



The Dallas Stars Metro Hockey League (DSMHL) is centered around the following principles:

Our Mission

To create a player-centered, development-focused environment to foster a love for hockey.

Our Vision

Aligning with the USA Hockey Advanced Development Model, balance skill growth with enjoyment for all.

Our Commitment

A structured program that encourages personal growth and athletic development through balanced competition.

Team Building and Competition

To provide a challenging developmental path for the very best players while catering to the needs of the entry level player. This is accomplished by a systematic evaluation of each player and the creation of teams with similar ability ranges that promote healthy competition for all.

Since 2015, the DSMHL has followed the [USA Hockey Advanced Development Model \(ADM\)](#) and has consistently developed players who are ready to take the next step into a more competitive travel-hockey environment. In using this program, the DSMHL fosters an atmosphere of age-appropriate training that builds foundational skills over time, while also supporting a holistic development approach that provides physical literacy, agility and balance for overall competitive growth.

Each team is coached by volunteers who have been approved by both USA Hockey and Safe Sport and trained by the Dallas Stars Amateur Hockey staff. If you would like to volunteer to be a coach in the DSMHL, contact the Hockey Manager or General Manager at your local rink.

PLAYER EVALUATIONS

Each season, the DSMHL holds evaluation sessions prior to team building in centralized locations across the Metroplex. This allows the league to have consistent evaluations of all players in the league In an effort to create a more balanced and competitive league for players of all skill levels.

The evaluators at each location provide a number ranking for each player based upon their skating, puck skills and shooting ability. Once the skaters have been evaluated, each player will receive an overall score based upon an average of each of their skill levels.

Once all players are evaluated and have an average score, the DSMHL begins to form teams in each facility location.

PLAYER EVALUATION EXAMPLE

First	Last	Position	x1.25	x1	x1	Avg.
Player	1	Skater	6	6	6	6.50
Player	2	Skater	7	6	7	7.25
Player	3	Skater	5	4	4	4.75
Player	4	Skater	7	8	8	8.25
Player	5	Skater	5	3	3	4.08
Player	6	Skater	6	7	7	7.17
Player	7	Skater	3	5	5	4.58
Player	8	Skater	7	6	6	6.92
Player	9	Skater	6	6	6	6.50
Player	10	Skater	7	8	7	7.92
Player	11	Skater	5	3	3	4.08
Player	12	Skater	6	5	5	5.83
Player	13	Goalie	8	6	6	7.33



TEAM LEVELING METHODOLOGY

Once each player has been evaluated and their home rink has been established, the DSMHL team selection committee works to create balanced and competitive divisions within the league for players of all skill levels.

If the number of participants in any age bracket warrants the creation of a separate division, then the DSMHL will create an additional appropriate division within that age bracket to further address the competitive balance within that age group.

The DSMHL will then use the individual player evaluation scores to create balanced teams in each facility to ensure that each player and each team has a positive experience.

TEAM LEVELING EXAMPLES

TEAM 1

First	Last	Position	Skating x1.25	Puck Skills x1	Shooting x1	Avg.
Player	1	Skater	8	8	9	9.00
Player	2	Skater	7	7	7	7.58
Player	3	Skater	7	8	8	8.25
Player	4	Skater	8	8	8	8.67
Player	5	Skater	8	8	8	8.67
Player	6	Skater	6	7	7	7.17
Player	7	Skater	7	7	7	7.58
Player	8	Skater	7	6	6	6.92
Player	9	Skater	6	6	6	6.50
Player	10	Skater	7	8	7	7.92
Player	11	Skater	7	7	7	7.58
Player	12	Skater	6	5	5	5.83
Player	13	Goalie	6	8	7	7.50

Team Average **7.63**

TEAM 2

First	Last	Position	Skating x1.25	Puck Skills x1	Shooting x1	Avg.
Player	1	Skater	8	8	9	9.00
Player	2	Skater	8	8	8	8.67
Player	3	Skater	7	8	8	8.25
Player	4	Skater	8	7	8	8.33
Player	5	Skater	7	7	7	7.58
Player	6	Skater	6	7	7	7.17
Player	7	Skater	7	7	7	7.58
Player	8	Skater	7	7	6	7.25
Player	9	Skater	6	6	6	6.50
Player	10	Skater	5	6	6	6.08
Player	11	Skater	5	5	5	5.42
Player	12	Skater	7	7	7	7.58
Player	13	Goalie	8	8	8	8.67

Team Average **7.54**

Following the initial team setting, the DSMHL plays three levelling games at the outset of the year to further evaluate the competitive balance of the team. At this stage, if there are any teams that fall outside the normal competitive parameters for their division, additional team changes may be made. In the event a competitive imbalance still occurs through the course of the season, scheduling updates may be made to adjust the imbalance.

Every effort is made to create divisions within each age bracket that fosters competitive balance and a positive experience for players of all skill levels. Our priority is to promote balanced competition, development, and fun so that every recreational player is challenged and engaged at all levels while enjoying the game.