

Baltimore Youth Hockey Club - Travel Handbook (2019-2020)

(revised May 5, 2019)

Travel Program Overview

The Baltimore Stars travel teams, both co-ed and all girls, participate in the Chesapeake Bay Hockey League (CBHL), a travel league made up of teams from Maryland, Virginia and the DC Metropolitan area. The CBHL is sanctioned by USA Hockey and is a member of the Southeastern Amateur Hockey Association.

Travel Hockey requires commitment from both parents and players. It is extremely important that both parents and players understand this. Travel players are expected to attend all games, practices, meetings, training sessions and skill sessions during the season. If either parents or players do not understand the commitment level required for travel hockey, please speak with our Hockey Director, Boe Leslie.

Age Classifications

Based on the player's age as of January 1st, the Club will field travel teams in the following USA Hockey age classifications.

Stars Travel Teams

8U Mite - 7 and 8 year olds

10U Squirt - 9 and 10 year olds

12U Peewee - 11 and 12 year olds

14U Bantam - 13 and 14 year olds

16U Midget - 15 and 16 year olds

18U Midget - 18 and younger

Tryout Overview

It is in the player's best interest to attend all of the tryout sessions to ensure the independent evaluators get the most accurate assessment of each player. A player's prior experience, level and/or club affiliation are not a guarantee that a spot will be held. Likewise, payment of the full season fee is not a guarantee.

Tryout Objectives

The objective of the tryout process is to ensure that each player is given a fair evaluation and that all players are placed at the most appropriate level for their abilities. Tryouts are led by Hockey Director Boe Leslie and his tryout staff. Players will be evaluated by a group of independent evaluators from the hockey community that will wherever possible have no personal relationships with the players and/or their families and will make unbiased evaluations. The evaluations will be used to rank players on skill level from top to bottom within each age category based on the criteria set forth by the Hockey Director. The Coach of a given team and Hockey Director will use the rankings as a tool to assist in the team selection process. In efforts to field the most competitive teams possible in some cases a full roster may not be selected immediately.

The evaluators will consider the following:

- The player's skating ability
- The player's individual hockey skills, (puck handling, passing, receiving, shooting, body positioning)
- The player's team skills, both offensive and defensive
- The player's position play, teamwork, game skills, awareness.

Post Tryout Notification

Rosters will be posted on the BYHC website shortly after tryouts have concluded. Players will be given a tryout jersey that they are to wear during all tryout sessions. Jersey colors and numbers of those chosen for a team will be posted on the website. Players not selected to a team will be contacted by the Hockey Director or a member of his tryout staff. Please do not contact the Hockey Director or members of the Board of Directors about player team placements for at least 24 hours following the posting of rosters.

Roster Position Declination

Once rosters have been posted, families will have 48 hours to **decline** a spot on a team by notifying Hockey Director Boe Leslie via email at boe.leslie@byhc.org. If a spot is not declined, then the player's acceptance of the roster position is understood and payment will be processed per the option selected on the player's registration.

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Travel General Details

All travel teams will play at the highest level possible based on the skill level of the respective group of players. The number of travel teams at each age level will be determined by player turnout and skill level.

All travel teams will have 2 practices per week for the duration of the season, which is approximately the beginning of September to the end of February. After Nov. 1, the 16U team will have one mandatory practice per week and the 18U team will no longer have mandatory practices.

There will be opportunities to attend skills session throughout the season, which will be optional unless they are scheduled during a regular practice slot. Ice slots are hard to come by and we do have to schedule creatively to make sure that opportunities are available. This may change depending on attendance levels at specific ages.

Game counts both pre-season and regular season will be distributed prior to tryouts as well as the number of tournaments that the team is to participate in.

In 2008 USA Hockey undertook a major study to examine the way youth hockey players are developed in the United States. The result of this study was a new model, ADM, for youth organizations to better develop all young hockey players and prepare more US youth players to have the skills to play at the collegiate/professional level. In summary the key recommendations of this study are:

- Increase practice time and decrease game time at the younger levels.
- Concentrate on skill development not team skills at the younger levels.
- Decrease the team roster at the younger levels.
- Structure the practice/skill sessions to maximize ice time.
- The study details a development plan for players from 5 years to old to 18 years old. Complete details about this USA Hockey initiative can be found on the USA Hockey web site at usahockey.com.
- Based on this study by USA Hockey, BYHC is striving to create a hockey environment that will be best for all players involved creating skill development, game awareness and competition.

Stars (Co-ed)

8U Mite

There will be 8U Mite Travel tryouts in late August/early September. Based on recommendations by both USA Hockey and the CBHL we plan to have 2 Mite Travel teams, which will start game play when the league allows. This team will

be selected by the Hockey Director and Coaches, and will participate in all CBHL mite jamborees and additional non-league games throughout the season. It is strongly recommended that all players selected for this team play in our BYHC Stars Cross or Half-Ice program in accordance with USA Hockey, PVAHA and CBHL requirements.

10U Squirt

We plan to field 2 Stars Travel teams next season. Based on recommendations by USA Hockey, we will look to select 12-14 skaters and 1-2 goalies for each team. These are smaller rosters than we have had in the past and it is possible that the top team may have one or two fewer skaters than the other team. Our intention is that all players on a given team will be of the appropriate skill level and that all players will get more ice time in a given game. We will place 1-2 goalies on each team also dependent on skill level. If 2 goalies are equally competitive, there may be 2 goalies placed on a team together. If there is talent disparity, we may select only 1 goalie.

12U Pee wee

We plan to field 2 Stars Travel teams next season. Based on recommendations by USA Hockey, we will look to select 12-14 skaters and 1-2 goalies on each team. These are smaller rosters than we have had in the past and it is possible that the top team may have one or two fewer skaters than the other team. Our intention is that all players on a given team will be of the appropriate skill level and that all players will get more ice time in a given game. We will place 1-2 goalies on each team also dependent on skill level. If 2 goalies are equally competitive, there may be 2 goalies placed on a team together. If there is talent disparity, we may select only 1 goalie.

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14U Bantam

We intend to have two Stars 14U Travel teams next season. We will select 12-16 skaters and 1 to 2 goalies for each team. All skaters and goalies must be skill appropriate to be selected. We have learned in the past that we need to have more skaters at the 14U Bantam level as players often play on school teams and have other commitments in addition to hockey. There is also a greater risk of injury.

16U & 18U Midget

We plan to have both 16U and 18U Stars Travel teams next season. These teams will also be rostered with more skaters than the younger levels. We will look to roster between 14 and 17 skaters and 1 to 2 goalies, but may have up to 18 skaters, which is the maximum number of skaters allowed under USA Hockey rules. As with 14U Bantam, players have school teams, other commitments and the risk of injury is greater.

Stars (All Girls)

We plan to field girls teams this year that will compete in the CBHL. This will of course depend on turnout at tryouts and interest expressed. All Girls wishing to play on all girls teams should express their interest to Joanna Nagle at joanna.nagle@byhc.org or Sean Baker sean.baker@byhc.org and attend the spring tryouts. Girls wishing to also play on a co-ed travel team should participate in the Stars tryouts appropriate for their age.

Coaches

Our goal is to offer the best and most qualified coaches in the area to teach hockey to our children. All coaches submit a coaching application to our Hockey Director. All applications and resumés are reviewed and invitations are then extended to the most qualified coaches for the interview process. Coaches are selected based on their Experience, Hockey Educational Accreditation and Level achieved, Personal Coaching Philosophy and any other qualities that apply. All coaches are required to achieve the minimum coaching education accreditation established by USA Hockey for the respective age level at which they will be coaching. As a general policy, we will make every effort to have non-parent head coaches for all of our travel teams.

Club Policies

Checking

Checking is not permitted at the 8U Mite, 10U Squirt and 12U Peewee levels. Checking is permitted at the 14U Bantam and 16U & 18U Midget levels.

Team Captains

The process for their election/appointment will be at the discretion of the head coaches.

Ice Time

At the 8U Mite, 10U Squirt and 12U Peewee levels coaches will attempt to give equal ice time except in the last 6 minutes of the game and during penalties and power play situations when the coach will have the prerogative to play the players of his choice.

For 14U Bantam and 16U & 18U Midget the coach will have the prerogative throughout the game to play the players of his choice. However, the club does expect that all players will play in every period, unless a player is sitting a period due to a penalty assessed by the Head Coach.

Attendance

BYHC requires that Travel players not miss more than one (1) practice and one (1) game per month on an unexcused basis. Occasional absences, approximately once a month, for illness, school obligations and family obligations will be considered excused absences. However, these absences will only be considered excused absences if the head coach or team manager is informed in advance of the impending absence. If no advance notice is given, the absence will be considered unexcused.

- If a player has 2 unexcused absences in any month as outlined above, the following shall occur.
- If a second practice or game in any month is missed, the player will be required to sit out one (1) period of the next game.
- If a third practice or game in any month is missed, the player will be required to sit out two (2) periods of the next game.

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- If a fourth practice or game in any month is missed, the player will be required to be in attendance but sit out the next game. In addition, there will be a discussion with the player and his/her parents as to the athlete's commitment to the program.

Playing Up

8U, 10U and 12U players must play within their own age group.

14U major birth year players may tryout at the 16U level. 16U players may try out for the 18U level. The tryout process for Midget players is open.

14U major birth year players must be evaluated in their own age group and the older age group. They must be evaluated in the Top 3 of their own age group and Top 5 of the older age group. If though, as a major birth year player, the team of the player's age group, is playing at a lower level than when the player was a minor birth year player, the evaluation process is altered. The player must then be evaluated in the Top 3 of their respective age group, but Top 10 of the older age group.

If the club is unable to offer a travel or recreational team within an age group and it is deemed to be in the best interest of the club as a whole, alternatives may be explored and exceptions made.

All decisions are final and will be made at the sole discretion of the hockey director and the board of directors.