



2020 Squirt Tryout Guide

Updated 7/8/2020



What's new this year?

This year, there will not be many changes to the Squirt Tryout process. The biggest change you will see this season is that all traveling tryouts will be closed. In addition, we will have up to 10 outside evaluators/coaches scoring players. Evaluation score breakdown will consist of 60% coaches score and 40% paid evaluators score. The final day of tryouts (Day 4) will not be scored.

What are the warm-up sessions?

There are warm-up sessions that will be part of the tryout fee for all traveling skaters and goalies to prepare for tryouts. The tryout drills will be reviewed and practiced during these sessions.

You **MUST** be registered with USA Hockey and RAHA to participate in these sessions.

We highly recommend that you attend these warm-ups, to know what to expect. However, your participation is not used in evaluations in any way.

*Warm-up session times will be posted once finalized



How do tryouts start for Squirts?

Note: Your player/goalie will need to attend all tryout sessions for their age level, otherwise they will receive the lowest score possible for that session.

Each player will receive a tryout jersey at the Traveling Parent Meeting to be used for all tryout sessions. If your tryout jersey is not returned after tryouts, you could be charged for the jersey.

You will receive a pair of Rosemount socks at the Traveling Parent Meeting. These will become your team socks, so do not lose them. Please wear this pair for all tryout sessions.

All Players will be placed in a random pool for the first day of tryouts. Pool assignments will be posted to the RAHA website a couple of days prior to tryout days.

Players shall wear a navy colored helmet with NO IDENTIFYING TEAM MARKINGS or STICKERS (AAA, team names, etc).

Wear all your standard hockey equipment including mouth guards.

Players should arrive 30-45 minutes prior to their session and must be ready to get on the ice 15 minutes prior to start time.

The tryout process is based on registration numbers; therefore, this process may change if the actual number of players change.

It is your responsibility to monitor the RAHA website and understand which session you must attend each day during tryouts.

Tryout Schedule

If you are trying out for **goaltending**, you will attend a separate goaltender's skill session for grading. This will most likely take place before the rest of the skaters try out.

Day 1 (**Evaluated**)– All Squirt players start in random pools with a skills/scrimmage session on the first day. This skills session will consist of 2-4 drills designed to grade a player's skating and puck skills, followed by a 4x4 or 5x5 scrimmage.

Pools will change each day thereafter for the remainder of tryouts based on players scores.

Based upon results of Day 1 Skills/Scrimmage session, players will be placed in to tiered groups for the remainder of tryouts. Each day will consist of:



Day 2 (**Evaluated**) – 5x5 internal scrimmage

Day 3 (**Evaluated**) – 5x5 internal scrimmage

Day 4 – Coach led internal 5x5 scrimmage/practice

At the end of each subsequent session, you may stay in your tier, move up or move down, based on the most recent session's performance.

Initial and subsequent session assignments will be posted to the RAHA website the night before the scheduled session.

It is your responsibility to monitor the website and understand which session you must attend.

The tryout process is based on registration numbers; therefore, this process may change if the actual number of players change.

*Tryout times will be posted once finalized

How will I be evaluated?

During each tryout session, a panel of up to 10 evaluators/coaches will score you on a preset scale, following a common scoring structure.

Evaluators/coaches look for complete players, with strengths balanced across:

- Skills
- Hockey sense, and
- Positive contribution to team play

Scores from each evaluator/coach are recorded and used for subsequent tier assignments and final team selection.

You are evaluated for negative contributions to play as well. Inappropriate conduct or penalty situations will result in a decrease of your score. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Penalties
- Use of foul language on or off the ice
- **Play intended to injure, illegal checks**



Keep in mind that scores from sessions are used for subsequent tier assignments and also final team placement. In addition, each player has the opportunity to move up/down within tiers based on each day's session play – therefore each and every session matters.

Note: No evaluator/coach scores or comments will be given to the parents after the tryout process is complete.

How are Teams Selected?

Once day 3 is complete, the RAHA Board of Directors meets and determines team sizes and pick pool sizes. A player must be in the predetermined pick pool on day 4 to be placed on a team. Pick pools are determined at the board meeting after Day 3. These are based on team sizes and finding a natural break/gap in the scores.

Once pick pool sizes are determined the coaches are chosen. The Coaches committee looks at all coaching candidates and evaluates them on experience and past performance/survey results. Then the committee takes their ranking to the board for a final approval. Then once Day 3 is complete the coaches can start to be placed with teams. This starts from the top team and works down from there. A coach's player must rank within the scope of the team for the coach to be chosen to coach that team.

Once a coach is chosen for a team he/she goes into the tryout room and chooses their team. They will identify players they want by number only. This is done in front of the tryout coordinator and at least 2 board members from the tryout committee.

In the event that 2 even teams are made both coaches are in the room at the same time and they choose their players by drafting them. This starts by the committee choosing a group of 6 players that are clustered together and each coach takes turns and takes 3. This repeats until the teams are filled. After the teams are made the committee analyzes the teams to ensure that they are even by looking at player scores.

How will I know what team I'm on?

After team selections are complete, you will be able to check the RAHA website to find your team assignment for the season.

Team assignments are generally posted within 48 hours from the completion of tryouts.

Please be aware that your first practice can be the very next day following tryouts.



What if I have questions about tryouts?

Questions/concerns about the tryout process must go through the RAHA Tryout Coordinator. Do not bring these questions directly to the traveling coaches or tryout committee.

What if I believe a mistake took place?

We understand that the outcome of tryouts might not always be what you had hoped for. However, team selections are final. And in the end, everyone will be on a team, will have a chance to develop and enjoy playing this great sport.

Grievances/complaints, related to tryouts, will not be discussed on the phone. All contact regarding grievances/complaints will not be accepted until one week (7 days) after the completion of your level's final tryout session. Every player/parent who wishes to file a grievance, will need to contact the RAHA Vice-President to get a copy of the form. A meeting will be set up, once the form is completed, as we value your feedback.

In any case, you should plan on attending your team practices as scheduled.