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Appleton Area Hockey Association (AAHA) Goalie Development Program Policy

Approved by: AAHA Board of Directors
Effective Date: 2/18/2025
Due for next review on or before: 2/18/2028

GOALS

- Encourage, Develop, Train and Produce Goalies at each level of AAHA programs
- Create an environment for Mite and Squirt players to try the goalie position and establish a foundation
- Encourage the ongoing development and increased competitiveness of experienced goalies at PeeWee and Bantam levels, through various training programs and advanced fundamentals

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

AAHA will provide age specific training and skill development for our goalies.

At the younger developmental level (Mites and Squirts), AAHA will expose as many players as possible to the goalie position. Coaches will encourage players to experiment with goaltending. Unless there is a safety risk or other legitimate concern, all players interested in trying the goaltender position will get an opportunity to do so.

At the intermediate and advanced levels (PeeWee and Bantam), AAHA will continue goalie development with skill-based teaching through the team coaches and Goalie Skill Sessions. Goalie expectations regarding ability, competence, and commitment are higher at these levels.

A player's experience and commitment to the goalie position will vary. There will be players wanting to be Full Time goalies and other players that want to be Part Time goalies. "Full Time Goalies" play the goalie position exclusively. "Part Time Goalies" may play both the goalie position and a forward/defense position during the season (subject to the Head Coach's unfettered discretion).

The following will guide Coaches in managing their Goalies and provide families with an understanding of the goalie opportunities and expectations at different levels:

Mites:

- Teams will have multiple goalies during the season.
- All players interested in playing goalie will have the opportunity to play in a game or scrimmage.
- The coach will use discretion in determining the goalie rotation.

Squirts:

- Teams may be comprised of Full Time Goalies and Part Time Goalies.

- All players that have attended AAHA Goalie Skill Sessions will have the opportunity to play goal in practice as determined by the Head Coach
- Two or more goalies may share the goalie responsibilities on a team during games and scrimmages, which may be a combination of Full Time goalies and/or Part Time goalies.
- Coaches will have unfettered discretion in utilizing Full and Part Time Goalies in games and allowing Full and Part Time Goalies to skate as forwards/defensemen.

PeeWee and Bantam:

- Goalies at these levels are typically Full Time goalies committed to the position
- Part Time Goalies may be allowed at the PDC and Coach's discretion
- Goalies must have a solid foundation and demonstrate a high level of competence and commitment, consistent with the age-level and competitive expectations of the position.
- Team coaches will provide training during practices and games.
- All goalies will be encouraged to participate in the AAHA Goalie Skill Sessions.
- Two or more goalies may share the goalie responsibilities on a team during games and scrimmages, which may be a combination of Full Time goalies and/or Part Time goalies, at the Coach's discretion.

AAHA GOALIE SKILLS SESSIONS

AAHA will provide Goalie Skill Sessions for Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam, U10, U12, and U14 Goalies from approximately November through February. Currently, AAHA provides these Skill Sessions at no additional charge to our goalies. Attendance is currently on a volunteer basis and at the invitation of the Goalie Director.

AAHA GOALIE DIRECTOR

AAHA's Player Development Committee will appoint one or more a Goalie Directors whose responsibility is to support team coaches and coordinate Goalie Curriculum and the AAHA Goalie Skill Sessions.

EVALUATIONS AND TEAM PLACEMENTS FOR GOALIES

AAHA players are evaluated and assigned to a team based on skill level at a particular position (goalie or forward). AAHA requires a player trying out for a goalie position to declare at least one (1) week prior to Evaluations if they desire to be a Full Time Goalie or a Part Time Goalie.

Full Time Goalie = play the goal position primarily (with skating out at the discretion of the Head Coach)
Part Time Goalie = play both goalie and a forward/defense position during the season (at the discretion of the Head Coach)

Full Time Goalies will participate as a goalie for the Goalie Evaluation Session and each of his or her age-level Evaluation Sessions and be placed accordingly.

Part Time Goalies (with the exception of the Mite level) must attend the Goalie Evaluation Session and as many age-level Evaluation Sessions as requested by the AAHA's Player Development Committee.

Part Time Goalies will be evaluated as a goalie and as a forward. A Part Time Goalie will be placed on a team based on his/her forward evaluation scores, with consideration of the player's desire to play goal on a part-time basis and the player's goalie evaluations.

At the PeeWee and Bantam levels, there is no guarantee that a player desiring to be either a Full Time or Part Time Goalie will be assigned to a team at the Goalie position after Evaluations. Factors in such a decision not to assign a player to a Goalie position on a team may include but not be limited to: the

number of goalies at a particular level; the number of teams at a particular level; the skill level of the player; the skill level of the other goalies at the particular level; the historical performance of the player; the recommendations of prior coaches; the recommendations of outside evaluators; the commitment of the player; the experience of the player; and safety concerns.

If a player is not assigned to a team after Evaluations as a Full Time or Part Time Goalie, the player will have the option to: i) play the season as forward/defense to the team assigned; ii) request to play-down a level (which will be evaluated at the discretion of the PDC and may be denied); and/or iii) opt not to participate and receive a refund of any season fees paid.

AUTHORIZATION

Any issues arising outside of these written guidelines will be evaluated and handled by AAHA's Player Development Committee at its discretion.