

Playing Time Standards

APPROVED BY

Board of Directors

EFFECTIVE DATE

2026-27

DATE APPROVED

July 13th, 2026

STMAYHA uses a tiered playing time model based on age and competitive level. Playing time expectations increase in flexibility as players advance through the program. This policy establishes the standards for each tier. Coaches are expected to manage playing time with the player's long-term development as the primary consideration.

Mite/8U and All C-Level Teams

All players shall receive equal playing time. Coaches shall rotate all players through all positions over the course of the season. Exceptions require written approval from the Executive Hockey Director.

Squirt/10U Travel

Coaches shall play their players as equally as possible over the course of the season. Unexcused absences from practices or games may result in reduced playing time at the head coach's discretion.

Peewee/12U, Bantam/15U, and Junior Gold/19U (All Levels)

Coaches may manage ice time, shifts, and specialty units (power play, penalty kill) at their discretion. Playing time decisions shall prioritize player development and team competitiveness. Coaches have the right to adjust playing time for disciplinary or attendance reasons. Head coaches shall communicate their playing time philosophy to families at the start of the season.

Goaltender Policy

For AA/A level teams at Peewee/12U and above with multiple goaltenders, goalie playing time shall be approximately equal over the course of the regular season during league and scrimmage play, not on a game-by-game basis. Assignments will be based on game performance, work ethic, attitude, and attendance. When AA teams enter District, Regional, and State tournament play, goaltending decisions are at the head coach's discretion. The coach shall communicate the rationale for postseason goaltending decisions to both goalies and their families before the first postseason game.

Goalies at Bantam/Peewee/12U/15U B level and below, and all Squirt/10U levels, shall receive equal playing time over the season if rostering multiple goaltenders.

Playing Time Concerns

1. If concerns arise about adherence to this policy, players or parents should first discuss the issue with the head coach (observing the 24-hour rule).
2. If concerns remain, contact the Age-Level Coordinator.
3. If unresolved, the matter shall be escalated to the HOC, who has authority to review game sheets, conduct interviews, and impose corrective action up to and including coaching reassignment.

Practice-to-Game Ratio

STMAYHA targets a 3:1 practice-to-game ratio across all travel levels. Actual ratios may vary based on ice availability, tournament schedules, and season length. The HOC, under the direction of the Executive Hockey Director, shall design the season schedule to prioritize skill development through practice.

Shared Practices

To promote cross-team development and maximize ice utilization, the Executive Hockey Director shall establish annual shared practice targets by age level, accounting for ice availability, team count, and schedule constraints. Shared practice targets shall be published before the start of each season. The HOC shall coordinate shared practice schedules.