

# Onalaska Holmen Tornado Youth Hockey Guidelines and Rules for Tryouts & Team Selection (Revised June 2011)

This document is meant to outline and explain the tryout and team placement process for the Onalaska/Holmen Tornado Youth Hockey Association. The purpose of this document is to maintain and communicate consistency and fairness on an ongoing basis for the Association, its members and its players.

## **I. Forward:**

This document has been prepared by a tryout committee who researched the procedures of numerous other associations both in Wisconsin and in neighboring states. TYH expects its members to understand that the Onalaska/Holmen/La Crosse area is a relatively small and close knit community and that it is impossible to create an evaluation process that is perfect. These guidelines and Rules are meant to ensure the process is as fair and unbiased as can be with the resources available to our Association. These written procedures shall be approved annually and shall be made available to all members prior to the tryout process at registration as well as posted in the rinks during the tryouts in an attempt to be as transparent and fair as possible to all participants.

The age levels for which these guidelines and rules apply are: Squirt, Pee Wee and Bantam.

## **II. Tryout Details and Logistics:**

### **Who:**

- 5 evaluators and 1 or 2 alternates will be present for each age level tryout
- Evaluators will be classroom “trained” by Coaching Director prior to the tryout sessions on the evaluation form and entire process so that evaluations are consistent.
- Evaluators may or may not be paid a nominal stipend

### **When:**

- There will be 4-8 optional practices offered to skaters prior to tryouts where coaches will be present to work on skills that will be evaluated
- Tryouts will consist of at least 2 sessions

### **How:**

- Age Level Representatives will check in skaters at tryouts
- Tryout jersey's color and number will be issued to each player
- Players will be lined up on the ice in front of evaluators with backs facing with jersey #s showing in numerical order and will go through all drills in the same numerical order.
- Drills will be run on the ice to evaluate skill assessment

- Evaluation forms will be given to evaluators. Sheet (numerical listing will be provided to each Evaluator. Names will not be a part of the identification process.
- Tryouts will be closed to spectators, however spectators are welcome to attend pre-tryout practices
- 1<sup>st</sup> Day = skills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Day = skills/small games and 3<sup>rd</sup> Day will be used for scrimmage, skills and small games for “bubble” skaters returning for another evaluation
- Evaluators may request specific skaters to run additional drills, short area games or have more time during the scrimmage to better evaluate. Some skaters may be asked to not participate as frequently as others during the scrimmage or small area games.
- Numbers will be totaled and retained Friday by Coaching Director, Tryout Coordinators and President. These numbers will then be used to create lines of comparable talent for the scrimmages on Saturday. This will assure the skaters of the most accurate representation to their peers
- Squirts/Pee Wees /Bantams will be weighted 30% scrimmage, 30% small games and 40% skills
- Goalies will be evaluated and ranked by utilizing the Goalie Skills Evaluation form and by observing their performances during the regular skater tryout 5x5 scrimmages. All players up through Squirt A must “make the team” as a regular skater before he or she can make that team as a goalie.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year skaters at an age level will be given priority for A and B teams if there is an exact tie score between skaters. For example: 2<sup>nd</sup> year skater scores 12 and 1st year scores 12, 2<sup>nd</sup> year skater would be assigned to the higher level team.
- If two or more skaters of the same birth year are tied in their scores after the last tryout session, the final decision on team placement will be made by the respective coaches for the teams involved.

Notes:

- Parent coaches cannot evaluate the age level that their son/daughter is trying out for
- Document with dates and times and this policy to be included in registration packet
- Parents are allowed to request their own skaters evaluation but no other skaters evaluations will be shared
- Skaters who choose to not try out will be placed on the lowest team for their age level

**III. Selection Committees and Evaluator Selection Rules:**

Each age level will have a Selection Committee consisting of the Coaching Director, a Tryout Coordinator and 5 evaluators

Each age level will have a specific list of drills and/or skills to be evaluated with appropriate grading instructions for the desired focus of each drill/skill. Examples of grading to be used, on a scale of 1 to 5 for each

drill/skill, will be provided and explained to each evaluator in a classroom setting prior to the tryouts to achieve consistency.

*Attachments 1= Bantams drill/skills 2= Pee Wee drills/skills 3=Squirts drills/skills*

Evaluators will be recommended by TYH board members, Coaching Director, coaches and other knowledgeable sources and they will be assigned and approved by the Coaching Director and the TYH Board of Directors. Every effort will be made to include at least one evaluator at each age level who is from an outside association and who has had minimum contact with any players involved in the process. It is understood that given the popularity of the sport and the number of outside schools, camps and recreational leagues utilized by our players, finding qualified evaluators who have never seen one or more of our players could be nearly impossible. However, TYH will make its best effort to recruit unbiased evaluators who pledge to base scoring on the player's performance during tryouts.

Evaluators will be seated in the stands or other suitable location as close to center ice as possible to afford an equal and unobstructed view of activities at both ends of the rink. Evaluators will not be seated together and should not communicate with each other during the tryout process and will base scoring on their own personal evaluations of that particular session's performance.

Coaching Director, Tryout Coordinator and Evaluators should not discuss the tryout process or the success of skaters during the tryout process and shall avoid any contact or communication with parents of skaters or the skaters themselves during the entire process. Evaluators may give feedback to the Coaching Director and Tryout Coordinator regarding particular skaters after the tryout process is complete but it is recommended that they not communicate directly with parents of skaters and that communication with parents shall be made only by the Coaching Director.

The initial registration numbers shall be reviewed by the Coaching Director and Tryout Coordinators as well as the Board of Directors to determine the number of teams that will be created at each playing level for the season. The number of teams will be based upon the number of skaters at each playing level. Team sizes will be equal taking into account registration numbers.

The number of players for a team at each level will be determined at the when registration and tryouts are completed. A firm team number cannot be set prior to tryouts due to consideration of skill levels of players during the tryout process and possible skill level drop off. The TYH Handbook offers guidelines for team numbers and a final decision regarding the number of players on a team will be made by Coaching Director and President of the Association, after concurring with the evaluators.

(Bantam numbers will not be determined until after high school tryouts are complete and their team is announced).

The Coaching Director and Tryout Committee will establish a time table for tryouts prior to the start of the process and the timetable will be followed without deviation through to the completion of the entire process. Changes to the tryout timetable may be made by the Coaching Director and the President of the Association under extenuating circumstances.

**IV. Scoring:**

Pens will be used. One score should be recorded for each skater for each turn at a drill/skill. There will be space provided for up to three turns at each drill/skill and Evaluators should not scribble out or change any grade unless a brief description of the reason for the change is given in writing. The object is to get unbiased evaluations of the skater skills and abilities without consideration of outside influences. If an Evaluator does not have three grades for each skater, he/she will ask the Coaching Director to have that numbered skater run the drill/skill again prior to the on ice coordinator moving on to the next drill/skill.

Any communication deemed necessary during the tryout process should be directed to the Coaching Director or President and not to any evaluator or coach.

Skaters who choose to participate in the tryout process will be deemed in full health and no allowances will be made for any illness or injury once tryouts begin. See TYH Handbook for details in these circumstances.

**V. Grading Skaters:**

After the last drill/skill of the session, Coaching Director, Tryout Coordinator some members of the Tryout Committee will immediately collect score sheets from evaluators. The Coaching Director and Tryout Coordinators and some Tryout Committee Members will then input the collected data into a excel spreadsheet to determine each skater's final score and ranking.