

## Definition of a Bubble A Bantam Player

There are differing definitions of what a Bubble "A" Bantam player is depending on who you ask. Many times this stems from the reference point being what MN Hockey team designation the athlete last played on was. Unfortunately there is no constant using that as the basis for comparison, as each municipality is free to play at the level they designate with no MN Hockey oversight as to uniform skill requirements. Drastically different numbers of athletes and teams from one club to the next alters where players end up team wise. In addition, parent perception, and a coach's attachment to his club can create emotional obstacles as well. **Example:** A coach in Edina is asked what level a player from Redwing is after watching him and he states he's a top line B2 bantam. The parent and coach of that player may be offended by that comment if the player slid onto the Redwing Bantam "A" team. It is ESP Select Hockey's job, to help you select players who are at a target skill level, not players that are on certain teams. It is difficult to compare teams without a reference point. We have built a formula that will help to guide you through this. Using the chart below you can find the right players when building an entire team from your home club or when adding some players from a nearby club to complete a team. A cross section of hockey associations are listed and analyzed as a guide to helping you to find the right players. The terms used to describe teams refers primarily to the size of their clubs not to the level of commitment to their athletes.

### Elite Tier Associations

Edina & Wayzata: *7-8 Bantam teams*

For the sake of argument these two associations have the most depth of B1 level players of virtually any other clubs year by year even with multiple teams. We would categorize all their Bubble "A" players to be primarily 2<sup>nd</sup> line B1 kids with 1 or 2 first liners on those B1 teams who are not the teams star players.

### Top Tier

Eden Prairie, Woodbury, Eagan, Osseo-Maple Grove, Lakeville, White Bear Lake, Stillwater, Rochester, Minnetonka, Blaine: *Clubs who field 5-6 Bantam teams with 3-4 traveling.* These clubs typically have 1 AA, 1 A & 1 or 2 B1 Bantam teams and or either one or two B2 teams. The Bubble here consists of 4-7 of the second & third line players from the "A" bantam team if the teams have AA & A. Then a mix of 6-8 of the top 18 B1 players from both B1 teams. If any of these teams have only 1 team at A or above, the players you'll want are all B1 kids in that case & probably not the top 4-8.

### High Mid Tier

Prior Lake-Savage, Chaska-Chanhassen, Eastview, Cottage Grove, Hastings, St. Cloud, Centennial, Andover: *Generally 4 or "5 smaller" bantam teams with 2 or 3 traveling respectively.* These clubs don't have the numbers of the Elite & Top Tier Clubs but they also don't field as many teams thereby having solid players at different points in their rosters. Generally you would look at the bottom 3-4 kids from the "A" team and the top 6-8 of the top 12 kids in the B1 group. If AA but no A the bottom 1-3 players on the AA team should be a fit.

### Mid Tier

Burnsville, Jefferson, Tartan, Forest Lake, Sibley, Moundsview, Shakopee, Champlin, Anoka Coon Rapids, Farmington, Mpls. Storm, Orono, Mahtomedi: *Generally 3 or possibly "4 smaller" bantam teams with 2 traveling.* As with High Mid Tier, these clubs don't have multiple teams at any one level so their B1 competitiveness holds up well. Again features players at unique points which would generally be the bottom 4-8 kids on their "A" team and the top 4-6 of the best 8 B1 players.

### Mid Low Tier

Mound, Spring Lake Park, Armstrong, Kennedy-Richfield, Shakopee, North Metro, Chisago, Northfield, Waconia, Hudson, River Heights, Owatonna, Hutchinson, No. St. Paul, Highland: *Generally 2 possibly 3 smaller bantam teams.*

Look carefully at your group because B1 bantams may be the first squad they field along with three total teams. All but the top 3 to 5 players from an "A" team or all but 2 or 3 players if the top team is a B1 is a start. If you're unsure about how your team fits, a conversation with our staff at ESP may be in order. Using the 18% formula below may also help.

**Low Tier:** Johnson-Como, Redwing, River Falls, New Richmond, North Branch: Use the 18% calculation shown below to find your player range starting point, & work back 15-20 players from there. Look to snag a balanced mix of players within that group. Merging with another nearby club is a good idea if uniform skill drops off fast in your group.

Coaches from teams not listed can fit themselves into the formula by comparing teams listed to their team by club size, win / loss records, & the outcomes of common opponents games & or head to head. Another way to find a solid starting point, use an **18% calculation** of your "exact level size" to find your top player. **Example:** Club with 109 bantams  $109 \times 18\% = \text{Player \# 19}$  to start. Work back through players 35-40. A random mix of players in that range will be a league fit.

**Low Tier:** 22 to 32 Total Bantams in a club use the 18% calculation. **Mid Low Tier:** 33-59 Bantams targets players 4<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> most skilled or use the calculation. **Mid Tier:** 60-79 Bantams means the 9<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup> most skilled kids are the target. **High Mid Tier:** 80-109 Bantams generally means the 13<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup> most skilled kids. **Top Tier:** 110-125 Bantams means the 20<sup>th</sup> through 36<sup>th</sup> most skilled kids. **Elite Tier:** 125-155 Total Bantams means a random mix of the 29<sup>th</sup> through 54<sup>th</sup> most skilled players. You can always check yourself by using the 18% calculation at all levels.