach a team until after Travel team selections have been made. Potential coaches who do not have a child trying out in a particular age group may be assigned to coach

a team before the commencement of the evaluation process but will not be able to participate in the evaluation process for that age group.

- The number of participants who commit to ECHO will determine the number of Travel teams that ECHO will field in the 2016-17 season.
- Parents of players are urged to check the ECHO website daily during the evaluation process for any pertinent updates related to dates, times and assignment of players for the evaluation sessions. A player will be provided the opportunity to participate in multiple evaluation sessions.

Girls U10 and U12:

- All Girls U10 and U12 players will attend both evaluation sessions 1 and 2.

Tier 3, 4 Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam:

- All Mite players will attend both evaluation sessions 1 and 2.
- All Squirt players will attend evaluation sessions 1, 2 and 3. Select Squirt players will participate in the call back evaluation session.
- All Pee Wee players will attend evaluation sessions 1, 2 and 3. Select Pee Wee players will participate in the call back evaluation session.
- All Bantam players will attend evaluation sessions 1 and 2. Select Bantam will participate in the call back evaluation session 3.

However, there is no guarantee that any particular player will receive any minimum amount of ice time during the evaluation sessions, and, in some instances, a player may be asked not to attend one or more of the call back evaluation sessions for his or her age group.

- Travel team rosters for a particular age group will be posted to the ECHO website as soon as possible following the conclusion of evaluations for that particular age group.
- If there are more players trying out than there are roster slots available, a waiting list will be published.
- In order to accept a position on the team to which a player has been assigned, he or she must submit a signed letter of commitment (which will be available on the ECHO website before the 2016-17 Travel team rosters are posted) and a \$500 non-refundable payment to ECHO. **ECHO will hold a commitment meeting at Bolton Ice Palace on Wednesday, March 30 at 6pm.** Signed commitment letters and payments from players must be received either prior to or during the March 30 commitment meeting. If a player does not commit prior to or during the commitment meeting, the player's roster assignment will be forfeited.

The above commitment schedule is put in place to enable the organization to more effectively negotiate the ice contracts for the 2016-17 season and thereby minimize any potential increase in skater fees.

Any questions regarding these policies and procedures may be addressed to ECHO Presidents, at [President@echostars.com](mailto:President@echostars.com).