

Santa Rosa Junior Hockey Club Team Formation Guidelines – Updated 2008

Philosophy

To create a positive, team sport environment where all players are provided an opportunity to further develop their hockey skills; to instill a life long love for the sport; to promote teamwork personal growth; to ensure that all players are treated fairly, respectfully and as individuals.

Registration

- Players must register with the Club prior to attending a tryout session.
- Players registering after tryouts will be evaluated by the coaches and placed appropriately if space is available.

Tryouts and Player Selection

- To properly place players on an appropriate team, the Club will hold tryouts prior to team formation.
- All players will tryout in their age division (exceptions must be approved by the ACE Coordinator).
- Tryouts consist of hockey skills and game situation evaluation.
- Players not available for tryouts should coordinate an alternative evaluation with the head coach prior to player selections.
- Player selections will be based on a combination of factors including the players' skill level, effort, attitude and safety.
- Club members who played on a travel team the previous year do not have priority over incoming new members when players are selected. Players are evaluated on their displayed skill level during tryouts and not on their previous team placement.
- Players who are not selected for a travel team may play in the House Program or consider playing for another NORCAL club.
- The coaches running tryouts, and others assisting the coaches during tryouts, will make player selections. Coaches are required to discuss their selections with the ACE Coordinator prior to notifying players.
- Parent-coaches are discouraged from influencing the selection decision for their children to help insure an unbiased and merit-based selection process.
- The Club shall make every effort to notify players of team selections within 72 hours after the last day of tryouts.

Team Formation

- "A" teams are typically more competitive and are comprised of higher skilled players. Coaches are less likely to select players who need basic skills development for an A team.
- "B" teams are typically focused more on player development. Coaches are more likely to select players who need skills development at the B level if all other issues, including player safety, are not a concern.
- Within each age division, the head coach of the A team will notify the players they select first. The head coach of the B team will notify all other players following the A team player notifications. If there is only a single team in an age division, the head coach of that team will notify all players of player selections.
- If there are 2 or more A teams or two or more B teams in an age division, those

teams will be formed in the same manner as if there were an A and a B team: the first team ("A1" or "B1") head coach would make their player selections first, followed by the second team's head coach ("A2" or "B2") notifying all the remaining players of player selections.

- If an A team and a B team are formed in one age division, and following completion of the pre-season games the A team is moved down to the B level, or the B team is moved up to the A level, the teams will be stay together as originally formed; no re-distribution of players between teams will occur.

Team Declaration and Final Determination

- Club decisions regarding the number of teams and team level declarations will be based on the number and makeup of players trying out.
- Although the Club may declare to NORCAL that a team will play A or B, the final determination of team level is made by NORCAL based on preseason performance.
- At the conclusion of the preseason games, NORCAL will hold a Competition Committee Meeting to determine the A and B teams in each age division. Teams are allowed the opportunity to request to play at the A level. Attendees at the Competition Committee meeting include Club Presidents, ACE Coordinators, the NORCAL Executive Board and the NORCAL General Manager.

Player Movement

- NORCAL prohibits 1st year players in an age division from "playing-up" to the next highest age division. 2nd year players are allowed to play-up to the next highest age division. Special consideration will be given to allowing goalies to play-up in cases where a team at the higher age division does not have enough goalies to allow a team to be formed. Midget level is considered one age division within CAHA.
- CAHA and USA Hockey Rules prohibit players from playing down an age division under all circumstances.
- Requests to play-up must be presented in writing to the ACE Coordinator prior to tryouts accompanied by the required NORCAL request form (available on the NORCAL website). The request should contain appropriate examples of the players playing experience that would support the request, and the signature of the player and both parents.
- The head coaches of the player's age division and the play-up age division, and the ACE Coordinator evaluate requests. The requesting player may be allowed to attend tryouts of the play-up age division both head coaches are in agreement. If both head coaches cannot reach a decision, the ACE Coordinator will make the final decision. The ACE Coordinator will contact the player if approval is given to tryout at a higher age division.
- If a play-up situation is allowed, the player allowed to play-up will be given the opportunity to compete for a position on any team being formed at the higher aged division; a player playing-up is not automatically delegated to the B team at the higher level.
- Player-initiated requests to change teams after team formation is completed are discouraged. The ACE Coordinator must approve all such requests.
- At the conclusion of pre-season games, a head coach may choose to move a player down to a lower level for the season based on that player's pre-season play. Further, a head coach may also recommend that a player be moved up to

- a higher level based on their pre-season play. The head coaches and the ACE Coordinator have the final decision on all such coach-initiated player movements.
- If a player is selected for an A team and that team is moved down to the B level after the NORCAL Competition Committee Meeting is held, that player is permitted to move to another A team at the same age level at another NORCAL club if a position is open on another team.

Disbanding Teams

- In the unlikely event that a team is disbanded for any reason, no player on that team is guaranteed a spot on any remaining team.
- If a team disbands, the ACE Coordinator, the head coach of any remaining team at the age division and the head coach of the team being disbanded will make any decision on player placement.