

- Emphasis is on having fun, skill development, focusing on skating, passing and shooting/scoring. Sometimes you have to work hard to have fun.
- Develop hockey IQ and advance their hockey sense. Players will be selected to play certain positions at regular intervals, players will still be expected to play multiple positions and the teaching of concepts will be stressed, rather than systems with an objective of developing, among other things, “read and react” instincts, best practice puck decisions and creativity.
- Lines/positions. Typically there are two or three significant adjustments to lines/positions during the course of the season. What is an anticipated player’s primary positional assignment is based on assessments of: (1) player tendencies and strengths and (2) team needs (both short- and long-term); however, players will be encouraged to try positions outside of their comfort zone.
- Goalies typically own their game and will not split a game. It is anticipated that goalies will alternate games. Decisions as to which goalie plays certain games is left to the coaching staff’s discretion and is likely to be dependent upon game situations (e.g., League or tournament game vs. exhibition).
- **Big Team little me.** Those who play for their team and make their teammates better and not for themselves will excel. I try for equal ice time and when I cannot achieve that goal then I strive for fair allocation of ice time. A primary emphasis is placed on EFFORT and TEAM above individual achievement and so, players can expect to earn ice time by consistently demonstrating traits that mirror those points of emphases.
- **PP/PK and final minutes.** Absent unique game situations each line should be able to execute a PP. Coaches will decide who is on the PK with the goal of getting every player out on the ice without missing a full shift in rotation. The final 3-5 minutes of a game are subject to coach’s discretion. The type of game (e.g., League or tournament game vs. exhibition) dictates different calls.
- Multisport athletes are an asset. Hockey teams in hockey states don’t start until late Fall. Players should finish their Fall sports. Players should play other sports but players are expected to attend (with limited exception), and fully participate in, all practices and games (including team dryland and warmup sessions). During primary hockey months (i.e. mid-November, December, January, February and early March), it is expected that a player’s obligations to his hockey team take precedence over their other activities.
- Initial team meeting will be held shortly after completion of tryouts (early June) to address team/coaching philosophy and season plans and set expectations for the summer and upcoming season.