

CAHA Draft Procedures

CAHA will adhere to the approved MAHA District 7 draft policies as defined below. CAHA is responsible for verifying draft procedures on the official start of the season per MAHA District 7 website.

D-7 Draft Procedures for House (B) Teams

Purpose

The purpose of the unified draft of house teams and players is to produce fair and equitable teams for house and league play. This process is designed to minimize the potential ability to manipulate the placement of players in order to gain an advantage of more skilled players on one team than another. Associations failing to comply with these Draft Procedures can be determined ineligible for District and State playoff participation.

Responsibilities

The President of each Association is responsible for the conduct of all draft skates and the house team drafts. The Association President may delegate all or part of the draft skate administration to an appropriate representative as may be determined in each Associations' approved by-laws, and in doing so shall notify the District 7 Chair or a Director of this assignment. In cases where person responsible as determined by the Associations By-Laws do not possess experience with the draft process, the Association President can seek assistance from other individuals who have been involved with the process before to aid in the administration of the drafts. The Association should consider naming a Draft Chairperson responsible for assembling all scores and ratings and keep all records before, during and after the draft incase of an audit as mat be deemed necessary by the District Directors.

Coaching Selection

Based upon the number of players registered in each division, the Association will determine the number of teams in each division. The process for selecting and approving head coaches is at the sole discretion of each Association as outlined in the by-laws and or policy.

Draft Skates - administration

Each Association shall determine the number draft skates for each age division, but at a minimum shall hold one.

The players are to be grouped as first and second year players within their division, and must skate within their age group at the draft skate (e.g., all players with 1995 birthdays must skate with the other players with 1995 birthdays).

The draft skates are to be scheduled as soon as practical after registration, and notice will be given prior to all registered players as soon as the schedule is set. It is suggested that the dates for all the draft skates be scheduled prior to final registration night, and be given to all registering players on the night of registration

Draft skates – on the ice

A draft skate plan should be developed for all draft skates prior to the first session, and be presented to all head coaches so they are aware of what they will be seeing. All participants skating for the draft should be marked in such a manner as to be easily identified from a distance.

The head coaches sit separately from the parents, players and bench area so as not to be interfered with during the evaluation process. The head coaches are given a blind listing of the player numbers and the areas upon which the players are to be evaluated.

Player protection may be allowed by each Association and shall comply with each specific Association and MAHA By-Laws as appropriate for the specific season. Any changes in the current MAHA By-Laws shall be adhered to.

Within their appropriate division, skaters will be confidentially rated 1-5, with five (5) being the most skilled. This will be accomplished by having the skaters perform skating drills. When age appropriate, scrimmages will be part of the evaluation skate. Coaches planning to coach that division will be invited to be evaluators. Coaches will be given a list of skaters and will rate each skater and/or goalie, 1-5 using whole numbers. If a head coach happens to be evaluating a group with his/her protected player, or his/her son or daughter, his /her opinion will not be used to determine this players rating. At the end of evaluations, rating sheets will be signed by the evaluating coach and given to the director in charge. The ratings for each skater/goalie will be determined by totaling and averaging these ratings (4's and lower will round down, 5's and higher will round up.) The director in charge will assign the final rating. Final ratings will then be transferred to the backside of an index card that has the players' name on the front along with the division and age group of the skater. These ratings will be used to help disperse talent as teams are drafted. The director in charge will evaluate skaters or assign someone in cases where less than three (3) coaches are available to attend evaluations. Goalies will be evaluated as well but will be drafted separately to insure one team doesn't end up with multiple goalies and other teams without any.

There should be individuals to skate on the ice and provide instruction and direction to players during the draft skate. It is strongly recommended that the head coaches DO NOT run the draft skates from on the ice.

Sufficient different activities should be demonstrated during the draft skates so that the coaches have a reasonable basis upon which to rate the players. This will normally include different drills, small ice scrimmages and large ice scrimmages to show all skills being evaluated. A draft skate plan is essential for this to be accomplished. Similar plans should be used for both the first and second year player.

Compiling the ratings

During the final draft skate the coaches should be encouraged to come to a composite rating on each player's skill. This rating should be expressed as an integer (whole number) between 1 and 5. Each coach should determine a composite rating for each player separately. Then all the coaches need to decide upon a combined rating for each player. This rating should also be an integer between 1 and 5. This is the agreed upon rating to be used later.

The ratings should reflect the skill levels of the individual players within the group of total players presented. Rating only a few players as 1, a few as 10, and everyone else as a 5 is not an acceptable distribution of ratings.

CRITICAL – it should be stressed to all coaches and draft personnel that the ratings are very confidential and should not be discussed with any parent, player or other individual not directly involved with the draft process. The ratings should never be left out where they might be casually seen by anyone. Anyone inquiring as to their specific rating should be told that the ratings are not discussed with anyone.

If a player did not attend any of the draft skates, the division rep should contact that player to determine their interest in playing. The player's prior year or spring league rating should be used in the draft cards. The coaches should be made aware of any player included in the process that did not attend a draft skate, so that the players rating can be closely identified and evaluated.

Assembling the draft cards

After the consensus rating is determined for all players, the draft cards need to be prepared. The players name, and any "special requests, ride requests, brother/brother pairings, sponsor child" or other notes are written on the side of a card bearing the players name. On the reverse side of the card the player's draft number, first or second year player and consensus rating should be written prominently (Write it with a large magic marker for easy reading later). Since the person preparing the draft cards will have access to both the player's names and ratings, the cards should be prepared by someone who will NOT be a head coach for one of the teams. Ideally, the draft cards will be prepared in advance and brought completed to the draft night in order to reduce the amount of time spent on draft night.

Draft Time

The drafts must be attended by the Association President, the Vice President, or MAHA District Council Representative. District 7 highly recommends that only those involved in the draft, head coaches and President or District 7 Representative be present in the room.

Stress at the beginning of the draft process that the drafts are very sensitive and confidential. Anything discussed regarding specific players at the draft must stay within the confines of the draft room, and not be repeated afterwards.

The cards are collected by the draft and grouped first by year (first or second year player) and rating (all ones together, all twos together, etc...). This effective "reblinds" the draft process.

The draft coordinator will then distribute the draft cards into the appropriate number of piles, with each pile representing a team. The distribution is made using the rating side of the cards only. Start with the first year players draft cards. Efforts should be made to insure a fair and equal distribution of all draft cards. It is recommended that sorting the cards left to right, OR, right to left, until all cards for a given year are distributed create the piles. The total number of points for each team, and the average number of points (total points divided by number of players) for team pile is determined, and efforts are made to try and get each pile as arithmetically close as possible for all the first years players.

Then repeat the card distribution and score balancing process for the second year players.

The draft cards should NOT be turned over (unblinded) at this point.

The total rating for each team is arrived at by adding the rating numbers for each team. Then determine the average rating for each team by dividing the total rating for the team by the number of players on that team. Trades of cards may be made at this point to achieve a balance in the totals and average rating for each team. The main point to be emphasized at this point is a balance in total and average scores, considering the distribution of first and second year players.

Once the best possible balance has been achieved, the draft cards are then turned over and the head coaches child(ren) are located within the piles. Each coach gets his or her own child automatically, unless the coach declines that option. If two coach's children wind up in the same pile as a result of this first distribution of the cards, then a player of the same year and rating can be traded from another pile to separate all head coaches children. Only one player can be reserved in this fashion. NOTE that under the USA hockey draft rules this represents the sole reservation that can be made of a player on a team in a house B league. This card should be kept separate from the rest of the pile (it is assumed that a coach will not want to trade away his/her son/daughter at this point).

Parental requests pertaining to not playing for a specific coach, for transportation reasons or twin sibling reason must be submitted in writing by the parent(s) to the Association prior to the draft. These requests may or may not be honored based on the Association's draft rules, but all requests must be administered on a consistent basis.

Each team should be assigned one sponsor. If the Association allows for the assignment of a Sponsors child to be assigned to that specific team, then the children of sponsors shall be identified. The person delegated by the Associations By-Laws or policies should be called upon to identify the sponsor's children (if this has not already been done). In cases where a team has received two sponsors, a trade should be made with another team for a player of equal age (first or second year) and rating.

Once all the sponsors' children have been separated, siblings are considered.

Next, players from the same family (brothers) are identified, and attempts should be made to trade equal players between teams so that brothers are placed on the same team.

After coach's children, sponsors children and siblings have been considered; each team's total and average rating should be recalculated to make sure that the teams are still balanced.

At this point, the people conducting the drafts acting collectively may choose to grant other parent or player requests, such as assistant coaches, ride requests, or other special requests. The specific guidelines for considering special requests was approved by the house board during their March 2002 meeting. (in writing, signed by both sets of parents, reasonable, etc)

All efforts should be considered at this point to maintain the balance between the teams in total and average ratings. Trades should be made as necessary to keep all teams as "equal" as possible. Recalculate the totals and averages after all trades are made, and continue trades until an agreed upon balance is achieved.

Carefully collect the cards by pile. Each pile now represents a team. The house vice president and division representative should confirm the date and time of the parent player meeting with the coaches, and be sure that all coaches (or their representatives) will be at the parent player meeting to introduce their team.

All draft card piles (teams) are collected and forwarded to the administrative assistant to prepare the official USA Hockey rosters. The rosters will be signed by the players as determined by the Associations By-Laws or Policies.

Each Association may request a waiver from this policy in writing to the District 7 Chair at least sixty days prior to the draft date. A waiver may or may not be given for cause.