



Bench Shuffle in Action

Smarter, Fairer Hockey Tryouts

Agenda

Introductions

The Top Evaluation Criteria for Hockey Tryouts (from over 5M scores)

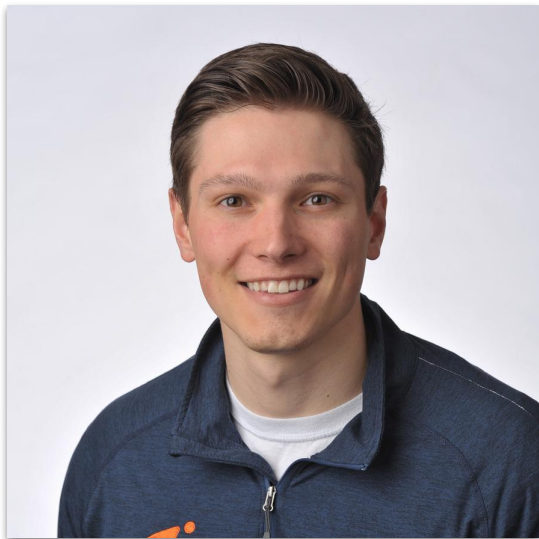
Common Mistakes to Avoid

Current Tryout Trends and Innovations

Bench Shuffle Report

A few words from Eagan Hockey

Q&A



Gabe Malinski

TeamGenius

Sales Manager



Gabe Skelly

TeamGenius

Customer Success Manager

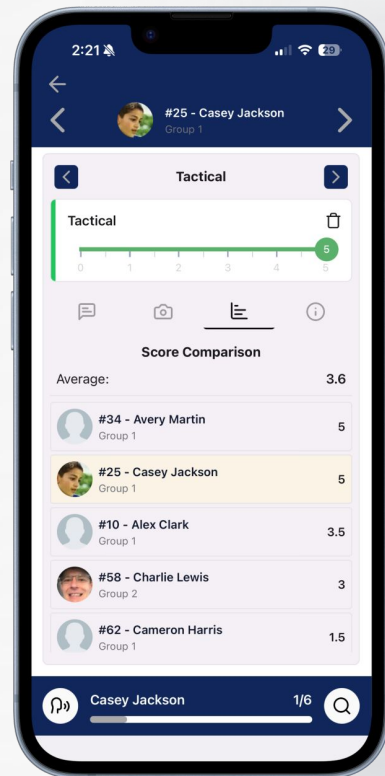




TeamGenius is a powerful athlete evaluation platform designed to help coaches run faster, fairer, and more organized tryouts, evals, and combines.

- Digital evaluations—no more paper
- Faster tryouts with real-time scoring
- Transparent, consistent athlete feedback

150,000+ athletes evaluated and 5,000,000+ hockey scores recorded



Top Criteria

1. Skating
2. Shooting
3. Passing
4. Puck Handling
5. Hockey Sense
6. Hockey IQ
7. Compete Level
8. Puck Control

[Tryout Prep Checklist Resource](#)

Common Mistakes to Avoid

1. **Too Many Scoring Criteria** - overwhelms coaches
2. **Scattered Data** - makes team placement justifications near impossible
3. **Unfair Lines** - don't let players choose linemates during tryouts
4. **Group strength factor or pre-set group scoring limits**
example: player #1 in most competitive group gets a 4/10 score
player #2 is in lowest group and gets a 6/10,
Doesn't mean player #2 was better.
Player #2 was just in an easier group to play against.
FIX: Use criteria strength factor or give scoring limit to evaluators for each group
(top group is 6-10, middle is 3-7, bottom group is 1-5).

Evaluation Trends

1. Only score one skill criteria per drill on skill day
2. Single criteria on scrimmage day, often named values vs. numeric scale
3. Combine like tests (timed drills) for objective rankings and easier justification
4. Weighting intangibles from last years coach evals into team placement decisions (attitude, coachability, leadership)
5. Bench Shuffling to ensure no skewed lines during tryouts

Bench Shuffle Report Demo

BOM Sports							Bench Rotation Report					
							Hockey Tryout - U13A					
Group 1							Group 2					
Shift	LW	C	RW	LD	RD		Shift	LW	C	RW	LD	RD
1	41	10	11	35	20		1	1	63	3	18	4
2	8	65	9	23	54		2	2	6	5	27	7
3	20	41	10	11	35		3	4	1	63	3	18
4	54	8	65	9	23		4	7	2	6	5	27
5	35	20	41	10	11		5	18	4	1	63	3
6	23	54	8	65	9		6	27	7	2	6	5
7	11	35	20	41	10		7	3	18	4	1	63
8	9	23	54	8	65		8	5	27	7	2	6
9	10	11	35	20	41		9	63	3	18	4	1
10	65	9	23	54	8		10	6	5	27	7	2
11	41	10	11	35	20		11	1	63	3	18	4
12	8	65	9	23	54		12	2	6	5	27	7
13	20	41	10	11	35		13	4	1	63	3	18
14	54	8	65	9	23		14	7	2	6	5	27
15	35	20	41	10	11		15	18	4	1	63	3
16	23	54	8	65	9		16	27	7	2	6	5
17	11	35	20	41	10		17	3	18	4	1	63
18	9	23	54	8	65		18	5	27	7	2	6
19	10	11	35	20	41		19	63	3	18	4	1
20	65	9	23	54	8		20	6	5	27	7	2

[Link here](#)

Association Spotlight



Michael Lavine
Eagan Hockey Association

1. Walk us through your tryout process...
2. What mistakes have you made over the years that you feel others could learn from?
3. What changes have you made that have been most impactful?

Our Most FAQ's

"How do we keep scoring consistent and objective when we have a dozen different evaluators?"

Use Non-Numeric Values / Criteria

and/or

Give clear instructions on what each score means:

1= House Player

5 = B Team Player

10 = Top Line on Top Team

Our Most FAQ's

“How does program size effect tryout structure?”

More players risks more overlapping scores, therefore requiring:

- More sessions (expensive)
- More criteria (an evaluators nightmare)
- More evaluators (easier said than done)
- **More organized data (more disappointed kids & inevitably upset parents)**
- **Larger scoring scale (highly recommended)**

These all help to create more separation between each player for accurate and justifiable team placement.

Our Most FAQ's

"How do we communicate and defend roster/tiering decisions so we're not buried in parent complaints and appeals?"

Communicate constructively.

Keep all data in one place (Excel, Google Drive, TeamGenius etc.).

Capture objective data (timing drills, shot speed etc.) so you can show ranking.

Our Most FAQ's

"How do we reduce bias and the perception of politics and favoritism?"

1. Transparency - public tryout process sheet.
2. Consistent evaluation process.
3. Hide player names.
4. Bench report shuffle.
5. Consistent evaluation process.
6. Use evaluators from outside the organization - 3rd party company, nearby college/junior players or trade coaches/evaluators with neighboring associations.
7. Keep scoring sheets (and audit of evaluation sheets) to provide tangible evidence/feedback, and to prove no changes were made.

Our Most FAQ's

"How should we actually structure the tryout to scale efficiently - check-in, # of sessions/evaluators, drills vs. scrimmage, roster sizes, and which criteria?"

Depends upon size of program. In most cases, this is a safe guide:

1. Skill day with 1 scoring criteria per drill (skating scored during skating drill)
2. 2-3 scrimmage days with 1-2 generic criteria per session
3. 3-5 evaluators per 20 kids, all evaluators score all players
4. 14-20 kids per team - not all kids are in shape yet
5. Check-in: Pre-Assign Jersey Numbers

Long term success will come from:

1. Quality preparation before tryouts
2. Requesting feedback from admins, evaluators and parents after tryouts
3. Adjust your process based on meaningful feedback

Questions to be prepare for...

“How are you ensuring teams are formed fairly?”

“Why didn’t my kid make the team? Can you send us feedback?”

“What were coaches looking for?”

Q&A