



2026-27 8U

TEAM PLACEMENT & TIME TRIAL GUIDELINES

Our goal is to provide a fun, positive, and developmentally appropriate hockey experience for every player. The Warriors Girls Hockey program includes four levels: G1, G2, G3, and G4. Team placement is guided by grade level and, when applicable, timed skating evaluations to help ensure each player is placed in an environment that best supports her development.

While timed skating evaluations are new to the Warriors Girls Hockey program, they are a common practice among neighboring associations and have also been used in both the Westonka and Orono boys Mite programs. This process provides an objective and consistent way to help guide team placement and support player development. Coaches will continue to assess players during the first four weeks of practice, allowing for placement adjustments if needed.

TEAM PLACEMENT BY GRADE

Pre-K & Kindergarten – G1

- New-to-hockey players are automatically placed at G1.
- No time trials are required.

1st Grade – G2

- First graders are placed at G2 unless they opt in to the 8U time trials for consideration at G3. (No G4).
- Participation in time trials does not guarantee placement at a higher level.
- Parents must email Annie Slayton (anniecrock@gmail.com) by October 19 to opt-in.

2nd & 3rd Grade – G2, G3 or G4

- All second and third graders participate in time trials to determine team placement.
- Players may opt-out at a parent's request. Their placement will be determined by the Coaches Board following a recommendation from the 8U Director and coaches.
- New-to-hockey 2nd graders most likely G2
- New-to-hockey 3rd graders most likely G3

8U TIME TRIALS: OCTOBER 22, 2026

Time trials provide a fair and objective way to place players at the G3 and G4 levels.

- Evaluations consist of four timed skating drills based on the Hockey Education Program (HEP), endorsed by USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey.
- Placement is based on stopwatch results, not subjective evaluations or scrimmages.
- Evaluators will be trained on drills and timing procedures.
- Drills will be posted on the website and shared with families before evaluations.
- Players will be assigned eval/time trial groups by grade.
- There are no makeup evaluations or swapping eval groups. Players unable to attend will be placed by the Coaches Board following a recommendation from the 8U Director and coaches.



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TIME TRIAL DRILLS

1. Forward Figure Eight — Crossovers
2. Blue Line Stop, Red Line Stop, Through Blue Line
3. Forward to Red Line, Transition Around Tire, Backward In
4. Forward Slalom with Puck — Power Turns

SCORING

- Each station will have two evaluators with separate stopwatches. Their average time becomes the player's official time for that attempt.
- Players complete each drill twice. We average the two times from the first attempt to get their time, and average the second two to get their time.
- Best time from each station applies, and will be 25% weight towards overall rank.
- Times are recorded to the hundredth of a second.
- Evaluators will have skaters start over if there is interference, an incorrect start, a fall, an incomplete stop, or another issue affecting the result.
- Any volunteers assisting third-party evaluators must be free of conflicts of interest.

G3 & G4 TEAM PLACEMENT

- Players are ranked by their combined time-trial results, with the fastest qualifying for G4, followed by G3. Remaining players are placed at G2.
- Scores will be provided to the Ace Coordinator or a non-conflicted designee for placement.
- The Coaches Board determines placement for players who miss evaluations.
- Parents may request placement at a lower level.
- Coaching staff may adjust player placements for up to four weeks following evaluations.
- Returning players will not be placed below their previous season's level but are not guaranteed advancement. But, we need to create equal teams and will be making them based on times, so we need all returning G4's at evals, no exceptions.
- Exact ties will be broken first by grade level, then by the level played the previous season.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 19: Deadline for first graders to opt-in to time trials or for 2nd/3rd graders to opt-out

October 22: 8U time trials — no makeup date.

Questions or first-grade opt-in requests to Annie Slayton: anniecrock@gmail.com