



Everest Youth Hockey

Squirt Transition Guide

This guide provides a high-level overview of what parents and skaters can expect when transitioning to the Squirt level. Once teams are selected, parents and skaters will receive detailed information from their team coaches and manager. For questions regarding the information in this guide, contact the EYH Director of Hockey at doh.eyh@gmail.com.

Squirt Team Expectations

For all EYH levels, the main goal is to ensure the skaters HAVE FUN! The Squirt level also focuses on:

- Learning and developing fundamental skill growth (edgework, passing, stick handling, transitions, skating with the puck, etc.).
- Learning and developing team play concepts (offsides, icing, zone entry, defensive zone coverage, puck support, fore-checking, center/wing/defense positioning, line changes, etc.).
- Display excellent sportsmanship on and off the ice.
- Support coaches, parents, and other teammates.

Skater Commitment

Skaters are playing on a formalized team for the first time and commitment to the team, practices and games is expected. It is understood that skater health, family, school and religion are more important than hockey and always come first. That said, if the skater must miss a practice or game, he/she should contact their coach with as much advance notice as possible regarding their absence. EYH encourages the skater to contact the coach him or herself, as this teaches responsibility.

- Excused absences
 - Sickness or injury
 - Family matters (death in the family, etc.)
 - School work or school functions
 - Religious functions
 - Other situations at the coach's discretion

Team Conduct

Skaters, coaches, and parents alike represent EYH on and off the ice, at home and at away events. Always be on your best behavior and leave places better than you found them. Respect the opponents, coaches, skaters, referees, and arena staff, and refrain from using inappropriate language.

Parents will be responsible to work during home games. The home team parents must run the score clock, complete the score sheet, and man the penalty boxes. Team managers will put parents into a rotation and everyone is expected to work their assigned shift roles. There will be opportunity to be trained on the responsibilities for each of these roles, prior to being assigned the task.

Section 7D of our EYH Policy Manual describes the "24 Hour Rule", which EYH adheres to. Briefly, this means that parents/guardians are not allowed to confront a coach, team or league official to discuss any "negative" game or practice situation with the coaching and management staff until at least 24 hours has passed from the completion of the



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game or practice. A confrontation shall consist of any conversation, which is elevated from a normal speaking tone and demeanor to one which involves yelling, profanity or derogatory comments toward said coach, team or league official.

Number of Squirt Teams

The number of Squirt teams that EYH rosters will depend on the number of skaters that are enrolled each year. EYH determines the number of teams based on these guidelines:

- USA Hockey recommends 11-14 skaters per team. However, based on overall squirt numbers, this guideline may be adjusted.
 - This ensures that skaters receive enough ice time during games to apply the skills learned through practices.
 - Exceptions to skater numbers may occur at the direction of the EYH Hockey Operations Committee (HOC) and with EYH Board approval.
- Per Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association (WAHA) rules, if EYH has enough skaters to fill three teams, EYH must register teams in all three levels (A, B and C).
 - If EYH has more than three teams, the board may register additional teams at any level they choose.

Tryouts, Team Selections and Evaluations/Skills Assessments

Tryouts

At the beginning of the season, tryouts dates will be determined. Tryouts will be conducted over several days led by the squirt coaching group with the assistance of the HOC. Tryouts consist of assessing each skater's "on ice" skating skills, shooting, passing, puck skills, defense, and hockey IQ. "Off ice" assessments will be ongoing by the squirt coaching staff and will focus on coachability, leadership, and character to ensure that we place each skater in the space ideally suited for them both on and off the ice. Tryouts are for team placement only as EYH does not cut skaters from the program. All skaters who complete tryouts are placed on a team.

Team Selections

The results of the tryouts determine the skaters team placement (Squirt A, Squirt B, Squirt C, etc.). Team placements will be emailed and posted on the EYH website 24 hours after tryout completion. Once a skater is placed on a team, they remain on that team for the entire season, regardless of individual skill improvement, unless a roster spot is voided that requires reallocation of skaters. The goal is to create a unified team that works together the entire season.

Additionally, each team requires at least one goalie. This position can be shared across 2-3 skaters, or throughout the entire team.

After team placements, two meetings will be held:

- The "all parent meeting" introduces team coaches and managers, discusses team rules, game day expectations, and code of conduct, and answers any outstanding questions.
- The "all player meeting" outlines skater expectations and includes some of the same content as the parents meeting.



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Practices, Games, Tournaments, Playdowns and State Tournament

The Squirt level plays on full ice with 5 skaters and a goalie, playing three 12-minute periods, and officiated by two USA Hockey registered on-ice officials.

Practices

The majority of practices combine all Squirt skaters to achieve a one team approach, regardless of level. There may also be times that warrant individual Squirt levels to offer team-specific practices.

In addition to on-ice practices, Squirt skaters may participate in dry land training and classroom video learning sessions to round out development.

Regulation Games

Regulation games are played against teams of like ability whenever possible, such as WAHA teams of the same level (WI 2A vs WI 2A). There may be times when we play up against Division 1 teams or down against Division 3 or 4 teams. Our objective is to play primarily against Division 2 WAHA opponents.

- Each team will play approximately 22-24 regular season games.
- Coaches, Team Managers, and our EYH scheduler will assist in booking games for each team.
- Game schedules can and will change throughout the season as needs arise.

Tournaments

Each Squirt team plays in 2-3 regular season tournaments. Coaches and Team Managers will review tournaments and select the tournaments that best fit the development level of the team attending. Overnight stays may be necessary depending on the tournament location, and Friday afternoon/evening tournament starts are very normal.

During tournaments, through USA hockey, skaters have the opportunity to earn patches for specific tournament play. These are typically handed out during the medal/award distribution.

- Hat Trick Patch: Skater had 3 or more goals in one game.
- Play Maker Patch: Skater had 3 or more assists in one game.
- Zero Club Patch: Goaltender earned a shutout/no goals scored on them, provided the other team had at least 10 shots on goal in that particular game.

Playdowns and State Tournament

Regardless of the team's regulation season and tournament record, each Squirt team will participate in Playdowns (playoffs to go to State Tournament) in February. Playdown teams are grouped by WAHA Region, Division and team level. EYH is Region 2, Division 2. Each Squirt team participates in their own level Playdown bracket. The games are held at different rinks within the region. The winner of each Playdown bracket advances to the State Tournament.

Similar to Playdowns, State Tournament brackets are grouped by Division and team level. State Tournament games are held in early March. The dates and locations vary for each level.

To learn more about WAHA, regions, divisions, playdowns and state locations, visit www.wahahockey.com.