

ISHL SELECT PROGRAM

Program Description

The ISHL Select program would be a *supplemental* hockey activity for ISHL hockey players in the Houston area who are not participating in any travel program. The program would be intended for the ISHL players that are capable of playing at the travel “B” level and above. There are many talented players in the ISHL league that do not play travel for a variety of reasons (cost, time commitment, etc..) The intent of this program is to give the player with more advanced skills an opportunity to compete at a higher level within their age group. The games will be played at a faster pace and players are expected to have a solid understanding of positioning along with basic plays and concepts. The select teams would also be aligned with the USA hockey age classifications (Bantam and Midget minor) to allow the select team(s) to participate in USA hockey sanctioned tournaments or scrimmages. This will also provide a smaller age and possibly size discrepancies than the ISHL age classification for Prep and Varsity provide. No special tryout will be required as the players will be invited based on coach evaluations at both the regular Prep and Varsity evaluations. These two teams will only play 1-2 scrimmages a month and a couple tournaments a season. There will be limited additional practices as the players are expected to practice with their normal ISHL team(s). The teams may have limited travel to tournaments, or scrimmages and may play in local tournaments or scrimmages as a part of this program. **This is not intended to be a travel program and is intended to only be a low cost supplemental program.** This should be viewed as simply a chance to play hockey at a faster pace with other experienced players of similar talent. The atmosphere will be one of fun and equal play time will be encouraged.

The select program is something all ISHL players can strive to become apart of. Parents should strongly consider up front that their child may not be selected to join the program. As no tryouts will be held, the team selection will be made primarily on coaches’ evaluation of performance/skill and at the coaches’ sole discretion. Parents may request their child to be considered but should be prepared that their child may not be invited to join the Select program, and if that happens to maintain a positive attitude and recognize that the player has some work to do to make it next season or perhaps later in the season if spots become available.

Game Schedule

There will be approximately two games per month. Games will be scheduled on the weekend, if possible. However, it is possible games could be scheduled on week days. Scheduling will depend on when ice time is available. Possible scrimmages with Austin, San Antonio, Dallas, local travel teams and other ISHL teams. Games could be very early due to limited ice availability.

Eligibility and Selection

Who is eligible to play?

Any player currently on the roster of any ISHL Prep or Varsity team is eligible for the program. They would only be eligible for the associated age groupings.

Bantam (2002 – 2003)

Midget minor (2000-2001)

13 skaters and 1-2 goalies will be *selected* for each team.

Are girls eligible?

Yes. But they must be within the age bracket. No player will be allowed to play down a level.

Are in-house peewee players eligible that want to play up?

No. This is restricted to ISHL registered players.

Will all players that are interested be selected for the select team?

This is very unlikely. First, the Select coaches must determine that each player is capable of playing at the travel "B" level. Second, of the "B" level and above players available, only the top players will be selected.

Who will evaluate the players?

The Select coaches will work together to evaluate, select players to the Select team.

Is there a cost to participate in the tryout?

No. There is no official try-outs. Players may express an interest to join but this is an invite only Select team. Coaches will utilize existing ISHL evaluation forums.

Are travel hockey players eligible?

No. Any travel team players are *ineligible*. Only rostered ISHL players are eligible that are not rostered on a travel team. This is intended as an alternative development program for the advanced ISHL players that have elected not pay travel. This is not intended to be extra practice for current travel players.

Why are travel hockey players ineligible?

The Select program is for ISHL players who would *likely* be accepted by a local travel team but who are unable to participate in such a program for reasons unrelated to hockey ability. The Select program is *not* intended to be an alternative to the established travel programs in the Houston area.

My child played ISHL last season, is he/she eligible?

Your child is eligible only if he/she is currently playing on an ISHL team.

Is Select really just another travel program?

No. A club (or "travel") team is part of an independent organization. The ISHL select program is a supplemental program designed to provide additional development for higher skilled non travel ISHL players at a low cost.

Why are there no regular practices?

To reduce costs and also that that players do not begin to lose interest in their primary ISHL team. Limited practices will be allowed to provide the teams an opportunity to develop tactics (break-out, offense, power play and penalty kill). The practices will not be designed to develop fundamental hockey skills which the players should be getting at their normal ISHL practices.

Is there any travel required?

Yes, limited travel may be required for tournament opportunity.

Will there be games against local travel teams?

Scrimmages *may* be organized against local travel teams if interest exists and ice time is available.

Does the Select program compete with ISHL programs?

No. All players must *remain* on an ISHL roster in order to be eligible to participate in the Select program. This program *supplements* the ISHL program.

Does the Select program compete with travel hockey programs?

No. The Select program does not offer the same level of instruction, competitiveness and recognition that a travel program offers.

Is the intention to turn the Select program into another travel hockey program in the future?

No. The Select program is intended only for more experienced and higher-skilled ISHL players that have elected not to play travel.

If my child is chosen to play on a Select team, do I still have to participate in the ISHL prep or Varsity program?

Yes, your child must continue to be an active participant on his or her regular team.

How should Select players and parents interact with ISHL prep or varsity players, parents and coaches after been selected for Select?

Players and parents should remain committed to and *enthusiastic* about their Prep or varsity teams. The Select program is *supplemental* program. Parents should encourage Select players to avoid “bragging” about being accepted in the Select program while participating in any ISHL activity. In other words, good sportsmanship is always the right approach.

Player Discipline

Player discipline follows the normal guidelines from USA hockey and ISHL.

Program Cost

The tentative program cost is \$600 per player and \$300 per goalie

Final Thoughts

The Select program will succeed only if every participant remains committed to the program’s mission: to provide an additional hockey experience for higher-skilled ISHL players.

Program Leads

ISHL Select Program Director – Russ McKinnon

Administrative support- Lesha Slezak