



House League Goaltender Policy

*Last updated: February, 2014
WSMHA House League Management Council*

The WSMHA supports the desire of all players to play a position where they feel most comfortable and which they feel will bring them the most enjoyment from their hockey experience. We also feel that younger players in particular should have the opportunity to try different positions until they determine the best fit with their skills and hockey objectives. We recognize, however, that there are some very real challenges in achieving these goals when it comes to the goaltending position and these challenges increase as the players get older. They include:

- a. Not all skills are transferable between goaltenders and “skaters”.
- b. Equipment is very different and not easily transferable from one player to another.
- c. Only one player can play goal at any point in time (versus five skater positions).
- d. Goaltenders must practice/ play the position on a regular basis to develop their skills.

Recognizing that our goals may sometimes conflict when it comes to goaltenders, the WSMHA has attempted to develop policies and guidelines which we hope will enable us to resolve such conflicts when they occur in a fair and objective manner.

1. Registration dates and times will be recorded for all players and the principle of “first come, first served” may apply in certain situations as described more fully below.
2. A goaltender’s “history” (their skill or experience, where he/she played in previous seasons, whether he/she was the only goaltender on their team or shared goaltending duties with another goaltender) will have no bearing on the team to which they are assigned, whether they will be the sole goaltender on their assigned team or required to share goaltending duties with another player for the current season.
3. Players specifying an interest in playing goal will initially be assigned to teams in order of registration: first registered assigned to Team #1, second to Team#2, etc until each team has been assigned a goaltender; if there are more goaltenders than teams in a particular division, the “extra” goaltenders will be assigned in reverse order eg in a six-team division, the seventh goaltender to register will be assigned to Team#6, the eighth to Team#5 etc. until all goaltenders have been assigned, or every team has been assigned two goaltenders.
4. Once all teams in a division have been assigned two goaltenders, any remaining unassigned goaltenders will be advised and placed on a waiting list; if there are available spaces for skaters in that division, any such player will be given the option of remaining on the waiting list or accepting a non-goaltending position on a team.



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5. In the event that a particular division has one or more goaltender vacancies ie a team or teams with no assigned goaltenders, goaltender(s) from a lower division in which there are more than one goaltender per team can be transferred to fill the vacancy(ies) if they are judged to be capable and if they are willing to do so; the Association may also consider transferring a goaltender from an older division where there is a surplus if that goaltender's skill/experience is not inappropriate for the younger age group and the player is willing to be re-assigned.
6. Once all goaltenders have been assigned to a team (apart from any who opt to remain on the waiting list), the coach of any team with more than one goaltender will meet with the assigned goaltenders and their parents to determine if the goaltenders will share games, or play full games on an alternating basis; if the latter, both goaltenders will be given the option to play a different position during games in which they are not scheduled to play goal.
7. If a team is aware that they will not have a goaltender for a particular game they will advise the convenor of that division who will assign a goaltender from another team using a process of random selection. Where possible the convenor will assign a goaltender from a team with more than one goaltender in order to maximize the goaltending opportunities for goaltenders in the division.