

CRYHA Tryout Policies and Procedures

The Hockey Operations Committee and any Tryout Level Directors are together responsible for facilitating the tryouts in collaboration for each level. Any exceptions to these Policies and Procedures during the tryout process, including interpretation of the tryout procedures, are subject to the review and approval of the CRYHA Board of Directors.

Goals

Tryouts can be an uncertain and anxious time for players and families. The goal of CRYHA is to eliminate some of that by providing as much information as possible on what to expect so you and your player(s) will be excited and ready for the season. Therefore, this document can be your guide. In it, you will find information on what to do before the tryout sessions, what the association is looking for during tryouts as well as what to expect when they are complete. Beyond that, remember to have fun. That is probably the only way to guarantee you will put your best skate forward this fall.

Our goal is making sure every player is properly placed allowing each player to maximize their hockey development.

Administrative Requirements to Participate in Tryouts:

- Player **MUST** be registered and have their account *CURRENT* with no outstanding fees. No players will be allowed to attend Tryouts with an outstanding balance without first making alternative arrangements with the CRYHA Board of Directors.
- If a Player is on a payment plan, a minimum of one payment completed is required.
- Volunteer check for player/family needs to be on file or turned in on day of first tryout.
- Parents and spectators are **NOT** allowed in the arena (arena is defined as being anywhere inside Coon Rapids Ice Center) during tryout events, with the exception of an outside Association scrimmage. CRYHA wishes to provide the best environment possible to enable players to perform at their best.
- Players must check in at least 30 minutes prior to their tryout time (Parents - this is your responsibility).
- Only black and white socks are allowed (Previous year's CRYHA issued socks are also acceptable).
- No helmet stickers, except CRYHA.

Tryout Basics

- CRYHA's tryout process is designed to identify the right level and team assignment for each player in the least amount of time. It is not perfect and inevitably will be tweaked from season to season to try to take advantage of best practices used by USA Hockey, Minnesota Hockey and other associations, and may include outside scrimmages against other associations' teams. Accordingly, each off-season the Hockey Operations Committee will carefully consider the feedback provided by parents at the end of the prior season and take into account as much of the constructive feedback that has been provided as possible in planning the tryout process for the next season. If you do not turn in an end-of-year evaluation, we will presume you have no comments or concerns regarding tryouts or team placement.
- Tryouts will consist of multiple ice sessions evaluating inter-squad scrimmages by a team of evaluators. Skills being scored will range in variety and will include skating, shooting, passing, hockey intelligence/awareness, etc. Inter-squad scrimmages will primarily be 5v5, however 4v4 or 3v3 scrimmages may occur.
- Announced Head Coaches only will be invited to watch tryouts. These coaches will have absolutely zero impact to the players score, but this allows them more time to observe all players and assist in their decision making process.
- No Head Coach will see evaluation data prior to team selection, and then will only be provided summary data to facilitate the team selection process.
- The tryout process for each level will be facilitated by 2 or more Hockey Operations Committee members that do not have a player participating in that level. In the event that two (2) Hockey Operations Committee Members are not available to administer the tryouts at any level, the Secretary and Treasurer of CRYHA will find other members of the CRYHA Board of Directors to facilitate this role.
- Any Hockey Operations Committee member, CRYHA Board of Director, or other Coon Rapids Association member volunteer involved with team selection, tryout evaluation, and/or tryout coordination must not have a player participating in that given level. If this situation does occur, the Hockey Operations Committee member or other CRYHA volunteer must abstain from participating in that level tryout process. They may participate in other level tryouts. (An example is, Hockey Operations member A has a player at the Squirt level. Hockey Operations member A can't participate in the Squirt level tryouts. Hockey Operations member A can participate in Peewee, U10, U12, Bantam, and U15.)

CRYHA will continue the practice of using independent evaluators. The Hockey Operations Committee will select evaluators who:

- Do not have a player in the program
- Have previous experience evaluating
- Have former coaching/playing experience
- Are knowledgeable about the game of hockey
- Are not member of the Hockey Operations Committee

- Are not and will not be considered as a potential Head Coach of any team.

Evaluation Details

Skill Details

(Please note: No separate evaluation skill drills will be conducted during the tryout process. The information noted below is meant to be used as a guide for what evaluators will be looking for and grading on during the tryout process)

- Player proficiency in skating, passing, puck control and shooting. (Goalies will be assessed on skating, saves, angles, position, technique.)
- Skating -Forward/backward, edges, posture, balance, etc.
- Passing/Puck Handling -Giving/ receiving passes, handling the puck.
- Shooting -Hard vs weak, accurate vs erratic.
- Defensive Play -Defensive awareness, positional play, 2-way player, etc.
- Goalie Specific -Angles, technique, etc.
- Having more game like scenarios/scrimmages will give the players the opportunity to demonstrate their skills every single tryout session.

Competitive Details

(Please note: No separate competitive skill drills will be conducted during the tryout process. The information noted below is meant to be used as a guide for what evaluators will be looking for and grading on during the tryout process)

- Tenacity/Effort -Compete level, tenacity, consistency in effort, etc.
- Leadership/Character -Does the player demonstrate leadership/good character, have emotional balance, positive vs negative attitude, etc.
- Team Play -Does the player share the puck, do they make players around them better, take unnecessary penalties, etc.
- Coachability -Is the player receptive and responsive to instruction?
- Some additional categories Evaluators may be instructed to score the players on during this component are: hockey sense, and play making ability.
- The Competitive Component is intended to be a fluid process. It is important for players and parents to not focus on the tryout process from day to day. We suggest to parents that they encourage their player to compete and have a good attitude throughout the process regardless of any perceived day to day results. The process allows players to compete in each session as if it were a brand new tryout -parents should reaffirm to their player that they have the opportunity to start each session fresh and they truly control the outcome each and every time they step onto the ice.

Tryouts

The number or teams at each level will be determined by the CRYHA Hockey Operations Committee prior to the beginning of the Tryout Process. The Hockey Operations Committee will make a recommendation to the CRYHA Board of Directors for final approval.

- All players will initially be placed into random letter grouping (A, B, C, D, etc.); the size and number of groups will vary based on the current season's registration numbers.
- Each player will be given a black and white reversible tryout jersey; random numbers will be assigned by the Association. The player will keep the same jersey/number for the entire tryout process.
- Parents will be notified via e-mail of Group evaluation session times prior to the start of tryouts. This information will also be available on the CRYHA Tryout webpage, found on the following website, www.coonrapidshockey.com

Bantams:

- Day 1 - Players split into 4 random equal numbered groups. Warm up Skating Drills; followed by 3 on 3 small area scrimmages.
- Day 2 - Players split into 2 equal scrimmage groups. Warm up Skating Drills; Followed by Scrimmages of equal groups divided by Day 1 results. Scrimmage 5 on 5, or 4 on 4 based on size of group.
- Day 3 - Players split into 2 equal scrimmage groups. Warm up Skating Drills; Followed by Scrimmages of equal groups divided by Day 1 and Day 2 Combined Results. Scrimmage 5 on 5, or 4 on 4 based on size of group.
- Day 4 (if necessary) - Players split into 2 equal scrimmage groups. Warm up Skating Drills; Followed by Scrimmages of equal groups divided by Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3 Combined Results. Scrimmages, 1 on 1, 2 on 2, Small Area Games, etc. to help determine the cuts between AA/A and B1, B1 and B2, B2 and C.

Evaluator scored sessions are completed.

Peewees:

- Day 1 - Players split into 4 random equal numbered groups. Warm up Skating Drills; followed by 3 on 3 small area scrimmages.
- Day 2 - Players split into 2 equal scrimmage groups. Warm up Skating Drills; Followed by Scrimmages of equal groups divided by Day 1 results. Scrimmage 5 on 5, or 4 on 4 based on size of group.
- Day 3 - Players split into 2 equal scrimmage groups. Warm up Skating Drills; Followed by Scrimmages of equal groups divided by Day 1 and Day 2 Combined Results. Scrimmage 5 on 5, or 4 on 4 based on size of group.
- Day 4 (if necessary) - Players split into 2 equal scrimmage groups. Warm up Skating Drills; Followed by Scrimmages of equal groups divided by Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3 Combined Results. Scrimmages, 1 on 1, 2 on 2, Small Area Games, etc. to help determine the cuts between AA/A and B1, B1 and B2, B2 and C.

Evaluator scored sessions are completed.

Squirts:

- Day 1 - Players split into 4 random equal numbered groups. Warm up Skating Drills; followed by 3 on 3 small area scrimmages.

- Day 2 - Players split into 2 equal scrimmage groups. Warm up Skating Drills; Followed by Scrimmages of equal groups divided by Day 1 results. Scrimmage 5 on 5, or 4 on 4 based on size of group.
- Day 3 - Players split into 2 equal scrimmage groups. Warm up Skating Drills; Followed by Scrimmages of equal groups divided by Day 1 and Day 2 Combined Results. Scrimmage 5 on 5, or 4 on 4 based on size of group.
- Day 4 (if necessary) - Players split into 2 equal scrimmage groups. Warm up Skating Drills; Followed by Scrimmages of equal groups divided by Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3 Combined Results. Scrimmages, 1 on 1, 2 on 2, Small Area Games, etc. to help determine the cuts between AA/A and B1, B1 and B2, B2 and C.

Evaluator scored sessions are completed.

Goalie:

During the tryouts, some levels may have a separate goalie only evaluation session with only goalies, volunteer shooters, and evaluators allowed on the ice. All goalies must attend these sessions in addition to their level tryout sessions. Any shooters will be volunteer players that are not trying out with the goalies. Goalie specific evaluators will grade these tryout sessions.

Additional Information

In fairness to all players trying out, the only exception to participation is if a player is injured or ill and cannot participate in the tryout process. If a player is unable to participate in tryouts due to illness or injury, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian of the player to contact a member of the Hockey Operations Committee **BEFORE** tryouts begin. Written information from the players physician detailing why he/she cannot participate should be provided as early as possible **BEFORE TRYOUTS BEGIN**.

If a player falls ill or is injured during the tryout process it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian for getting the player to a medical examination within 24 hours after the onset of illness/injury. The examining physician should provide written information detailing why the player cannot continue. This information must be given to a member of the Hockey Operations Committee within 24 hours after the medical exam.

If a player cannot complete the tryout process due to illness/injury the Hockey Operations Committee, using any evaluation data collected and with input from the Head Coaches, will determine at which level (AA, A, B, B2, or C) the player should be placed. The Hockey Operations Committee will use the following general guidelines for a player team placement. Actual assignment may vary depending on registration counts as well as the number of teams.

First Year Player

- If you played for an AA, or A team last year, you will be considered for AA, A or any B Level team.
- If you played for a B1, B2, or C team last year, you will be considered for A, B, B2, or C Level team.

Second Year Player

- If you played for an AA or A level team last year, you will be considered for AA/A, or B1 Level team.
- If you played for a B, B2, or C level team last year, you will be considered for A, B, B2, or C Level team.

If a player moves into our Association after the tryout process is completed, the Hockey Operations Committee, using all available information, will assign the incoming player to a team. The same general guidelines for players not able to compete in tryouts due to illness/injury will be used in these cases. Actual team assignment may vary depending on registration counts as well as the number of teams.

Move Up Policy

If a player wishes to attempt to move up a level of play, they may do so under the following parameters (this applies to anyone entering their final year of eligibility at the mite/U8, squirt/U10, or peewee/U12 level):

1. Player must have been on the top team offered at their level the previous season.
2. Player must score in the top six (6) during scored/evaluated tryouts in order to make the A (or top) level coaches skate. Like any player in the coaches skate, it is still up to the coach to decide who will be included on the final team roster (making the "A" skate does NOT guarantee a spot on the "A" team).
3. Tryout staff reserves the right to remove a player prior to the final day of scored tryouts if it becomes apparent (based solely on evaluator total scores of the full squad to that point) that the player is not going to meet the requirements in item #2.

If at any point it is determined that a player will not meet the requirements in item #2 noted above, player will immediately rejoin the top group/team at the lower level to complete the tryout process, or start the season, whichever situation applies

CRYHA wants all players to participate at their individual skill level for their own development in order to keep our traveling program competitive. Therefore, if a player has tried out for and been placed on a team and is asked to move up or down prior to December 31 of the playing year, he/she is required to play as requested.

Final Team Selection

- Beginning with the AA/A Team (or top team), the team selection process will begin at the end of the last evaluated session of tryouts. The placement of players will be based on the total combined score of the tryout sessions. Based

on the number of players to be assigned to the AA/A team, the top 10-12 skaters and top evaluated goalie will be placed the AA/A team. Following the completion of these placements, in conjunction with the Hockey Operations Committee, using the independent evaluators scoring, personal notes from observing tryouts and when necessary - guidance from the Level Tryout Directors, the Head Coach will select the remaining additional players and goalie (if a second goalie is to be assigned) to be placed on the team.

- The Head Coach, in conjunction with the Hockey Operations Committee and Level Directors, may have additional scrimmages vs another Association to help aid in final team selections. For competitive purposes, if a Head Coach decides to bring more players than the number to be placed on the final team to any potential scrimmage, any player not making this team will automatically be placed on the next level team.
- The remaining players not selected to the AA/A team (or top team) may skate in additional sessions under the direction of the Head Coaches, Tryout Level Directors, and Hockey Operations Committee, for that level. After completion of any additional tryout sessions, the team selection process will repeat and the placement of players will again be chosen for the next level team using the top 10-12 skaters and top goalie available to be placed on the A/B team (or next team). Following the completion of these placements, in conjunction with the Hockey Operations Committee, using the independent evaluators scoring, personal notes from observing tryouts and when necessary - guidance from the Level Tryout Directors, the Head Coach will select the remaining additional players and goalie (if a second goalie is to be assigned) to be placed on the team.
 - The Head Coach, in conjunction with the Hockey Operations Committee and Level Directors, may have additional scrimmages vs another Association to help aid in final team selections. For competitive purposes, if a Head Coach decides to bring more players than the number to be placed on the final team to any potential scrimmage, any player not making this team will automatically be placed on the next level team.
- This process will continue using the same approach until all players are placed and all teams are filled. If there are multiple teams at the same level, they will be split evenly by determination of the Hockey Operations Committee.
- Once the AA/A Team (or top team) has been selected, the remaining teams can be selected in the following descending order. First will be the A Team selection, followed by B1, then B2, and finishing with C.
- The number of players may vary should a clear ability gap exist. CRYHA's policy is to adhere to the MN Hockey guidelines on team sizes when possible, however due to varying registration numbers, the actual team sizes may vary therefore no hard numbers are put in place. The number of goalies per team will also vary on the number of goalies at each level.
- Due to time constraints - the selection of teams will NOT be announced immediately. Please allow up to 48 hours to be notified of your players final

team placement once tryouts have finished. When all teams have been selected and players placed on their respective team, CRYHA will post all teams on the CRYHA website.

- We understand this may be a change from previous tryouts, however coaches have to be identified, then scheduled to come in and make their selections, etc.
- After teams are posted, you will be contacted by your Head Coach via e-mail with information regarding your first practice date and time, as well as when your player/parent meeting will take place.

Tryout Inquiries

- Everyone understands that there will most likely be disappointments of players not making the team that they had hoped to make. However, all decisions are final and there will be no changes once teams have been posted with two exceptions:
 - Should a CRYHA Player tryout for (and make) a High School team (unavoidable due to date of high school tryouts), team rosters may be adjusted to account for the loss of players from a team.
 - If a new player moves into the community after tryouts and did not participate in the process, the Tryout Committee will evaluate the player and place them on the appropriate team.
- **A mandatory 24 hour waiting period is required once teams have been posted if a parent still has concerns or questions.**
 - Once the 24 hour waiting period has expired, please e-mail your concern or questions to our Association e-mail address -HockeyOps@CRYHA.com
 - Please do not attempt to circumvent the process and contact CRYHA Board Members directly with your concerns or questions. Your comments and suggestions are important to us and to ensure all questions are answered, we ask that you follow the above procedure.
- After your e-mail is received, you will be contacted by a member of the Hockey Operations Committee to discuss your concerns or questions on how to improve the process in the future. As stated earlier, all decisions are final -however we are always open to suggestions and comments regarding the tryout process.

Conclusion

- While there is no perfect tryout process, CRYHA believes that more information is better than less.
- If there are more opportunities for players to compete, there are more opportunities for them to showcase their talent.

- Using independent evaluators, as has been done in our Association for many years, is important for maintaining the integrity of the process.
- Allowing previously named and perspective Head Coaches to view the entire tryout process creates better informed decisions when team selection commences.
- Utilizing the Hockey Operations Committee, Tryout Level Directors, Coaches and Evaluators in this process -provides for multiple checks and balances to be in place to ensure a fair and impartial process.
- Any situation/event/circumstance not covered in these Policies and Procedures will be addressed in full by the Hockey Operations Committee.
- **At the end of the day Tryouts are a beginning to a season, but the season itself is the opportunity for a player to maximize their development.**

End