

WAREHAM YOUTH HOCKEY
Policy and Procedures

002-2009

PLAYER ICE TIME POLICY

1. Wareham Youth Hockey's has a policy of equal ice time for each player on a team. This policy applies to all Wareham Youth Hockey Players.
 - A. Reasoning:
 - We must develop the hockey skill of every player on the team.
 - Each player pays an equal share of the cost supporting the program
 - A program will succeed only if the people it serves help support it. People will not support a program which does not treat them and their children fairly.
 - B. To implement the equal ice time policy, the following specific rule and its exceptions are promulgated to each coach:
 - Each team will normally be assigned three forward lines and either two to three lines of defense. Each player shall skate, to the maximum extent practical equal time.
 - In the event a player is absent, becomes ill or receives an injury during a game, a coach will skate equally all players through the vacant player's position or line.
 - The only exceptions are: Near the end of a close game (i.e. within the last three or four minutes) a coach is allowed to skate his best players if he or she so desires.
 - A coach has the authority to restrict a player's ice time for disciplinary or instructional reasons, on a short term basis. For example, if a player is disrespectful to a coach, adult, referee, teammate, opponent, etc... The coach can sit him or her out for one or more shifts. The same applies for instruction. For example; If a player won't pass the puck to an open teammate after being told a number of times. However, this exception should not be abused by the coach. Chronic problems will be brought to the parents and also to the Coaching Coordinator attention by the coach.
 - One method of equalizing ice time that is not acceptable is to skate the stronger players more frequently against tough opponents and the weaker players more frequently against weak teams. This method does not work because parents whose children get extra ice time have short memories and parents whose children get short changed have long memories. We recognize that the equal ice policy may not be consistent with a win at all cost

philosophy. So be it. Winning is important, we don't mean to imply that it is not, however, it should be viewed from the perspective of fairness, team/program support, and most importantly, player development. Development and having fun is the bottom line.

C. Goaltenders:

- If a team has two goalies assigned, the coach will discuss with the goalie parents how they will determine play. Normally the goalies will split the game in half. I. E. the starting goalie plays until half way through the second period and the second goalies plays the second half. Each goalie switching back and forth in reference to starting the game.

003-2009

LOCKER ROOM BEHAVIOR POLICY

1. Under *no* circumstances will players of any age be left unattended in any locker room (both home and away). Players will be attended in or around the locker room by a Coach.
2. The following behaviors are prohibited in all locker rooms:
 - Running, horseplay or hockey boxing, foul or inappropriate language
 - Throwing of snow/ice from skates, used tape, equipment or personal belongings
 - Pounding, kicking or any misuse of lockers or benches or other locker room fixtures
 - Behavior that demonstrates a lack of respect for teammates, coaches, parents and others
 - Behavior that demonstrates a lack of respect for the personal belongings of others
 - Misuse of lavatory facilities
3. Players and coaches are expected to keep locker rooms free from debris including used hockey tape, wrappers, cups etc.
4. Use of hockey sticks: Sticks are either lined up along a wall or placed in a receptacle specifically designated for hockey sticks.
5. Teams and/or player(s) will be held financially responsible for any damage to locker rooms including but not limited to being held directly financially responsible for the loss, damage and/or destruction of another player's personal belongings or equipment as a result of the inappropriate actions of individuals occupying locker room facilities both home and away. Failure to adhere to these rules will result in disciplinary action which may include, but not be limited to, the suspension of play.

004-2009

MAJOR FIGHTING PENALTIES

1. If a player receives a suspension for a major penalty for fighting in any league, no league, or tournament game then Wareham Youth Hockey will take the following action.
 - Wareham Youth Hockey will automatically add one (1) additional game to the suspension.
 - There would be no right of appeal for this one game suspension.
 - The player would not be allowed to participate in any practices while suspended until meeting with the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will determine whether or not the player would be able to resume practicing with his team while serving the suspension.
 - The player would not be allowed to participate in any tournament games while serving his/her suspension.
 - The Player would have to meet with Plymouth Youth Hockey's Board of Director's. The Board of Directors will convene a meeting as soon as practical after receiving notice of a suspension from one of the leagues
 - The purpose of the meeting would be to review all the facts surrounding the suspension in order to;
 - a. Determine whether additional action is warranted (I.E. player would not be allowed to participate in any practices during the suspension)
 - b. Answer any questions posed by either the league and on what actions may or may not have been taken in regard to the suspension.
 - c. Document the suspension as required by USA Hockey and Mass Hockey.

005-2009

WAREHAM YOUTH HOCKEY'S POLICY ON HELEMETS FOR COACHES

1. Wareham Youth hockey's policy on coaches wearing helmets in accordance with the USA Hockey's policy is requiring all ice hockey coaches and instructors of registered USA Hockey youth/high school, disabled, girls'/women's 19 & under and below programs to properly wear ice hockey helmets during all on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and coach and referee clinics (seminars).
2. Head Coaches will be responsible for the enforcement of this policy with their coaching staff.
3. Wareham Youth Hockey has placed the following enforcement of the Hockey USA Coaches wearing Helmets Requirement:
 - **First Offense:**
 - a. Coach will be given a Verbal warning from the Wareham Youth Hockey Board of Directors

- **Second Offense:** Coach will be given a written warning from the Wareham Youth Hockey Board of Directors
 - **Third Offense:** The offending coach will be immediately suspended by the Wareham Youth Hockey Board of Directors. The coach will need to appear before the Wareham Youth Hockey Board of Directors for further review, and will not be able to return to coaching until said meeting takes place.
4. All Coaches will be required to read and sign this agreement, accepting that they understand the described Policy and Enforcement.

006-2009

WAREHAM YOUTH HOCKEY'S PLAYER EVALUATION POLICY

1. Please take the time to review this material. Hopefully, the information in this packet will answer most of your questions, but if not, please feel free to contact your level coordinator with any questions or concerns.
2. Absences - If a player is unable to attend any of his/her scheduled Tryout sessions due to illness or injury, you must call the respective level coordinator to inform them immediately.
3. Registration – Players must be registered for the coming season before they are assigned a tryout number (pinnie #) on the first night of tryouts.
4. Goalies will be asked to play during the player scrimmages for tryouts (this does not count for the goalie tryouts). Please call or E-mail our Goalie Coordinator, ----- if you have any questions.
5. Coaches for next year– Anyone interested in coaching next year are invited to complete Coaching Application form. Even if you are coaching now, please fill one out for next season so we know what level(s) you are interested in coaching.

Player Evaluation

1. Players are expected to arrive at least 45 minutes prior to the first tryout session to check in and be assigned a tryout number. Please note on the schedule what hour your son or daughter is expected to skate based on your assignment from registration night. A player must be registered for the 2007– 2008 season before he/she will be given a number. Numbers will be on pinnies and worn on the back of each player's shirt. Remember your pinnie number for the entire tryout process. The player will skate with the same number in all sessions.
2. Skaters cannot wear shirts with their names on the back. Have the skater either wear a shirt with no name or turn their hockey shirts inside out so the name is not visible.
3. Given the large number of skaters, we have no choice but to start promptly on the ice. If you are late, your child may miss the opportunity to skate and be judged in all drills or could miss shifts during the scrimmages.
4. If you a reason such as illness, a player cannot make a tryout; you must call the respective level coordinator immediately.

Tryout Process

1. The tryout process has been designed to provide a fair and objective evaluation of all skaters.
2. All skaters must attend all of their tryout dates. There are two phases to the tryout process for Mites and Squirts; the first phase (Phase I) concentrates on puck handling, skating and skill evaluations. The second phase (Phase II) focuses on overall hockey skills, with the skaters playing in a scrimmage against each other, for the remaining two sessions Scorers for the tryouts are selected by the Board of Directors. Between five and eight off-ice scorers will evaluate the skater on the criteria listed below. We try to select as many judges for a given level who do not have children trying out at that level. But if a coach has a child at that level, they will not score their own child. Rather an average from the other scorers will be used as the score for the player, e.g. all other 7 scorers would be totaled, averaged and that score would go into the "Parent" scorer's sheet for the Parents child.

PHASE I

(Mites and Squirts)

1. The skating skill drills will focus on **balance, inside and outside edge control** (stopping, turning, etc.) **transition** (forwards to backwards), **speed** and **puck control**. Sample drills that support this focus are (but not limited to):
 - Starts and Stops – (forward to backward & reverse transition)
 - Big Circle and tight turn (both directions)
 - Stopping / Cross over starts (both directions)
 - Stick handling
 - Shooting and passing
2. Players will be rated 1-4 on each drill in five categories; Crossovers, skating, stick handling, Passing and shooting. The lowest score attainable is a total of 5 (the best) and the highest attainable is 20.
3. Here is a break down of the scoring system.
 - 1 (one) - At the respective level (IE. Squirt) there is little room for improvement (near mastering of the skill set). Extremely developed. Upper 25% of the players at respective level.
 - 2 (two) - At the respective level there is some room for improvement but at the upper 50% of the level with skill set.
 - 3 (three) - At the respective level there is room for improvement and considered in the bottom 50% of the level with skill set.
 - 4 (four) - At respective level there is significant improvement needed and considered in the lower 25% of the level with skill set.
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PHASE II

(2 Sessions for Mites and Squirts)

1. This phase is comprised of hockey scrimmages where skaters are assigned to a number and skate a number of **one and a half - minute shifts** in a controlled atmosphere.
2. Scorers will be instructed to evaluate the players on the following five skill categories: Using the WYH Scoring system of 1-4 listed above. **Skating Skills** – Inside and outside edges; stopping; quick starts; transition forward to backward; etc.
 - **Puck Control** – Puck control, stick handling skills
 - **Passing** - Giving and receiving passes
 - **Shooting** – Ability to shoot appropriate shot. To include but not limited to; wrist shot, snap shot, backhand and slap shot.
 - **Situational/Decision making and Position**– Ability to read developing play; anticipates opponent’s and teammate’s next move; positional hockey vs. scrum.
3. Generally, the weighting of each of these categories will change at each level (Mites, Squirts At the Mite level, skating and basic hockey skills will be weighted more than at the upper levels where teamwork and situational play become more important as a skill.

“A”, “B”, “C” LEVEL SELECTION PLAYER NOTIFICATION

1. After the completion of the Tryout sessions, the scores will be tallied and placed in order based on their overall evaluations compiled from both phases. A copy of the scores is held by the Tryout. Once tryouts for the level are complete the Tryout Director and coaching staff will then go down the list and determine the number of players at each level and decide on the number of “A”, “B” and “C” teams by the scoring results.
2. Once the number of teams at each level is determined the players will be assigned to each team. The number of players on each team is determined by the number of registered players and the scores.
3. Interviews of coaches for each team will be held during the week of DATE. Head coaches will be selected by the Coaching Coordinator. Coaching candidates will be evaluated on the basis of previous experience, hockey sense and skills, time availability, enthusiasm, organizational skills, etc. The coaches will be given their rosters asked to notify the players within two days of receipt of their rosters. We understand that this is not always possible but do put every effort into notifying the players as soon as possible.
4. The teams are built on a balanced basis through a consensus process involving the evaluation process.

BEHAVIOR CODE

It should be noted that inappropriate behavior by a skater or parent on or off ice during the Tryouts can have a negative impact on a player's evaluation and overall score. Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to penalty situations such as illegal checking, elbowing, tripping, and harassment of other skaters on or off the ice and use of foul language.

Regards,

Wareham Youth Hockey Board of Directors