

Definition of a Bubble B1 Squirt Player

There are differing definitions of what a Bubble B1 Squirt player is depending on who you ask. Often this stems from the reference point being “what was the team designation” the athlete last played on. 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 & teams from one club to the next alters what team players end up on. Parent perception & a coach’s attachment to his club can create emotional obstacles as well. **Example:** An Edina coach is asked what level a player from Redwing is after seeing him and he says “solid C squirt”. That player’s parent and coach may be offended by that comment if the player is on the Redwing Squirt “A” team. It’s ESP Hockey’s job to help you find players who are at a target skill level, not players that are on certain teams. It’s difficult to compare teams without a reference point. We have built a formula that guides you through it. Using the chart below you can find the right players when building a team from a single community or adding a few players from a nearby area to complete a team. A cross section of hockey associations are listed & analyzed to guide you in finding the right players. Some have B2 level teams & some have C teams but player skill should match up on the top end of either. The terms we use to reference teams refers primarily to the size of the clubs not the level of commitment to their athletes.

Elite Tier Associations

Edina & Wayzata: **9-13 squirt teams with 6 or more traveling.**

For the sake of argument these two associations have the most depth of B level players of virtually any other clubs year by year even with multiple teams. Most of the B1 players from those two associations are probably above the level we wish to assemble teams. Some third line B1’s on respective teams would be eligible. First & some second line B2 or C players if applicable should be the focus with recruiting.

Top Tier

Eden Prairie, Woodbury, Eagan, Osseo-Maple Grove, Lakeville, White Bear Lake, Stillwater, Rochester, Minnetonka, Blaine: **Clubs that average 6-8 squirt teams with 4-5 traveling.** These clubs typically have 2 B1 squirt teams and either one or two B2 teams. This Bubble consists of 2-5 of third line role players combined from the two B1 teams and 4-8 of the top dozen B2 or C players as they are normally interchangeable with those that squeezed into the last few B1 spots.

High Mid Tier

Prior Lake-Savage, Chaska-Chanhassen, Andover, Centennial, Eastview, Cottage Grove, Hastings, St. Cloud: **Generally 4-6 squirt teams with 3 or 4 traveling.** 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 1 or 3 kids on a single B1 team and the top 6-10 kids in the B2 or C group.

Mid Tier

Burnsville, Tartan, Forest Lake, Sibley, Shakopee, Moundsview, Apple Valley, Champlin, Anoka, Coon Rapids, Farmington, Mpls. Storm, Jefferson, Orono, Mahtomedi: **Generally 3 or possibly 4 squirt 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. Would generally be the bottom 4-7 kids on their B1 team and their top 1-8 B2 or C players. Some variation in competitiveness can be found year by year top to bottom here. Please also look at win loss records & common opponents.

Mid Low Tier

Mound, Spring Lake Park, Armstrong-Cooper, Kennedy-Richfield, Hopkins, North Metro, Chisago, Northfield, Simley, Owatonna, Waconia, Hudson, Hutchinson, No. St. Paul, Highland: **Generally 3 – possibly 4 squirt teams total with 2 traveling.** B1 squirts may be the first squad fielded in this group along with three total teams. The last 3-6 players on that B1 team along with the first 3-7 of the second team if applicable would be a starting point. A conversation with our staff at ESP may be in order. You may need to fill in kids using a neighboring club if your players drop off quickly skill wise with team two. If there is an “A” team the club may be a little stronger where “maybe” only the last player or two are eligible along with the top two lines of the next team if there are four teams total.

Lower Tier

Johnson-Como, Redwing, River Falls, North Branch, Irondale, New Richmond, Baldwin: 4th through 18th best players.

Coaches from teams not listed should be able to fit themselves into the formula by comparing teams listed to their team by club size, win / loss records, & the outcomes of games with common opponents & or head to head. Another way to find a solid starting point, use a 30% calculation of your “exact level size” (total player numbers) to find your top players & then work back from there 15-20 kids to find the full range. A balanced mix within that # grouping will make you competitive.

Low Tier: 30-50 total squirts in the club means the 13th through 28th most skilled. **Low Mid Tier:** 51-79 squirts are the 20th -36th most skilled. **Mid Tier:** 80-99 total squirts in a club means target the 26th through 48th most skilled kids. **High Mid:** 100-119 total squirts means target the 34th through 54th most skilled kids. **Top Tier:** 120-140 total squirts means target the 40th through 60th most skilled kids. **Elite Tier:** 140-180 squirts means players from 48th to 70th most skilled.