



# BLAINE YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

9250 LINCOLN STREET NE | BLAINE MN 55434 | BYHA.ORG

## Welcome Blaine Hockey Families to a new hockey season!

With Traveling Tryouts starting soon, we wanted to reach out with information to help our players and parents navigate the next couple of weeks. We believe this is the greatest sport on earth, and our desire is for all players to look back on their BYHA experience and remember all the friendships and great memories they created.

### **TRYOUT PROCESS OVERVIEW:**

As a Board, we are continuously evaluating the quality of our programs that serve our membership; to ensure all our participants have a great experience.

On the **first day of your tryout, please arrive 45 minutes early** to get checked-in and receive your tryout jersey. We may need a little extra time if a jersey change is needed due to sizing issues.

**All BYHA Fees must be current** to attend tryouts. Please contact our Treasurer at [treasurer@byha.org](mailto:treasurer@byha.org) to discuss any open balances.

**Tryouts are closed to the public and all parents.** The only individuals allowed in the rink during any tryout session include: Evaluators, selected Head Coaches, Board Members, Coordinators, arena staff, and any other critical volunteers helping with tryouts.

*\*If assistance is needed for tying skates, players and parents can meet in the lower-level dressing area between rinks; parents must exit the arena immediately when finished. We also have volunteers that can help.*

**Only BYHA-sanctioned socks & logos allowed.** All other hockey program branding and player names must be removed from equipment prior to tryouts. This includes: names on helmets, all helmet stickers other than BYHA, socks from "select" or summer teams, etc. All players must wear BYHA-colored socks (navy, light blue, white) and black or dark blue breezers. If you do not have BYHA colored hockey socks, matching plain white or blue socks can be worn. A limited number of socks will be available at the check-in table if you cannot provide your own compliant socks. Make sure to ask for them at check-in.

**Triple check your bag!! Don't be that player that cannot participate due to forgotten equipment!!**

**Tryout jerseys** with assigned tryout numbers will be issued to all players at the first session check-in. The assigned jersey must be worn at each tryout session. Jersey color will be assigned at check-in for each day. Be sure your player takes the same jersey # home after each session. This jersey number is our only means to track and score your player throughout tryouts. All jerseys must be returned at the last session of tryouts.

**Attendance is mandatory.** Players must arrive on time and be on the ice for all assigned tryout sessions, unless previously excused by the respective Traveling Director. Any unexcused absences can impact a player's overall evaluation and team placement.



# BLAINE YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

9250 LINCOLN STREET NE | BLAINE MN 55434 | BYHA.ORG

## HOW DO TRYOUTS WORK?

**Day 1:** All players will be randomly assigned to a tryout session to ensure initial groups are balanced with forwards, defense, goalie positions, and skill levels in all positions.

**All other days** – Based on scores from previous days, players will be assigned to the next session. Each day players can be moved between groups. There is not a defined number of players per session, the goal is to get like skilled players on the ice at the same time, allowing players to better showcase their skills, and for Evaluators to score more consistently and accurately.

***\*Daily Session assignments will be posted to the BYHA website. It is your responsibility to monitor the website or the SportsEngine mobile app and understand which session to attend.***

## HOW WILL MY PLAYER BE EVALUATED? BY THEIR PLAY!

Tryouts will consist of skills, small area games, battle drills, cross ice scrimmages and/or full ice scrimmages.

During each tryout session, a panel of independent evaluators will score each player on a preset scale, following a common scoring structure. Evaluators are chosen for their hockey knowledge and ability to consistently assess the participants. Evaluators do not have any players participating at the level of play being evaluated. Each group of evaluators will attend all sessions for that level.

Head Coaches will have zero impact on scores. Their ability to view tryout sessions allows them more time to observe all players and assist in their own decision-making process while finalizing teams and planning for the season ahead. Team selections are done by player scoring, with the Head Coach selecting a few final spots.

Players will be evaluated on a balance of strengths across the following areas:

- Skills – skating, passing, shooting, stickhandling
- Hockey sense, compete level, positioning, awareness
- Positive contribution to team play

Goalies will be evaluated on:

- Movement, quickness, positioning
- Compete level
- Awareness, puck tracking, rebound control, recovery after a save or a goal (mentally and physically)
- Stickhandling

NOTE: Players are also evaluated for negative contributions to play as well. Inappropriate conduct, disruptive behaviors, or penalty situations will result in score deductions. This includes, but is not limited to: lack of effort, multiple penalties, foul language, unsportsmanlike behavior, and hazardous play with intent to injure.

Scores will be assessed from 0 (lowest) to 100 (highest) from each evaluator on the above criteria. Scores are recorded and used for subsequent session assignments and overall final team selection. Each player has an opportunity to move up/down between groups based on each previous tryout session.

Make sure your player knows that **every drill, every shift, and every session matters** for final team placements.



# BLAINE YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

9250 LINCOLN STREET NE | BLAINE MN 55434 | BYHA.ORG

## **TRYOUT INQUIRES:**

The tryout process is designed to place players on teams where they will have success and be challenged each season. Please understand that all team decisions are final, and no changes can be made once teams are posted.

There will always be kids that don't make the teams that they are hoping for and that can get very emotional for both players and parents alike. **Please help us with coaching them through those difficult emotions and avoid the victim thinking that can drag those negative emotions out for much longer than need be.** It's okay and very normal to be disappointed about falling short of your goal at times, but it is important to get through that phase of negativity very quickly and find the positivity once again. Embrace the opportunity ahead to be a leader and good teammate on the team they make and learn those life lessons that will help them as they mature and are faced with similar situations in their futures. There is always a "glass half full" version of every story. Help them find that!

Note that it is BYHA Tradition to have our head coach call the final group of players to inform them of either making the team or not. If your player is in the final scrimmage group and may not take that communication in a healthy manner, please contact us so we can make note of that and only inform the parent.

BYHA has a **mandatory 24-hour waiting period** before contact can be made with the board. Please note and respect this timeframe before sending inquiries about your player, or comments/suggestions about the tryout process. After 24 hours, you can contact [president@byha.org](mailto:president@byha.org) or [vicepresident@byha.org](mailto:vicepresident@byha.org) with your questions or concerns. Also, please understand that we cannot and will not ever consider any opinions about player skill, scores, or take any tryout execution related requests from any parents with players in tryouts. As you can imagine, that would quickly create unhealthy perceptions related to fair and equal treatment for all, and claims of special/preferential treatment, which we cannot allow.

## **TIPS FOR A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR PLAYER:**

1. Remind your player to **have FUN! Enjoy the experience and bring a positive attitude!**
2. Encourage your player to do their very best, every time they step on the ice. Strong efforts will be noticed.
3. Be kind to others, as well as the volunteers that work hard to make this program possible.

We are all looking forward to a great season ahead! Good luck to all during their tryouts!

## **GO BENGALS!**

Jeff Meister – President  
[president@byha.org](mailto:president@byha.org)

Brad Keogh - Vice President  
[vicepresident@byha.org](mailto:vicepresident@byha.org)