



BYHA TRYOUT & EVALUATION PROCEDURES

- I. Mission Statement: The goal of the tryout process is to ensure that each skater in the Buffalo Youth Hockey Association (BYHA) is placed on a team of similar skill level to theirs to promote player development.
- II. Objectives for the Tryout and/or Evaluation:
 - A. To provide a fair and impartial assessment of a player's total hockey skills during the session(s).
 - B. To provide uniformity and consistency in the evaluation process. Player and parent expectations are consistent from year to year as players move through the various levels of the association's program.
 - C. To form teams to maintain balanced and competitive play where the players can develop and participate equitably and have fun playing hockey during the season.
- III. Parents/Players:

Black helmets & breezers as well as any combination of BYHA colored socks (Black/Purple/White) are recommended. Helmets shall have **all** stickers removed.

Parents or guardians will not be allowed in the area designated for the evaluators.

Any parent that does not want their skater participating on an A team can request an exemption. Such requests must be made prior to the conclusion of the evaluation session. In the event a player wishes to decline their placement after the conclusion of tryouts it must be approved by the BYHA President, HOC V.P. and the head coaches of the effected teams.

Additionally, parents that prefer siblings on the same team may result in placement at the lower skill level team.

Girls at all levels (U10/U12/PeeWee/U14/Bantam) are encouraged to play on a team that will best provide for their overall development and enjoyment of the game. MN Hockey allows girls to play on boys teams if they so choose. Prior to the first tryout, all girls at U10/U12/PeeWee/U14/Bantam levels must declare whether they will tryout and play on a girls or a boys team. If after tryouts a girl wants to move to/from a youth/girls team they will be allowed to move prior to the final roster signing date, but they will be placed on the lowest level team at their respective age group.



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IV. Evaluators:

A. Evaluator Selection:

The Tryout Coordinator(s) will contact evaluators recommended by the HOC. A good faith effort will be made to recruit evaluators that are experienced in the evaluation process and have coached at or above the level of play that he/she is evaluating. Player evaluation criteria may include, input from previous year coaching staff, attitude, is the player recognized as a “team player”, and participation in off-season development programs.

- B. Each level will attempt to have a minimum of three evaluators and a maximum of five evaluators. Head Coach for each A level team is expected to participate in the tryout process as an evaluator. Evaluators, with exception of the A team Head Coach, will not be allowed to evaluate levels that include their children as skaters. The A team Head Coach will not be allowed to score/rank his/her own children on the Skill Assessment Sheet (see Appendix A) but will participate in the overall evaluation and ranking of the teams for his/her respective level.

V. Tryout Groups:

Dependent upon the number of skaters at each level, the tryout process may include more than one group per level. This will be communicated by e-mail and posted to the website under the Tryout tab.

- A. If multiple groups are needed at a level, the Tryout Coordinator(s) will assign players to the initial tryout group alphabetically and similar in total number based on a players last name. Goalies may be assigned to a group manually or asked to attend multiple groups to allow for a goalie to be present when required for specific tryout drills.
- B. For PeeWee/12U/10U & Bantam/14U where multiple groups are required:
After completion of the second session, the groups will be reorganized based on rankings of the previous two sessions. This will allow assessment of skills and scrimmages within an “A/B” and “B/C” skill level and facilitate the assessment for the remaining sessions. The remaining sessions may include a mix of drills, inter squad scrimmages, as well as scrimmages with a group of the same level from another association.
- C. For Squirts where multiple groups are required:
After the completion of the initial evaluation session(s), the groups will be reorganized based on the rankings of the evaluation session. The evaluation process will continue in a player development phase within an “A/B” and “B/C” skill level groups to facilitate the assessment for the remaining sessions. The remaining sessions may include a mix of



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drills, inter squad scrimmages, as well as scrimmages with a group of the same level from another association.

VI. Skill Assessment Procedures (Squirt/U10/U12/PeeWee/U14/Bantam levels):

A. Tryout Sessions:

The goal of the skill assessment phase of the tryouts is to ensure that evaluators place each skater in the appropriate level based on their current level of skill. Each evaluator will be provided a Skill Assessment Sheet at the beginning of each session. The sheet will be prepared by the HOC and will include a breakdown of the skills evaluated during the session along with a variety of scrimmages. Evaluators will score skaters on a scale of 1 to 7 during the session and document the session results along with any comments on each skater on the Skill Assessment Sheet. Evaluators are strongly encouraged to concentrate on the on-ice activity during the evaluations. The skills and scrimmages will be weighted. For U12 thru Bantam levels, the skills will be weighted at 40% and the scrimmages will be weighted at 60%. For Squirts & U10 (if necessary), the skills will be weighted at 50% and the scrimmages will be weighted at 50%. The A team coach and evaluators are allowed to meet in a coaches room after each session to discuss results. The completed Skill Assessment Sheets will be turned in to the Tryout Coordinator(s) at the conclusion of the each session.

If multiple groups, after completion of the second session, the evaluators and A team head coach will meet to rank all skaters at that level. The rankings will be based upon the Skill Assessment Sheets (which is a tally of scores from the first two days) and evaluator input. If evaluators cannot come to a consensus regarding rankings, reference for all tie breakers will be based on the highest average score per the Skill Assessment Sheets. The ranking based on the assessments and coach/evaluator input will be used to reorganize groups into the "A/B" and "B/C" groups for the remaining session(s). The A head coach evaluator has the discretion to conclude the A/B and B/C reorganization after the 3rd session. Evaluators also have the ability to move skaters from the B/C group to the A/B group following the A/B – B/C cut. Skaters may also be moved from the A/B group to the B/C group at the discretion of the A team head coach and evaluators. For the 3rd session the skaters that are on the line for the A/B and B/C cut will be ranked accordingly. During the remaining session(s), the drills may be focused more on scrimmages (i.e. 1v1, 2v2, 3v3, 2v1, 3v2, etc.) rather than skills. The drills/scrimmages may also be altered the day of at the discretion of the A team head coach. Evaluators are encouraged to make comments on a players or goalies performance. After the 3rd and/or final session, the A team head coach will provide the Tryout Coordinator(s) with the final results based on Skill Assessment Sheets and evaluator input. Certain levels of play may



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incorporate scrimmages against players from outside of the BYHA. These outside players should be of like ability of those who are being evaluated.

For A team selection, the skaters ranked in the top 70% of the projected number of rostered A team players are assured an A team selection. The A coach has discretion to complete his/her A team roster provided that all players are selected from the A/B group. The B and C teams will be selected using the evaluation sheets and may utilize the head A coach, B and C team coaches, HOC V.P., and BYHA President. The HOC V.P. and BYHA President or representatives therein are encouraged to be present during the selection of all travel teams.

Squirt Evaluation Sessions:

Squirt evaluation process and results will be overseen by the HOC Squirt Coordinator and the Tryout Coordinator(s). Scrimmages may or may not be part of this process. Squirts may use a few weeks of inter squad play to provide for player evaluation prior to final team selections are made. This format will be determined by the HOC who will make the squirt tryout recommendation to the BYHA Board prior to the start of tryouts.

Goalie Evaluations:

Goalie evaluation criteria will be determined by the HOC. Goalies at the Pee wee (12U) level and above will be evaluated separately by goalie specific evaluators. This process may include a goalie specific on ice session separate from the skater sessions for the participant's level. The A head coach will also evaluate goalies. Skater evaluators may offer input during the post skills session discussions.

Squirt goalies will also be evaluated by coaches during the inter squad play.

B. Session Drills (see Appendix B):

Drills for each session will demonstrate the skill level for each skater and allow evaluators to assess the skills of each player. Drills will be reviewed by the BYHA HOC on an annual basis. These drills will be posted to the website and may be included in clinics that precede tryouts. Any variation of these drills will be used throughout the tryouts. Note: these drills are subject to change/modification at the discretion of the A head coach at each level during tryouts.

C. Attendance (Illness/Injury/etc.):

Skaters are required to check in with the Administrative Assistant at the beginning of each session to sign in. In accordance with the BYHA Handbook, any skater, excluding Squirts, that fails to attend all tryout/evaluation sessions is precluded from placement on the A team for that level.



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If a skater cannot attend a tryout session or sessions due to illness or injury, a physician's statement/slip is required for an excused absence. A fall school sport that may interfere with tryouts is an excused absence. If the illness or injury prevents a skater from participating in 50% of the tryout sessions, the skater will be placed on the lowest team, upon being cleared to skate, for 1 to 4 practices at each level (approximately 2 weeks) and will be evaluated as to where their final team placement will be. The decision of placement will be determined by the head coach of the affected teams. During the trial period, those that are already at that level will not move down. Also during the trial period, skaters at that level have the opportunity to move up to a higher level.

Other exigent circumstances precluding a player from attending any and/or all tryout session(s) will be addressed by the BYHA President and HOC V.P. who, after consulting with the head A coach, evaluators, and reviewing a skater's previous team history, may deviate from this policy.

- D. The HOC will recommend to the BYHA Board the number and size of the teams as well as the number of teams at each level of play. The BYHA Board will determine how the B teams are rostered. Exceptions are allowed to accommodate coaching staff as long as skater skills are similar.

VII. Tryout Results

- A. In accordance with the BYHA Handbook, tryout results will be available to parents within 24 hours of completing the final session. Results will be posted on the BYHA web site under the Tryout tab.
- B. Format for the results will include: Skater Name, Team/Level, & Coaches Name and names of all players for respective team.

Appendices:

A- Session Drills

Updated 10/9/2014