



NOTE TO PARENTS:

"The most important group in a successful tryout process is not the coaches or players, but the parents. Parents must build a positive image of their local program and the tryout experience with the player. We don't want our children to start looking for someone else to blame if they don't meet their goals.

The attitude of the parent is the most critical element to ensuring a positive experience. Too often in youth sports the outcome is far more important to the parent than it is to the player. Kids who naturally want to please their parents then feel pressure and anxiety.

Tryouts are rehearsals for college admissions and job applications. There will be achievements and disappointments, but the ultimate success will often be based on how they deal with the results. I've seen players who didn't make the "top" team, but turned it into an opportunity, develop at a faster pace s better players on other teams. I've also seen the tryout become the high point of a player's season. As one of the lesser skilled players on a better team, self-confidence can be challenged, ice time reduced, and skill development slowed.

When tryout time comes, check your own ambitions at the door. If it's their goal to make a certain team and they are successful, let them enjoy the moment. If not, help them deal with it, but emphasize they now have an opportunity to be a key member of their team and develop into a better player as a result."

***An excerpt from Mark Johnson, September 1999, American Hockey**



Ozaukee Youth Hockey Association Tryout Process Effective 2018-2019 Season

NOTABLE CHANGES FOR 2018

*This is not an exhaustive list and is intended only to highlight major changes.

- **ALL PLAYERS WHO WANT TO PLAY AT *EITHER* A OR B LEVEL MUST ATTEND ALL TRYOUTS EXCEPT WHERE PERMITTED IN SECTION 7 OR DUE TO INJURY/ILLNESS**
 - **THERE WILL NO LONGER BE SPECIFIC "B" TRYOUTS. BOTH TEAMS WILL BE SELECTED DURING THE TRYOUT PERIOD**
- **FIRST NIGHT OF TRYOUTS WILL BE SPLIT INTO SMALLER GROUPS**
- **TRYOUT DATES EXTENDED FOR "A" AND "B" TEAMS & "C" EVALS SHORTENED**
- **GRETZKY RULE IS REINSTATE FOR 8U (MITE)**
- **GIRLS MUST DECLARE CO-ED OR GIRLS BEFORE TRYOUTS AND CANNOT TRYOUT FOR BOTH**

Tryout Process Objective:

To create a transparent, fair, efficient and effective process for appropriately placing players on teams at all levels.

1. Purpose

The **Ozaukee Youth Hockey Association (OYHA)** is an all-inclusive program – every player gets an opportunity to play hockey. As such, there will always be a broad range of player skill level within our organization. The purpose of the OYHA Tryout Process is to assess players' current abilities, and to place each of them on a team appropriate to their skill and development level.

The OYHA is a tryout-based program. Each season, players are placed on teams based solely on an objective, organization-wide tryout process.

We have a process of using 5 independent evaluators who score the kids and account for 70% of the team selection. Then our coaches, along with the guidance of our Hockey Development Committee (HDC), also have input in the process by participating in the evaluation process and selecting the final 30% of the players to fill out the team's roster.

OYHA is also dedicated to the enjoyment of youth hockey and the improvement of individual player skill each season. Because of this dedication to both players and parents, the following guidelines have been developed to ensure that each player who is evaluated has an equal opportunity to be selected for the appropriate Ozaukee team. These guidelines have also been developed to minimize any confusion on the part of parents related to the tryout process.



2. Tryout Levels

- a. OYHA tryouts will be conducted separately for each level - 10U (Squirt), 12U (Peewee), and 14U (Bantam). 8U(Mite) have a separate evaluation process.
- b. A **Tryout Coordinator (TC)** will be assigned by the **Hockey Development Committee (HDC)** each season. For the 2018-19 season the TC will be Rob Haswell (rob@robhaswell.net)
- c. The TC will be working with the **HDC** and each **HDC Level Representative (LR)** to facilitate tryouts.

Please contact the HDC Level Representative with any questions or issues during tryouts and the season. Contact information is available at ozaukee hockey.com.

- d. The TC along with support from the HDC LR will be in charge of recruiting and assigning level evaluators for each session, providing the necessary equipment for their tryouts, briefing and educating the evaluators on the assessment system prior to the actual on-ice tryout, and general supervision of the on-ice tryout process.
- e. A listing of evaluators for each level will be submitted by the TC to the HDC for approval prior to the first evaluation session.

3. Evaluators

- a. The TC will assemble a team of evaluators consisting of hockey-knowledgeable individuals either from within OYHA or outside the organization.
- b. The evaluators will consist of individuals approved by the TC who do not have a related player participating in that level of evaluations.
- c. In order to get a wide range of opinions, there will be no fewer than five (5) evaluators for each tryout session.
- d. Due to the occasional inevitable last-minute cancellations by chosen evaluators, the TC should secure 2 or 3 evaluator alternates who would be available if needed. Alternates can include members of the HDC.
- e. Whenever possible, it is expected that the evaluation team will remain consistent for the duration of that level's tryouts.



f. If a coach has not been set for the level being evaluated, he/she will be replaced during evaluations with a non-affiliated evaluator. (The coach of that team will then be selected after evaluations have been tabulated based on where the children of parent coaches fall in the rankings.) If a non-affiliated evaluator cannot be made available, a member of the HDC will serve as an evaluator.

4. Required Player Equipment

a. All players participating in the tryout sessions are required to wear **all** equipment required by USA Hockey rules.

b. No skater will be allowed to be evaluated without the proper equipment in place.

c. If, during the evaluation process the TC or HDC sees that equipment has been removed or not properly worn, the player will be excused and asked to replace, adjust, or fix their equipment issue within a reasonable time frame.

d. If after returning to the ice the same player is seen again without proper equipment, he/she will be excused from the evaluation session and will not receive a score for that session.

5. Basic Requirements

a. Players are required to register for the upcoming hockey season prior to participation in tryouts.

b. Players must be fully dressed and ready to step on the ice before the start of each evaluation session.

c. Players will be assigned a pinnie at registration/check-in. The pinnie number will have no significance to the player's ability, rating, or placement. The pinnie number must be fully visible to the evaluators while the player is on the ice. Players are encouraged to wear a white or light colored jersey to make it easier to read their pinnie number.

d. Players may not display a name placard on their jersey or helmet during tryouts.

e. If a player wants to make a certain team/level, that player must be present at that specific level of tryout. (The only exception will be if an injured player returns and an evaluation process is done during team practices section 12e.)

f. Players who choose not to be evaluated through the tryout process will not receive a tryout score and will therefore be placed at the lowest level team for their age bracket in the upcoming season.



6. Special Considerations

a. Any parent who has multiple players at the same age group and are selected for different teams may ask to have them play for the same team. The players, however, will only be allowed to play at the lowest level team for that age bracket achieved during the evaluation process.

7. Missed Tryouts

a. The best opportunity for a player to be properly placed is for that player to attend all tryout sessions.

b. Players shall make every effort to participate in all tryout sessions. However, the organization realizes that players can get sick or injured, or may have other emergencies that prevent them from participating in one or more tryout sessions.

c. If a player is not able to attend any sessions of a specific level tryout, it is the responsibility of that player/player's family to notify the HDC Level Representative or TC for that level and provide explanation. The level representative or TC will advise the evaluators and HDC of the situation and determine next steps.

d. Players who miss one of the evaluation sessions of the A & B teams will not receive a score for that session. It will be up to the TC & evaluators to recommend to the HDC a placement for that player based on all available data for that player if that player is not chosen by the coach.

e. New, incoming players (whether new to town or new to the program) who arrive to the program after tryouts have **been completed will be asked to join a 'C' level team**. The skill level of the player will be evaluated by HDC and coaches and they will determine if it is necessary to move that player based on skill, team numbers or other. Any move will not remove a player from another team, but simply add the player to an existing team.

8. Tryout Sessions / On-ice Drills

a. All on-ice tryout drills will be approved by the HDC and reviewed with the on ice coaches prior to the tryout session.

b. Approved tryout drills will be communicated to TC & evaluators following approval so there is a full understanding of the flow of the tryout drills & how they align with the assessment form being used. Evaluators reserve the right to ask during a tryout session for a specific drill or skill to be done in order to best evaluate the players.



9. Development & Assessment Format – 8U(Mites)

- See separate 8U(Mites) Evaluation Process' document

10. Tryout Format - 10U (SQUIRT) / 12U (PEE WEE) / 14U (BANTAM)

4 Session Format for A and B Team Selection:

NOTE: Additional tryout sessions for OYHA goalies may be added.

- a. Both the A and B teams within a given level will be established during a 4 session format. (Please reference the website calendar for dates & times)
- b. Session 1: Will be split alphabetically so that the evaluators can get a better look at each skater in smaller groups. An online registration will be required in order to ensure the groups are of roughly equal size. The session will include various drills to determine skating, shooting, passing and hockey sense skills.
- c. If a player wants to be considered for the A or B team at their level, they must be present at Session 1 to be considered unless there are special considerations (HDC approval) and the Level Representative or TC is notified prior to Session 1 commencing.
- d. Sessions 2, 3 and 4: Will be by **invitation only**. A list of invited players will be published via the OYHA website following each session. The final cut will be made following Session 3. Those invited back to Session 4 will be placed on **either** the A or B team.
- e. Sessions 2, 3 and 4: There will include various drills and end with a scrimmage. At these sessions, scrimmages may be 3v3 or 4v4 in order to better assess players in game play situations.
- f. If a player is **NOT** invited back for Sessions 2,3 or 4 for that specific team, they cannot be chosen, by coaches or evaluators, to be placed on the team. (see 5e and 12e for exceptions)
- g. Goalies for each level are to attend Session 1. All goalies may be invited to Sessions 2, 3 and 4 for each level. OYHA Goalie coaches assessors along with the HDC will make the determination after each session.
- h. 14U (Bantam) / High School Tryout Policy – All 14U (Bantam) level players must register with OYHA in order to tryout. All players that tryout will be placed on a 14U (Bantam) level team. If a placed player leaves their OYHA 14U (Bantam) team in order to play for their high school team, that player forfeits the predetermined amount of the registration fees listed in the



OYHA Refund Policy and cannot return to a 14U (Bantam) team. No exceptions. If this creates an opening at a higher level team, the HDC will determine how or if that opening is filled.

C Team Evaluation Process

- a. There will be one session to evaluate and assign players to a C team.
- b. Coaches and the HDC will review players and make every attempt to balance teams
- c. Other than siblings, no specific requests for team placement will be accepted

11. Evaluation Process

- d. Evaluators will use the approved "OYHA Tryout Assessment Form" during tryouts to record player evaluation scores.
- e. As each session is completed, scores will be entered into a spreadsheet which will be used to determine player placement.
- f. After the final session, the final completed spreadsheets will be forwarded electronically by the TC to the HDC.
- g. Based on the determined number of players per team, the results from the assessors choose the top 70% of the team. The remainder of the team will be filled based on the evaluation scores and the input of that team's coach with oversight from the HDC.
- h. In the event of a statistical tie for final spots, preference will be given to second year players.

12. Number of players per team

- a. The number of players for each age group level will fluctuate from season to season and is based strictly on registration levels.
- b. Efforts will be made by the HDC to divide teams as accurately and as transparently as possible, given the total number of players.
- c. The final team numbers will be discussed and approved by the HDC and then submit a recommendation to the OYHA Committee for final approval.
- d. For all teams, the coach will decide whether or not to have a dedicated goalie or rotate the goalie position to chosen players on the team. (A coach has the right to pass over a goalie trying out to select players to rotate playing goalie as an alternative.)



Coach's Option (For any player injured or sick during the tryout process): When setting the final roster, a head coach can choose to leave a roster spot open for an agreed upon time approved by the HDC that may fall after the final date of that level's tryout. This roster spot can be held for injured or absent players that were not able to make the scheduled tryout sessions. After the established time period, the head coach must decide on a player for that open roster spot.

As an example: The head coach of the A Team has the option to leave a spot open for an injured player or complete the team from the players available on the ice at the time of tryouts. If the A Team head coach feels that at the time of the tryouts he will complete the roster, the issue is closed.

If the head coach determines to keep a roster spot open, the injured player in question would be required to return to the ice within the agreed time period from the last session of the A team tryout. That player would join the B team practices. The A Team head coach would decide on a player to fill the open roster spot from any of the B team players. The A Team head coach does not have to select the injured player, but will be selecting one player from the entire B Team. Once the player is selected, the issue is closed.

13. Notification of Player Placements

- a. Notification of final team rosters will be posted on the OYHA website after the final session.
- b. Head coaches or managers will contact all players prior to the 1st practice.
- c. Coaches and assistant coaches will be finalized and communicated out to all teams members prior to the 1st practice.
- d. All teams will have a player/parent meeting within 2 weeks of the team's roster being finalized in which the HDC level representative or another HDC member will attend.



Play Up Policy for Tryouts

All Play Up requests this season must be submitted to the Head of the Hockey Development Committee (HDC), Rob Haswell (rob@robhaswell.net) no later than 30 days prior to the first day of tryouts. The HDC will review the request with the OYHA Committee.

This following policy outlines the conditions under which an Ozaukee Youth Hockey Association (OYHA) player may advance to a higher age bracket (hereinafter referred to as “playing up”) than that associated with his or her USA Hockey specified age division. This policy also defines the mechanism by which a player can/will be allowed to “Play Up.”

The goal of OYHA is to keep players of the same age, physical and emotional maturity together and to protect the integrity of each age division within OYHA. As a general rule, players will not be allowed to play outside the age division he/she is classified within as determined by his/her birthdates and USA Hockey policies.

While it is very rare, OYHA recognizes that there may be circumstances that would suggest a player to play in an age division above his/her USA Hockey classification and permission to “play up” could be granted only after the application process has been followed and evaluation has occurred.

OYHA employs the “Gretzky rule” which means that a player can only play up if the player makes the “A” team at the play up division level. The player attempting to “play up” must place in the top 20% of the high level “A” team in order to qualify. If a player does not make the “A” team at the play up division they will be placed on the A team of their rightful division based on birthdate in accordance with USA Hockey.

Only those requests adhering to the process as defined by OYHA will be considered. Application to “Play Up” begins with a written letter initiated by the player’s parent or legal guardian and submitted with the “Play-up” application to the HDC representative of the play up level no later than one week before the tryouts begin.



Girls Tryouts

1. In order to facilitate season planning, girls must declare their intent to play on a girls or co-ed team at registration.
2. No girl who registers for a girls team will be allowed to tryout for a co-ed team.
3. No girl who registers for a co-ed team will be allowed to tryout for a girls team.
4. The rules for missed tryouts will be the same for girls as they are for co-ed teams see Section 7 a-e

Girls Play Up Policy

The Play Up procedure is slightly different for our girls teams. Due to a smaller pool of players, female skaters & goalies can be asked to move up or tryout for a position based on need for players at a certain level as determined by the HDC, the OYHA Girls Coordinator and OYHA Committee.

Each season it is determined at the end of registration if there is a need for players to play up or double roster due to numbers. A tryout will be held for these players if warranted. Priority will be given to players with the older birth year over a younger birth year during tryouts. (Ex. 2006 over a 2007 for placement on 14U).

During this tryout, it will be determined which girls will be placed on the team's auxiliary roster or "double rostered". It will also be determined which among those girls will be the focus to qualify for play at the Regional Playdowns and State Tournament if warranted. This tryout may also be used to determine which player(s), will be rostered full time at the level above. The number of available spots (if any) will be determined by the HDC and the Girls Coordinator and approved by the OYHA Committee.

Goalie Movement Application Request process

Same process for both players and goalies as written above however, the goalie spots will be determined exclusively by the HDC based on evaluations and recommendations of the evaluators, the head coach and the OYHA goalie coaches attending tryouts on or off ice.



Player Movement Application Request process

Step 1. The parent(s) of the player requesting to play up must discuss their intent with the player's last head coach from the previous season. The parent(s) and last coach **must** be in agreement that the move is in the player's best interest. If the player played in another district or any other club they need to provide a letter from that coach along with contact information where a member of the HDC can contact them to confirm their approval.

Step 2. The parent(s) must submit a written letter explaining their reasons for the request, what they expect to gain from the move, acknowledge that the transfer is in the best interest of the player, including but not limited to intellectual maturity in a locker room setting and that there is also the possibility of an increased risk to injury. This document should be submitted to the HDC representative of the play up division no later than one week before the tryouts begin.

Step 3. The player will be eligible for consideration if **ALL** the following conditions are met:

- a) The player must be currently registered to play at OYHA.
- b) Player development for both levels would not be adversely affected
- c) The player is within 1 year of advancing to that division

Step 4. The HDC will confirm that the movement of the player up will not adversely affect the teams or team/player ratio in either division, player development or any other team related items. The HDC reserves the right to not allow the player to Play Up and/or tryout for the level above based on adversely affecting teams at either level. This determination could also be reached after Step 5 below depending on the review of tryouts.

Only those players meeting all the requirements in steps 1-4 will be considered eligible to proceed to step 5. All others will be declared ineligible for further consideration and request denied.

Step 5. The player must participate in the tryout evaluation skate for the higher division. The player must receive an overall evaluation ranking the player in the top 20% of all skaters. ****The player cannot be a coaches' pick to make the Play Up "A" team.** At the time of tryouts Step 4 could be reviewed and determined that will adversely affect the teams at both levels.

The player is considered eligible for placement in the higher division once the player meets all the requirements defined in steps 1 - 5. Final determination will be made by the HDC and communicated back to the player/parent of the decision no later than the day after tryouts for the "A" team have concluded.



Player Safety During Tryouts

While OYHA wants to encourage a competitive experience for our players it is also vital that we ensure a safe tryout experience. With that in mind, the following rules will be enforced.

1. **NO CHECKING** will be allowed during 14U (Bantam) tryouts.
 - a. Given that the vast majority of those trying out have not experienced the checking game, it has been determined that it is in our best interest to remove checking from tryouts.
2. Any player engaging in reckless or dangerous behaviour on or off the ice during tryouts at **ANY** level will be removed from the tryout session.
 - a. The players removal will be at the discretion of the on-ice coordinator
 - b. The player will not be allowed to return to the ice until cleared by the HDC
3. Any player who injures another player due to reckless or dangerous play will not be allowed to continue in the tryout process.
 - a. The player in question will be referred to the OYHA Disciplinary Committee
 - b. If/when the offending player is allowed to return, his/her placement will be determined by the HDC/OYHA Committee
 - c. The offending player's placement will **not** be used as further punishment, however, the placement will also not be allowed to negatively affect the placement of any other player.
 - i. EX. If, after finishing whatever discipline is administered by the OYHA Disciplinary Committee, it is determined that player X is best served by playing at the A level, his/her placement on that team will **not** be allowed to push any other player already on that team onto a lower level team.
 - ii. A place will NOT be held open for the offending player

NOTE: This procedure/policy is subject to revision up to 1 day before the first tryout date. Any changes will be posted.