

Tournament Divisions

The goal of River City Tournaments is to place teams in divisions which provide a level of competition that is the closest match to your team's age and skill level. This is sometimes harder than it appears due to the fact that age divisions and classifications vary from state to state and between the US and Canada. It is possible that your team may play teams that are slightly older or younger than those in your local area or in a different skill classification than you compete locally.

Age Groups

For the 2008-09 season we will use the following USA Hockey based age groups when assigning tournament divisions:

Level Player Birth Years

Mite 2000 and younger
Squirt 1998 and 1999
Pee Wee 1996 and 1997
Bantam 1994 and 1995
Midget Minor 1992 and 1993
Midget Major 1990 and 1991

Skill Levels

Generally our tournaments could include four basic skill levels. Each tournament date and location will indicate which skill levels are offered for that event.

AA Level – This is typically the top level team within a Tier II organization. Many times, these teams will consist of mostly “second year” or “major” aged players within the age group. In some cases, Major A teams are also a good fit for this level depending on the area the team comes from.

A1 Level – This is typically the second, or lower, travel level team chosen within a Tier II organization. These teams will, most of the time, consist of “first year” or “minor” aged players within the age group. We have found that there are many variations in “A” level teams, so we take extra caution when matching these teams. Our desire is to create as balanced and competitive a division as possible with the information we have available to us.

A2 Level – This is normally the third, or lower, travel level team chosen within a larger Tier II organization. Again, there are many variations in “A” level teams and we have found many large organizations might have more than one “A” level team, although their skill level might not be of the same caliber.

B Level – This is normally the fourth, or lower, travel level team in a larger Tier II organization. These teams will consist primarily, but not necessarily exclusively, of a mixture of players that have played several years in a “house/recreational” program and are beginning the travel hockey experience.

House Level – teams chosen through a draft, in which all players within an organization's program are assigned to a team, with the goal of creating teams of equal skill level, within their own organization, with no players “cut”.

Varsity - This is typically the top level team within a high school organization. Many times, these teams will consist of mostly seniors and juniors. In some cases, younger players could be rostered on a team at this level depending on the area the team comes from and/or the depth of their high school program.

Junior Varsity - This is typically the second, or lower, level team chosen within a high school organization. These teams will mostly consist of sophomores and juniors, but, for our tournament, in no case will more than 3 seniors be allowed on a junior varsity tournament roster. We have found that there are many variations in junior varsity level teams, so we take extra caution when matching these teams. Our desire is to create as balanced and competitive a division as possible with the information we have available to us.

High School C - This is normally the third, or lower, level team chosen within a larger high school organization. These teams will mostly consist of freshmen and sophomores with some 8th grade players mixed in. For our tournament, in no case will juniors or seniors be allowed on a C team tournament roster. Again, there are many variations in "C" level teams and we have found many large high school organizations might have more than one "C" level team, although their skill level might not be of the same caliber.

The tournament director will place teams within the appropriate skill level to provide the best competitive opportunities for all teams. Information will be requested from all registered teams, including current win/loss records, division and league participating in and any other pertinent information necessary to make an informed decision about proper placement.