

10/11/2007

Dear TNT Parents,

I want to take a few minutes of your time to explain the TNT Girls tryout process and where there is need for improvement next year.

**Tryout Format:**

As most of you know, each player is evaluated on skills and game play ability. After the skill sessions are complete, the players are ranked from highest skilled to lowest skilled. Lines are then determined by order of rank. For example: The top ten players would play against each other, the next ten players are matched and the process continues. We purposely have 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc, lines so we have similarly skilled players playing against one another during the scrimmage sessions. We may balance again depending on desired positions. I'm sure you have noticed players being moved on the fly between ice resurfacings and scrimmage sessions. This is by design and at the request of the raters to get a better look at players skating against, typically, a higher level line.

In most cases, our raters find that it is easier to rate the higher and lower, less experienced players. The most difficult group to sort out are the players in the middle. Raters want to be sure they provide a fair and accurate assessment as they know it could be the difference between players making the A or B team. One additional note is the raters may ask that we sit an entire line for a shift or two so they can get a better look at the other lines.

At the close of tryouts, final scores are submitted to Jim and Scott where they are entered into a spreadsheet, totaled and double checked for accuracy. This is the same spreadsheet that is used by the Tartan boys program.

**Needed Changes/Improvements:**

1. Teams and Lines - We made a mistake rotating the girls on the ice during the Polar Scrimmage sessions. Because we did not have an equal number of players, we were not able to balance three, or four equal lines. Even playing 3 on 3 was not an option. We compounded our problem by making a 3<sup>rd</sup> line left/right wing share their shift with another player. In the end, some of the girls played every sixth shift. It was never our intention to short shift any player. We completely understand where a parent and player would really be bummed out about this. Unfortunately, trying to finalize the last few spots on the A team consumed our attention and we did not catch our error. We sincerely apologize and accept full responsibility. We are committed to never letting this happen again. This will change next year and we will let you know how ratings will work before ratings begin.

2. Shoot Out – The purpose of the shoot out was for the raters to get one last look at the goalies. It was not intended in anyway to rate the skaters. This is why we had to alternate shooters and goalies. Additionally, the 12UA coach should not have gone on the ice. I should have stopped this and let the on-ice coach setup the shoot out. I take full responsibility for this mistake and while it is likely a shootout will occur next year, parent and players will know this, everyone will shoot and it will not be a last minutes scramble.

Please understand that as girls' coordinators our goal is to provide a fun learning environment for our girls where they can contribute and develop on the hockey rink. We spend countless hours planning and making decisions that we feel is best for every girl in the TNT program. All of the activities that make this work are done by volunteers. We would like to thank everyone who volunteered their valuable time.

In closing, we realize tryouts are not a lot of fun for anyone as there are always disappointments. Your positive attitude, constructive criticisms, and help are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jim Krings – North St. Paul Girls Coordinator  
Scott Jahnke – Tartan Girls Coordinator