**1.0 Overview Section**

**1.1 Purpose:**

The purpose of this document is to assure a consistent method for establishing teams, the number of games, and tryout expectations. WSHA will adhere to a consistent, fair, and equitable system for forming teams, allowing players to evaluate and explore their options, and committing players to teams that suit their level of play and need for development.

**1.2 Scope:**

This policy applies to all teams and levels of the WSHA

**1.3 Implementation:**

Implementation is in accordance with *Effective by Date*

**1.4 Responsibilities:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Association Members (Parents & Volunteers) | Discuss issues or concerns with immediate team manager. Work to resolve issues with their coach as they arise or the coaches committee |
| Coaches | Be aware of this policy and work with coaches committee and parent to resolve issues |
| Parent Rep | Advise parents/volunteers of this policy; be open to discuss issues and concerns and work to resolve in a timely manner |
| Board Members | Advise parents/volunteers of this policy; be open to discuss issues and concerns and work to resolve in a timely manner |
| Registrar | Ensure all parents review at time of registration. |

**1.5 Rationale:**

This policy recognizes that it is necessary to provide a consistent approach for tryouts so that all teams and players may have opportunities to evaluate and explore all choices.

**2.0 General Policy Statement**

It is WSHA requirement that all teams are established fairly. Teams are formed following [WAHA hockey](https://scripts.wahahockey.com/scripts/WAHABook/2022/2022%20Final%20WAHA%20Guidebook.pdf) . The size of the team follows USA Hockey maximum. All skaters must be WSHA skaters. Any exceptions to boundaries shall follow WAHA guidelines.

**2.1 Procedure**

**2.1 Number of Games –**

* Mite Level
  + Optional participation in Jamborees with area associations
  + Recommend 16-20 cross-ice games
    - Mites CANNOT play full ice per WAHA rule.
* Squirt Level Recommendations:
  + One home tournament, one away tournament $ )
  + 20 – 25 games
* Peewee Level
  + One home tournament, one away tournament
  + 30-35 total games (maximum)

* Bantam Level
  + One home tournament, one away tournament
  + 30 - 40 total games (maximum)

**2.2 Skate Ups/Players moving up**

Requests to play up a level may be submitted to the coaching committee and Board of Directors The Coaches Committee will review requests. Decisions for players moving up will be based on the following criteria, following [WAHA hockey guidelines](https://scripts.wahahockey.com/scripts/WAHABook/2022/2022%20Final%20WAHA%20Guidebook.pdf):

1. Team sizes
2. Player age and ability
3. Player maturity and attitude
4. Must be a second year of age skater of that level to be eligible.
5. Individual cases will be considered, and voted on, by the Board of Directors
6. Board, Parents, Head Coaches and Coaches Committee will discuss individual situations if needed

**2.3 Teams and Tryouts Teams**

All teams shall be grouped according to the player’s age as determined by [WAHA hockey guidelines](https://scripts.wahahockey.com/scripts/WAHABook/2022/2022%20Final%20WAHA%20Guidebook.pdf). Age is determined by the player’s age beginning Jan.1 of the given year, i.e., if the player turns 9 Dec. 31, he/she will be required to move up to Squirts. Each player is required to provide proof of age in the form of presenting an original birth certificate with the raised/stamped seal from his/her birth state and completed notarized “Annotation of Birth Facts Form.” Prior to the first scheduled game this paperwork must be turned in. Failure to do so will result in the player sitting out games until proper documentation is received.

Team Names and Ages:

Mites—First year skaters, or anyone under age 8 before Dec. 31

Squirts—Under age 10 before Dec. 31

Pee Wee—Under age 12 before Dec. 31

Bantams—Under age 14 before Dec. 31

Players may play in an age group above his/her level, NOT BELOW. Skate ups will follow [WAHA hockey guidelines](https://scripts.wahahockey.com/scripts/WAHABook/2022/2022%20Final%20WAHA%20Guidebook.pdf). First year players can play at the mite age level if it is their first year playing hockey. Another exception may be considered for a player with a doctor’s note, WSHA Board Approval, parental written request, and proper USA Hockey authorization. The coaches committee has the responsibility to put players in the appropriate grouping.

**2.4 Non-Association Players**

Recognizing that each association in our league builds its membership by recruiting players from within their WAHA certified boundaries, WSHA commits that it will:

1. Not accept players from outside of WAHA certified boundaries unless appropriate procedures for exceptions are followed and approved. Skaters who have an association to skate with within their jurisdiction can only

join if they have a release in writing from the President of their “home” association, meets WAHA guidelines and policies and has been approved from WSHA Board of Directors.

1. Nor shall we release players from within our own boundaries to skate for other associations unless special circumstances apply. Any player who requests release or acceptance shall present their situation to the WSHA Board of Directors. Any release or acceptance must be granted by two-thirds majority vote by the Board. The release must meet further conditions set by the league.
2. In specific situations where skaters have no association team within their community, WSHA may allow on an individual basis, with acceptance from the Board.

**2.5 Tryout Procedures –**

Prior to team tryouts, players will be given the opportunity to participate in a pre-tryout practice.

The coaches committee will organize and communicate tryout procedures. The coaches committee will appoint a selection committee that will judge at tryouts and address any ties, if necessary. The selection committee will include qualified third-party judges. A third-party judge is defined as someone who is not related to anyone being evaluated within WSHA. The selection committee will use a grading scale to evaluate players. The coaching committee will tabulate the tryout results. Players wishing to tryout for the goalie position should communicate accordingly.

No parent of any skater shall be involved in any aspect of his/her child’s try out. All player names should be withheld during conversations and be referred to by numbers only.

Everyone is able to view the blank evaluation form prior to tryouts. However, once the tryouts have begun and the forms have been written on, they are not to be viewed by anyone other than the selection committee and the coaching committee. Parents do not have the right to see their players’ evaluation.

**2.6 Practices**

Players are expected to attend all practices on time and be ready to work. Illnesses, school functions, etc. are excused absences. Contact the coach or RSVP accordingly on SportsEngine for practices. Individual coaches will determine a policy for their own team to deal with late arrivals, misbehaviors and unexcused absences.

**2.7 Use of Tobacco, Alcohol or other Drugs**

Any use of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs will not be tolerated. Appropriate disciplinary actions will follow the problem solving and grievance policy.

**2.8 Player Responsibility**

1. Hockey should be fun!
2. If you want your opponent to respect you, it is important that you respect them.
3. Team efforts are more important than individual efforts. Your team will be more successful if you work toward one common goal together.
4. Once the referee has made a decision, you are required to respect that decision. You may not use any verbal criticism or gesture that implies disrespect.
5. The rules of the game are designed to allow the game to be played. When they are violated, the game is in danger. Do not forget that most of the people out on the ice with you are volunteering their time—appreciate it! Do not take it for granted.
6. Winning is fun and should be celebrated as long as there is no disrespect directed at the opposing team.
7. Swearing, vandalism, inappropriate language, or gestures will not be tolerated.
8. Attendance at all practices and games is expected. You must notify your coach or team manager if you are going to miss.
9. Treat everyone fairly no matter gender, color, ethnicity, religion, or economic status.
10. Abstain from the use of tobacco, alcohol, or performance enhancing drugs.
11. Regularly seek ways of increasing your athletic development and self-awareness.
12. Participate in a manner that ensures safety of athletes, coaches, and officials.
13. Respect other athlete’s dignity—verbal, or physical behaviors that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable.
14. Refer to Facility Policy for cell phone usage in the locker room.

**2.9 Actions that require immediate disciplinary action**

1. Any instigating or fighting during games or any hockey related event.
2. Any use of the stick with the intent to harm or injure another player.
3. Any use of alcohol or drugs while a member of WSHA during hockey season.
4. Use of vulgarity in language, gestures, or insinuations of any kind.
5. Disrespect shown to any coach, referee or player.
6. All WSHA disciplinary actions will be IN ADDITION to WAHA actions.
7. Locker room violation

**2.1****0 Disciplinary Actions Step**

See Problem Solving and Grievance Policy for disciplinary action steps.

At any point if a skater is involved in a major altercation, Coaches have the right to impose immediate suspension followed by a WSHA Board review. Parents do have the right to bring any questions regarding a disciplinary action taken by the coach to the Board.

Repeat offenders will be subject to enhanced and/or expedited discipline by the WSHA Board, including the possible removal from the Association. If enhanced and/or expedited disciplinary action is required a meeting will be scheduled with members of the WSHA Board, the Player and/or Parents involved in the incident.

**3.0 Document Information**

**3.1 Reference Documents**

Problem Solving and Grievance Policy

**3.2 Distribution**

Parents at the time of registration. All WSHA members, as available on the association website.

**End of document.**