



2019 - 2020

EVALUATION / PLAYER

GUIDE BOOK

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Welcome

Welcome to another year of Stevens Point Area Youth Hockey (SPAYHA) Ice Hawks hockey. This promises to be another challenging and exciting year to play and watch hockey. This guide is the kick-off of our season with the start of the evaluation process. Although no system of evaluation may be perfect, we hope that by refining our system each year, we can effectively and fairly evaluate all players to the best of their abilities.

There will be pre-evaluation (tune-ups) sessions for skaters from all levels to practice their skills and get their skating legs back prior to the start of the evaluations.

To find your tune-up dates please go to:

<http://www.icehawkshockey.net>

Click on 2019 Fall Tune-ups on the Home page for dates and sign up document.

This guide is intended to inform players and parents of the evaluation process, changes that have been made and what is expected of the skater before the evaluation takes place. Feel free to ask questions. The Evaluation Committee chairperson and co-chair are listed below with their contact information. Good luck to everyone and LET'S PLAY HOCKEY!

Thank you for your support and understanding!
The SPAYHA Evaluation Committee:

Sam Molski (Chairperson) smolski18@yahoo.com 715-340-1903

Jason Schroeder (Co-Chair) jasonschroederuwsp@gmail.com 715-933-4142

SPAYHA Mission Statement

To promote hockey to all skill levels of players, advance the careers of players to high school, college, and beyond, and encourage a lifelong love and dedication to the game through volunteering, coaching, refereeing, and playing by:

- Enriching the lives of all youth interested in the sport of hockey.
- Educating and fostering the fundamentals and development of good hockey skills to become proficient and effective players.
- Demonstrating proper hockey skills and techniques to become valuable team members.
- Encouraging participants to work at fostering better skills each time they are on the ice.
- Insisting upon respect for each and every player and never intentionally cause bodily or emotional harm to any person or player.
- Teaching players respect for the concepts of: sportsmanship, fair play, to take winning and defeat graciously, to abide by referees' decisions, and to love the game.
- Directing an organization of players and parents in the rules of good spectator sportsmanship and the general love of the game.

Finally, SPAYHA believes that ALL players and parents are an equal and important part to the success of OUR organization and that our goal is for everyone to have FUN!

Player Code Of Conduct

Participation on a Stevens Point Area Youth Hockey (SPAYHA) team is a privilege. Players, parents and guardians are representatives of SPAYHA. They are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with good sportsmanship and fair play.

Participation in SPAYHA hockey should be fun for players, parents and fans. Players should work hard to improve their skills, learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline, and respect coaches, teammates, parents, opponents and officials.

A Player **will not:**

- Possess or use alcohol, controlled substances or tobacco products in or around any arena (home or away).
- Use profanity or other abusive language at any time on the ice or in the arena.
- Argue with an official's decision. If there is a question on a call it will come from the coach.
- Carry on a conversation or say anything to an opposing player, parents or officials before, during or after a game.
- Abuse the equipment of any player, including his/her own.
- Abuse the facilities of any arena.
- Haze or be a part of any hazing activities.
- Ignore coaching instructions during practice and/or games

A Player **will:**

- Be on time for practices and games.
- Listen attentively and promptly follow the coaches' instructions.
- Learn the rules and play within them.
- Exercise personal responsibility and self-discipline both on and off the ice.
- Sincerely try to avoid retaliation, fighting and un-sportsman like or misconduct penalties. These types of penalties do not help the team.
- Pick up after themselves and others.

NOTE: High School players, parents and guardians are expected to maintain the same level of commitment to their SPAYHA team, as they would provide to any high school sanctioned event. High school players should be accompanied to games by a parent or guardian. If the game requires an overnight stay, a parent must be responsible for any accommodations. A parent or guardian should not be responsible for more than two (2) high school players for an overnight stay. A high school player cannot act as a guardian for another high school player regardless of the age of the other player.

SANCTIONS: Sanctions are penalties for non-compliance with the specific rules established through this and USA Hockey code. The coaches of the individual player's team will handle most player infractions. Repetitive or severe player infractions will be reviewed by the Executive Committee, which will recommend disciplinary action to the Board or Directors. Violations may result in suspension or dismissal from the team without refund of fees or hours.

Hockey Parents

As parents or guardians we are the most important influence on player attitudes toward the game of hockey and on their behavior. Parents and coaches can work together to demonstrate the philosophy of SPAYHA "to develop the skills of hockey and to promote the growth of each player, encouraging good sportsmanship while having fun."

Above all, if the motivating factor for most children who enter an organized youth sport program is their desire to have fun with a supportive attitude and a fundamental understanding of the "basics" of hockey, everyone will come away from their youth sports experience with a positive feeling.

The degree to which a child benefits from his or her youth hockey experience is as much the parent's responsibility as it is their own. It is important for you to show support and offer encouragement while maintaining a genuine interest in the team.

Be Positive: It is important to allow your children to establish their own goals and play the game for themselves. Be careful not to impose your own standards or objectives. The best way to help children achieve goals and reduce their natural fear of failure is through positive reinforcement. No one likes to make mistakes. If your child does make a mistake, and he/she will (they are kids, remember), keep in mind that mistakes are an important part of the overall learning process. Be supportive and point out the things that they do well. Make your child feel like a winner!

Let the Coach - Coach: Children would rather play for a losing team than ride the bench for a winner. Avoid placing an exaggerated emphasis on winning. Parents are responsible for supporting and respecting the coach's decisions and abilities and it is unfair to put children in the position of having to decide who to listen to - their parents or the coach.

At Practice: For a child to improve, he/she has to practice, not just play games. Practice emphasizes the importance of teamwork, establishing goals, discipline and learning to control your emotions, all of which are important lessons children

can use both in and away from sports. While conflicts are sometimes unavoidable, it is important that your child attend all his/her team practices.

Car and Home: Some parents spoil the fun for their kids in the car, believing that this is the perfect place for instruction. Keep things in perspective. There's more to life than hockey, and the car and home are not the places to coach. The most important aspect of your child's youth hockey experience is for them to have fun while developing physical and emotional skills that will serve them for life. A healthy, risk-free environment that emphasizes the importance of fair play, sportsmanship, discipline and fun will be invaluable for your child as he or she continues to develop a positive self-image.

Classification (Age Groups)

All SPAYHA teams are registered and play under the rules established by USA Hockey. SPAYHA players must play within their level based on their birth year. There are exceptions if player falls under the SPAYHA EVALUATION PROCESS rule number 13.

SQUIRTS: Birth Years 1/1/09 - 12/31/10 (*1/1/11-12/31/11)

1. First, and foremost, to have fun.
2. To demonstrate and incorporate skating skills and stick handling, advance speed and shooting accuracy.
3. Begin to encourage positional play while maintaining play at all positions.
4. Introduce full ice game play and overall team concept.
5. To continue to practice sportsmanship and respect.
6. To increase knowledge of the game and reinforce sportsmanship and fair play.

* 8U aged players wishing to move up and participate at the 10U level must complete the 8U Move-up Request form found on the WAHA website. The form must be submitted to the WAHA 8U section director by November 15th of the current playing season. If a player is granted permission from WAHA, the following SPAYHA rules will still apply. A player will have completed one year of intro to hockey and/or the U8 program. Moving up will be based on registration numbers at the squirt level, coaching committee input, and parent request during registration. In the end, the Board will evaluate U8 major aged players (born between 01/01/2011-12/31/2011) for approval to be allowed to participate in Squirt evaluations. Decisions will be based first on needs at the Squirt level and then individual player development. Skaters that are approved by the Board will be allowed to participate in the Squirt level evaluations and will follow the rules put in place per WAHA, which can be found on the 'U8 Player Request to Move up' form located on the WAHA website.

PEE WEE: Birth Years 1/1/07 – 12/31/08

1. First, and foremost, to have fun.
2. To refine skating skills, stick handling, speed and shooting accuracy into game play.
3. To demonstrate positional techniques at all positions.
4. Begin to acknowledge your preference for position (offense or defense).
5. To incorporate and execute more extensive game plans.
6. To increase knowledge of the game and reinforce sportsmanship and fair play.

BANTAMS: Birth Years 1/1/05 – 12/31/06

Midget/High School: Birth Years 1/1/2001 – 12/31/04

1. First, and foremost, to have fun.
2. To advance skating skills, stick handling, speed and accuracy.
3. To develop advanced game plans and game play.
4. To increase knowledge of the game and reinforce sportsmanship and fair play.
5. Prepare for future challenges of hockey.
6. Instill lifelong love and commitment to the sport of hockey, i.e. Coaching, officiating, etc.

Levels

Teams will be fielded in all age divisions and will compete as "A", "B", or "C" classification teams. If there are sufficient numbers, multiple teams may exist at each age division except for the "A" level.

SPAYHA hockey is intended to offer a progressive, developmental hockey experience for all players. Each competitive division has different objectives and goals. Within each classification are differing levels of skills and these levels will have different objectives and goals:

"C" This level's focus is the development of the basic skills needed to play hockey and learning the fundamentals of game and position play. The emphasis is on learning and developing. Typically, "C" teams at the Squirt through Bantam levels are comprised of players in their first year at that level and/or returning players who are still developing their hockey game skills at that particular level.

"B" The "B" level players typically are returning players who understand the concepts of team and position play, game situations, and have the necessary skating and other skills to be successful at this level. Of the three levels the "B" level often has the broadest range of skill attainment by individual players.

"A" Players at the "A" level are highly developed in their skating, hockey, and game skills. Coaching and development at this level is focused on refining concepts of team play, introduction of more complex game strategy, and honing the individual's hockey skill.

At all age levels and team classifications ("A", "B", or "C") coaches are required to strive for all players to have equal playing time to ensure developmental opportunities for each player.

Equal Ice Time

All players/lines should experience power plays and/or penalty kills by using techniques such as moving players to different lines or changing lines to allow a line that has not had a power play or penalty kill to experience one. Players thereby learn other aspects of the game; feel like an important part of the team and their confidence increases tremendously. All players shall see equal ice.

Exceptions to equal playing time include state play downs, state tournaments when in the last 2-5 minutes of the game you are within a goal or two and possibly could tie or win the game and to include power plays and penalty kills. The only other exception is for the discipline of a player conducting himself/herself in an unsportsmanlike manner including but not limited to displaying lack of respect for coaches, teammates, officials, opponents and/or parents.

Important Things to Remember for Evaluation sessions

- Do not worry about falling down during any of the drills. You will not be penalized for falling if you are going full speed. It is more important to show how well you recover and get back up!
- During the scrimmage, each skater will play the position the bench coordinator specifies. Skaters will not be allowed to pick their own position.
- BANTAMS WILL BE ALLOWED TO "CHECK" DURING THE SCRIMMAGE. Instructions will be given.
- A skater must stay in the locker room once they arrive. Jersey handout will be at the door of the SPAYHA equipment room 30 MINUTES prior to on ice. AT THIS TIME ALL NON-SKATERS MUST LEAVE THE LOCKER ROOM AND ADJACENT HALLWAY FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO BEGIN.

- Be at the arena no less than 30 MINUTES prior to your drill or scrimmage session. BE ON TIME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- There will be a 5-10 minute warm-up period before each session begins. USE THIS TIME WISELY!
- There will be a brief explanation given before each drill begins. Demonstrations will be given where needed. BE QUIET AND ATTENTIVE! This is the only time for questions!
- All evaluation drills and small area games will use hockey sticks. Pucks will be used during designated drills and small area games.
- Scrimmage penalties will be noted to the evaluators. FLAGRANT PENALTIES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED and may result in the skater being benched at the request of the evaluators!
- REMEMBER, WHEN ALLOWED TO CHECK BE SENSIBLE. Excessive and unnecessary checks will be scored negatively.

SPAYHA Evaluation Process

1. First year skaters (at all levels) that make a particular team, such as an "A" team, are not guaranteed a position on that team the following year when they are a second year skater. All skaters must earn the right to skate on each individual team.
2. Skaters will wear a numbered jersey supplied by SPAYHA. The evaluation committee is responsible for assigning random numbers to the individual players. The numbers are kept confidential until jerseys are handed out 30 minutes before the session begins. Players may receive different numbers for different portions of the evaluation (example: to even out lines during scrimmage). It is **MANDATORY** to wear Ice Hawk colored socks.
3. For the evaluation scrimmage, the teams will be adjusted to reflect the skater's skill level up to that point. The skaters in the middle of the group, i.e.: the "bubble" players will be grouped together to better enable the evaluators to rank the "bubble" skaters in a fair and more accurate rating. Players may have playing time limited for reasons to evaluate "bubble" players more accurately.
4. Parents are asked to have their skater in the locker room a minimum of 30 minutes before the scheduled evaluation session and all non-skaters out of the locker room 15 minutes prior to the on ice session. The skaters need to settle down and instructions need to be given prior to on ice for a smooth evaluation. Any non-skaters in the locker room disrupt the process and slow down evaluations.
5. All players Pee Wee and below will not try out by position. Players will be grouped in terms of overall performance and assigned to teams accordingly. Bantam players will declare as to their preference of defense and/or forward. This does not mean that you are only evaluated against other players at that position. Example: Because only 4 defensemen designated at tryouts does not mean that all 4 defensemen will make any given team.
6. CHECKING: The Evaluation Committee and Board determined to continue to allow checking during the Bantam level evaluations. Checking includes allowing the skater to take another skater off the puck by means of using the body. Skaters will be allowed to rub out skaters along the boards to take them off the puck. At no time will excessive force or "head-hunting" be allowed. If such play is demonstrated, the skater will be reprimanded and scored negatively. Before each scrimmage session, skaters will be instructed as to the proper use of checking for the session.

7. All prospective Bantam players must be evaluated on scheduled evaluation date(s). Players may be moved to fill vacancies created following high school selections (SPASH, Pacelli). Players will be moved based on coaches/evaluators recommendations.
8. All teams (except U8, Bantam) and coaches will be announced after their respective evaluations. Team rosters will be provided to each head coach.
9. Bantam teams may or may not be announced based on numbers after (SPASH and Pacelli) teams have been selected.
10. A SPAYHA Board of Directors member will be present during each evaluation session.
11. Squirt Goalies: If a player wishes to be goalie more than a couple of times, that player must attend the Goalie Evaluations and all other sessions as a goalie. And will be placed on a team as a goalie. Goalies will be ranked. If the "A" team has no player that attended the Goalie Evaluation for Squirts then the top Squirt goalie will be given the opportunity to move up under the following rules.
 - a. The player must play a minimum of 1/2 the non-tournament games as a goalie.
 - b. The player must play all Tournament games; play down games and State Tournament games as a goalie.
 - c. The other 1/2 of the games, if another player desires to play goalie for a couple of games can do so and the current goalie can play out for those games. If no player wishes to play goalie for those 1/2 games, the player coming up that took the goalie position must play those games as a goalie.
 - d. For practices the player coming up as goalie will play all practices as goalie, the only exception will be the week that he is not playing goalie he must allow the other play one practice at the goalie position and the current goalie can play out during the practice and the game.

This allows a child that wishes to be a goalie, have the majority of time in the net to develop and also allows others a chance to still try the goalie position.

12. Player Being Allowed To Be Evaluated For An Age Division Higher Than What Their Age Is a.k.a. Player Moving Up: Clarification on terminology to be used. Minor vs. Major. Minor is the first year of the two-year age division setup by WAHA. Major is the final year of any given age division. A player that is playing at an age division and is younger than the Minor

age listed will not be known as a Minor. Minor will only apply to the player that is one year away from being a Major.

One player at each age division will be allowed to move up if they qualify under the following conditions:

- a. The player is in their final year of their age appropriate division (going to be a Major this coming year).
- b. As a Minor (the previous year) the player must have:
 - i. Evaluated the highest in the evaluations of all players per coach/evaluator recommendation.
 - ii. At the end of the season the head and assistant coaches must agree that the player was the best all-around player on the team.
- c. If the above qualifications are met then as a Major (player's last year in their age division) that player can be allowed to try out for the next level. For the player to be allowed to stay and play at the next level they must achieve the following:
 - i. Make the "A" team.

If the player does not meet those criteria then the player must go back to the "A" team of their age appropriate division.

13. Pee Wee and Bantam Goalies will declare a position, will be ranked in order and placed on the appropriate team. In the event that a team has more than 1 goalie, it is expected that the goalie not in the game will not skate out. The coach will decide the appropriate rotation for the goalies with equal amount of playing time. (Ex: Every other game or equal amounts during games.) A goalie that is not expected to play during a game is still required to suit up and be present at the game in the event of injury. (Remember: A goalie can learn different things while watching a game from the bench). These goalies do not need to compete in the skaters drill portion of evaluations if they do not wish to ever skate out. If a goalie wishes to be able to skate out the following must apply:
- a. The goalie must be evaluated as a skater in both skills and both scrimmages and make the team as a skater.
 - b. A goalie can only skate out if a position is available (absence of another player(s) or coaches discretion).
 - c. The goalie will then take part of the goalie skills sessions to be evaluated as a goalie.
 - d. If you make it as a goalie and not as a skater you will not be allowed to play out for any games.

(See Squirt Goalies above for more details). It is strongly recommended to the coaches to allow all skaters to try the position as many times as possible during

non-essential contests and determine the best rotation for the team during tournament play.

14. Evaluations sessions are mandatory for all travel age (Squirt/Pee Wee/Bantam) players. Players that will be absent from any evaluation skills/small area games/scrimmage session(s) due to illness, conflict, etc. are to notify the Evaluation Chairperson (Sam Molski) as soon as possible to allow the committee to determine the process moving forward for that player. The evaluation chairperson will notify the evaluation committee and evaluators so that player can be thoroughly evaluated, and proper rotations can be maintained. If a player misses more than one evaluation session, they will follow the 'Absence for a medical reason' process (15).

15. **'Absence for a medical reason' process** - Absence for medical reasons will require a signed doctor's slip. A release to return to the ice is required before the skater is allowed on the ice in a SPAYHA sanctioned event. Non-excused absences will be noted for the coaches/evaluators scored a zero for that session. Medical excuses that last longer than December 1, 2019 or are expected to last that long will be dealt with on an individual basis as determined by the SPAYHA Board of Directors. The evaluation process for excused absences is as follows:

- a. A slot will be left open for each excused player at the "A" team level.
 - i. If the excused player is determined to be on the "C" team:
 1. The top "C" player determined by coach/evaluator is moved to the "B" team, and
 2. The top "B" player determined by coach/evaluator is moved to the "A" team.
 - ii. If the excused player is determined to be on the "B" team:
 1. The "C" team stays the same, and
 2. The top "B" player determined by coach/evaluator is moved to the "A" team.
 - iii. If the excused player is determined to be on the "A" team:
 1. The player is placed on the "A" team, and
 2. The "B" and "C" teams stay the same.
- b. Once a player is cleared to go on the ice, the evaluation committee will recommend to the Board an appropriate rehabilitation schedule for the injured skater. The schedule will take into account the severity of the skater's injury and the duration of the injury. The skater will be allowed to practice at all levels ("A", "B", "C") to allow the skater to test their injury status rather than immediately place the skater in an evaluation situation and risk further injury. Example recommendations from the evaluation committee could be between 1 to 6 practices over a specified period of time. This

schedule would not be designed to give the skater an unfair advantage over the other skaters.

- c. After the rehabilitation schedule is completed, the evaluation process will begin immediately.
 - i. The skater will practice with the "C" team, with as many of the original evaluators taking part as possible. The evaluators will be asked to determine if that skater demonstrates more skill than the rest of the skaters at that level. If determined to be of equal or lower skill, then the skater will remain on the "C" team and the procedure listed above in "15A" will be followed.
 - ii. If the skater demonstrates to be of better skill, then the skater will practice with the next available "B" team practice. The same procedure will be followed as in the "C" team practice. If determined to be of equal or lower skill, the player will remain with the "B" team and the procedure listed above in "15A" will be followed.
 - iii. If the skater demonstrates to be of better skill, then the skater is automatically placed on the "A" team and all teams stay the same. This procedure should maintain the optimal team sizes (as determined by the Board) and prevent any child from being moved down to meet team size criteria. The only movement of a player will be to the next highest level.

16. All skaters/goalies are required to attend all evaluation sessions for their particular level.

17. The SPAYHA Board of Directors reserves the right to make all final team assignments/selections with regards to all extenuating circumstances.

CLOSED DOORS EVALUATION

Like in years past, SPAYHA evaluations will be closed. Evaluators, Evaluation Committee Members, On Ice Coaches and Participating Board member/s will only be allowed in Rink area.

Evaluation System

Potential coaches determined by the Coaching Committee will be the Evaluators. Potential coaches will be evaluating their particular level (Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam) of skaters/goalies.

The Coaches/Evaluators will be evaluating the skaters/goalies, knowing the number of teams and level of teams ("A", "B", "C" or "A", two equal "B", two equal "C") determined by the Board of Directors' approval prior to the evaluations.

Late Registered Skater After Evaluations Have Taken Place

A new/late registered skater will follow the medical excused absent process to determine placement on appropriate team. If a new/late registered skater is placed on a team where there are two equal teams (e.g. Squirt C white and Squirt C black) that player will not be allowed to play in the play down game between the two teams.

Transfers into SPAYHA

Per WAHA regulations, transfers into our association must play on the "A" level team (2 skaters per level). All transfers will be placed on the "A" level team, if determined to be an "A" player, AFTER all in-district skaters have been placed on an appropriate team. This is done so no in-district skater loses their spot on the "A" level team because of a transferred skater. Proposed transfers will be evaluated and discussed by the Board at the time of transfer request. Acceptability will be based on projected numbers of local players.

SPAYHA Evaluators

SPAYHA will use a group of qualified potential Coaches of that particular level determined by the Coaching Committee with SPAYHA Board approval.

An Evaluation Committee Board member will always be present at all times of the evaluation to insure that procedures are adhered to and to answer any questions that may arise.

We believe that everybody wants to see fair evaluations and to use the best evaluators possible. Coaches are not guaranteed a particular team and are assigned to teams after the tryout results. We believe the Evaluators, the Board, the Evaluation Committee and all that help with the evaluations will act with exemplary integrity.

Post Evaluation-Team Selection

Once evaluations are complete, the Coaches/Evaluators will meet to determine each skater/goalie placement on an appropriate team. Two mediators along with

Evaluation Committee members will be present to discuss different opinions coaches/evaluators may have.

Once the teams are determined and approved by the Board, the Coaching Committee meets and places coaches for each team according to team composition. A member of the Evaluation Committee is present to answer questions the Coaching Committee may have on who is available to coach a team. The Coaching Committee will recommend head and assistant coaches to the Board. The Board then votes on the coaching recommendations. No Coaches are guaranteed a spot or given a particular team until the teams have been decided.

If the Evaluation Committee determines a player lacks the skating skills to safely play at their age level the player will be placed in the Intro program to develop their skating skills. If the player makes significant skating improvement to safely play at their age level, the player will be placed on an appropriate team by the Evaluation Committee.

REMEMBER:

The opinions expressed by the Coaches/Evaluators are confidential and meant to be kept that way for the benefit and protection of ALL skaters.

2019/2020 SPAYHA Evaluation Schedule (Mandatory)

To find your Evaluation dates please go to: <https://www.icehawkshockey.net>

Evaluation and Fall tune up schedules are located on the home page of the website. In addition, they are located on the rink schedule of the website and posted on the bulletin board by the apparel room at the rink.

**Squirt, Pee Wee and Bantam Goalies - Please attend your groups' skills session, small games session, the scrimmage and the Goalie Evaluation session.
**

Coaches will be notified and will begin calling players. If you have not heard from a coach by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, October 21st. please contact:

Sam Molski 715-340-1903 (Evaluation Chair)

Wishing to discuss the evaluation process after teams are selected:

If you wish to discuss the evaluation process and how it was handled, the Evaluation Chair Person and some members of the evaluations committee will be at the rink on Wednesday, October 23rd from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The evaluation committee **will not** provide an evaluation summary on individual players. We will just explain the evaluation process. Some committee members

may not be available at all times due to their coaching obligations. After Wednesday, October 23rd all discussions of evaluations will be closed.

First practices will be on Website under the rink schedule once the number of teams is determined.