

## **NGHA Formation of House League Teams Policy**

### **Statement of Purpose**

This policy establishes the criteria and process for the formation of house league teams within the NGHA.

### **General**

The NGHA encourages participation in hockey and wishes to accommodate as many players as possible. The number of house league teams in each division will be determined based on registration with a minimum of 12 players and maximum of 18 players. Players are expected to play within their age level.

### **Selection of Teams**

Players of all abilities play together on teams within designated age divisions. To the best of our ability, the NGHA balances teams based on evaluations of returning players according to the previous season's report, evaluations during the sort out process (where applicable), and minor and major ages.

Attendance at the sort out process is mandatory. Any player not able to attend sort outs must inform the House League Director a minimum of seven days prior to the start of sort outs in order to ensure placement on a team. A player's assigned team at sort outs is not an indication of the team to which they will be assigned for the season.

### **Balancing of Teams**

The balancing process is exceptionally challenging for many reasons including but not limited to:

1. The uneven progression in skill level, especially for younger players;
2. The beneficial effect of the additional skating and games for players who are part of the DS program;
3. The wide range of abilities of various players in the goaltending position;
4. The participation in additional skill level programs by some house league players.
5. Chemistry – Team chemistry can develop and has a significant impact on team performance.

As a result, the NGHA may reassign players within a division in order to make all teams in the division balanced. The NGHA is aware that it can be difficult for a player to move to another team, and will do their best to keep movements to a minimum. No player reassignment will occur after October 31. Siblings within the same age division will be placed on the same team. Co-operation and support from players, parents and coaches are nevertheless both necessary and appreciated.

### **Goalies**

All players at the Novice level are required to rotate through all positions, including goalie. Goalie rotation is mandatory in Novice and encouraged for Atom teams. At the Peewee level and higher, teams may have a designated goalie on a team when available. For teams without a designated goalie, goalie rotation and affiliation are encouraged and required for the team to play.

### **Friend and Coach Requests**

We do not accept special requests for coaches or friends as we must balance teams with players of all abilities. However, a Head Coach may protect one player whose parent(s) are either a coach/on-ice helper, trainer or manager. Co-coaches who both have daughters on the team are not permitted to protect an additional player and the protected player cannot be a goalie. Fair play through team balance is our end goal. Please note – transportation and friendships are not extraordinary circumstances.

*Policy approved on: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019*