

Determining A, B, and Rookie Level Boys Teams

It is imperative players be placed in the correct level of play for their age, experience, and ability. The following guidelines emphasize individual skills rather than years of experience. The following information is provided as a guide to your clubs when assessing players in order to determine the level at which they will be fielding teams. The NCJLA strongly recommends that clubs hold tryouts or assessments before the registration deadline in order to accurately determine the teams they will field.

Skill Sets

In determining whether a player should be placed on an A, B, or Rookie team, the following guidelines provide a good rubric for teams to follow:

I. An A-level Player has more experience or is EXCELLENT at some or all of the following:

- Catching, throwing, scooping, and cradling with both the dominant hand and the off hand.
- Dodging at full speed. Can effectively use a roll dodge, face dodge, inside-and-out dodge, split dodge, and bull dodge and knows which one to use in different situations. Can dodge with either the right hand or left hand.
- Demonstrating sound field sense in live situations.
- Leading transitional tactics in game situations.
- Has a good understanding of the various offensive schemes including a 2-3-1, a 1-4-1, 3-3, man-up, and fast break situations.
- Passing and shooting with both right and left hands under pressure, cutting and feeding, driving to the goal, picking and rolling and excels in fast break or unsettled situations.
- Continuously exhibiting off-ball skills and tactics in settled as well as unsettled situations.
- Working within various defensive schemes including man-to-man, zone, sliding and man-down situations.
- Practicing on his own regularly and without encouragement.

II. B-level Player has some experience or is GOOD at some or all of the following:

- Catching, throwing, scooping, and cradling with the dominant hand and can use the off- hand occasionally in game situations.
- Dodging at full speed and can use a roll dodge, face dodge, inside-and-out dodge, split dodge and bull dodge and knows which one to use in different situations and can use the offhand with 1 or 2 dodges.
- Demonstrating sound field sense in live situations.
- Understanding transitional tactics and developing the skills to use them comfortably in game situations.
- Has knowledge of various offensive schemes including a 2-3-1, a 1-4-1, 3-3, man-up and fast break situations.

- Passing and shooting primarily with the dominant hand under pressure, cutting and feeding, driving to the goal, picking and rolling and is comfortable in fast break or unsettled situations.
- Exhibiting some off-ball skills and tactics in settled as well as unsettled situations and could benefit from more instruction in these areas.
- Working within various defensive schemes including man-to-man, zone, sliding and man-down situations.
- Practicing on his own regularly.

III. Rookie-level Player has little experience or is DEVELOPING:

- Catching, throwing, scooping, and cradling with the off hand and is developing catching and throwing with the dominant hand is weaker.
- Dodging at full speed and is still developing techniques to effectively use a roll dodge, face dodge, inside-and-out dodge, split dodge and bull dodge and to know which one to use in different situations.
- Field sense in live situations.
- Transitional tactics and is still developing the skills to use them comfortably in game situations.
- Has a little experience working within various offensive schemes, man-up and fast break situations.
- Passing and shooting primarily with the dominant hand, and is still developing the skills for cutting and feeding, driving to the goal, picking and rolling and developing the skills in fast break or unsettled situations.
- Exhibiting some off-ball skills and tactics in settled as well as unsettled situations and will benefit from more instruction in these areas.
- Working within various defensive schemes including man-to-man, zone, sliding and man-down situations.
- Playing position defense, checking, holding, clearing and riding.
- Still learning the rules of the game and the various positions on the field.

IV. Other areas to consider when assessing players are:

- **Player Size, athleticism and Mental Development.** Some players may have the stick skills to play at the A or B level but based on size and maturity level would be better suited for a lower level team. The NCJLA recommends coaches pull these players aside and interview the boys to assess this further.
- **Social Connection.** Some players may have the stick skills, size, and maturity to play at a high level but all their friends are on a lower level team. Coaches should have a conversation with these players to discuss this issue to assist in determining the team level for the boy.
- **Athletic Ability.** When evaluating new players, boys who have obvious athletic ability and have played a couple of other sports (soccer, football, basketball) may be able to play at a higher level than their experience dictates. In these situations coaches should assess the player for speed, agility, footwork, hand-eye coordination, and coachability.