

Westwood Youth Hockey (WYH) Travel Tryouts Policy

WYH's objective in constituting teams is to act in the best interests of the children and the Westwood Youth Hockey (WYH) Program. Team composition is inherently imprecise and subjective. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of WYH to make the process fair and transparent, while protecting the confidentiality of players' scores and coaches' selections. These Policies and Procedures were developed by WYH to:

1. Achieve the most accurate player placement
2. Provide players and parents of WYH transparency in the process
3. Provide guidance to evaluators to create a more consistent process
4. Provide a known set of standards upon which players are measured to assure the highest possible degree of fairness and objectivity in the process
5. Provide an opportunity for all children to play at the appropriate level

Registration & timing

- Registration details are communicated in late-February or early-March; players must be registered prior to tryouts.
- Late registration is only allowed with Board approval for extraordinary circumstances and may result in placement on the lowest team at the age level.
- The Board sets up the tryout weeks by its March meeting; conflicts can happen, and the Board will use best efforts to place players with conflicts appropriately.

Attendance expectations

- Players must attend at least one tryout session to be placed on a team for the next season (and are strongly encouraged to attend all sessions).
- If a player misses a session, families must promptly email westwoodyouthhockey@gmail.com to notify the program; excused absences are typically injury/illness (with documentation) or family emergencies. The Board will use best efforts to place players with excused absences appropriately.
- Unexcused absences can lead to no placement or placement on the lowest team.
- If a player registers but chooses not to participate, they may be automatically placed on the last team (if roster spots exist).

Target roster sizes

- General target: 12-15 skaters + 1 goalie
- Mites target: 8-10 players

How players are evaluated

- Evaluation and stack ranking of current-year coaches from a submitted coaches' evaluations. For reference, the coaches evaluation form is posted on the Westwood Youth Hockey website under "Resources" in the "For Coaches" section.
- On Ice Evaluation - Typically two sessions:
 - On-ice evaluation covers skating, puck skills, game sense, effort/compete through drills, stations, small-area games, and scrimmages. Player matchups for head-to-head evaluations are determined by players with similar scores in coaches' evaluations.
 - Each level uses 6–10 evaluators for each on-ice session. Evaluators are volunteers with appropriate hockey experience. A parent may not evaluate the age group in which their own child is trying out. Evaluators will make recommendation of team level for players.

Team selection & confidentiality

- Team selection is driven as follows:
 - Coaches' evaluations from ALL coaches the previous season- each player receives a cumulative score.
 - Coaches stack rank their existing team 1-15 (or number of players on team) highest to lowest- each player receives a cumulative score
 - Coaches' commentary.
 - Independent evaluators grades from tryouts- each player receives a cumulative grade from the 2 nights.
- The Lead Evaluator forms the teams based on the criteria above. The proposed teams are then reviewed by designated individuals for each age group. These designated individuals are selected by the VP On-Ice, VP Off-Ice, and President and are intended to serve as independent reviewers. A designated individual may not have a child in the age group being evaluated. Their role is to provide an objective review of the placements. The Board then reviews and approves the final rosters.
- Individual tryout scores are confidential and shared only with the Board; hard copies are collected after selection.
- No one has a "guaranteed spot" year-to-year.

Parent expectations

- Parents may attend and help with logistics but should not coach from the stands (no signaling) and should not contact evaluators/committee/board members during tryouts.

Board oversight

The Board can oversee and override provisions if needed.