



## 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 PLACED AT THE PROPER LEVEL 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 balance. No players will be allowed to attend Tryouts with an outstanding balance.
- Volunteer check for player/family needs to be on file or turned in on or before the first day of tryouts.
- Parents and spectators are **NOT** allowed in the arena (arena is defined as being anywhere in the building) during tryout events. CRYHA wishes to provide the best environment possible to enable players to perform at their best.
- Players must check in at least 20 minutes prior to their tryout time (Parents – this is your responsibility).
- Only black, white and red 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.

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 suggestions regarding tryouts or team placement.

- Tryouts will consist of multiple ice sessions evaluating inter-squad scrimmages by a group 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 Non- Parent 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 Coach will see evaluation data prior to team selection, and then will only be provided summary data to facilitate the team selection process.
- Any Hockey Operations Committee member, CRYHA Board of Director, or other Coon Rapids Association member volunteer directly involved with team selection or tryout evaluation scoring 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 the scoring or team selection of that level. (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 scoring or team selection. Hockey Operations member A can participate in any scoring and/or team selection process for Peewee, U10, U12, Bantam, and U15.) It is understood the President Traveling Director and Girls Director by the nature of their roles within the Association will be involved in every aspect of the tryout process.

**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 members of the Hockey Operations Committee.
- Are not and will not be considered as a potential 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 of 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.*

- Each player will be given a black and white tryout jersey; random numbers will be assigned by the Association. The player will keep the same jersey/number for the entire tryout process.
- All players will initially be placed into two groups (Black or White); the size of groups will vary based on the current season’s registration numbers.  
Parents will be notified via e-mail of initial groupings and 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](http://www.coonrapidshockey.com)

### **Bantams:**

- Day 1 – Players split into 2 random scrimmage groups. Warm up Skating Drills are optional; Followed by Scrimmages of equal groups. Scrimmage 5 on 5, or 4 on 4 based on size of group.
- Day 2 – Players split into 2 scrimmage groups, divided evenly based Day 1 Results. Warm up Skating Drills are optional; Followed by Scrimmages of equal groups divided by Day 1 results. Scrimmage 5 on 5, or 4 on 4 based on size of group.

After Day 2, using the combined scores from Day 1 and Day 2, all players will be split into pools starting with the Top-Level team to be played that season (AA Pool, A Pool, B1 Pool, etc.) The Top-Level Pool will consist of players that will be considered for this team ONLY. The number of players included in each pool will vary year over year depending on team size and number of players registered each season. Upon

completion of the Top-Level Pool this process will continue using the same approach until all players are placed and all Pools are filled.

- ❖ The Hockey Operations Committee, in conjunction with any Non-Parent Coaches and Level Directors, will determine the size of each Pool. The Pools will be selected using the combined scores from Day 1 and Day 2 of evaluated tryouts. At no time will the Hockey Ops Committee or any Non-Parent coach be allowed to select a player out of order in the combined scoring without taking each player that was tied or scored ahead of said player. For competitive purposes, if the Hockey Operations Committee, in conjunction with any Non-Parent Coaches, decides to bring more players than the number to be placed on the final team, any player not making this team will automatically be placed on the next highest-level team.
- Day 3 – Players in their respective pools may participate in an evaluated Scrimmage against an opponent outside of our Association. This Scrimmage will be evaluated in the same way Day 1 and Day 2 of the Tryout Process were scored. The Non-Parent coaches along with their coaching staff will manage the bench during this scrimmage and be responsible for assigning kids playing positions, etc.
- Day 4 – Players in their respective pools may participate in an evaluated Scrimmage against an opponent outside of our Association. This Scrimmage will be evaluated in the same way Day 3 of the Tryout Process was scored. Any Non-Parent coaches along with their coaching staff will manage the bench during this scrimmage and be responsible for assigning kids playing positions, etc.

It is understood that due to the availability of potential scrimmage opponents and/or referees, evaluated scrimmages against opponents outside of our Association may not be feasible. If an outside opponent cannot be found for Day 3, an internal scrimmage similar to Days 1 and 2 will be held in replacement.

If an outside Association Scrimmage for Day 4 is not a viable option, the Hockey Operations Committee can choose to either hold another internal evaluated scrimmage or finish the tryouts after the conclusion of Day 3. The decision to extend tryouts to a Day 4 must be made prior to the start of the Tryout process and will be at the sole discretion of the Hockey Operations Committee. The overall goal is to schedule these events as quickly and efficiently as possible to avoid any unnecessary delays in the team selection process.

### **Evaluator scored sessions are completed.**

#### **Peewees:**

- Day 1 – Players split into 2 random scrimmage groups. Warm up Skating Drills are optional; Followed by Scrimmages of equal groups. Scrimmage 5 on 5, or 4 on 4 based on size of group. . •
- Day 2 – Players split into 2 scrimmage groups, divided evenly based on Day 1 Results . Warm up Skating Drills are optional; Followed by Scrimmages of equal groups divided by Day 1 results. Scrimmage 5 on 5, or 4 on 4 based on size of group.

After Day 2, using the combined scores from Day 1 and Day 2, all players will be split into pools (AA Pool, A Pool, B1 Pool, etc. The Top-Level Pool will consist of players that will be considered for this team ONLY. The number of players included in each pool will vary year over year depending on team size and

number of players registered each season. Upon completion of the Top-Level Pool this process will continue using the same approach until all players are placed and all Pools are filled.

- ❖ The Hockey Operations Committee, in conjunction with any Non-Parent Coaches and Level Directors, will determine the size of each Pool. The Pools will be selected using the combined scores from Day 1 and Day 2 of evaluated tryouts. At no time will the Hockey Ops Committee or any Non-Parent coach be allowed to select a player out of order in the combined scoring without taking each player that was tied or scored ahead of said player. For competitive purposes, if the Hockey Operations Committee, in conjunction with any Non-Parent Coaches decides to bring more players than the number to be placed on the final team, any player not making this team will automatically be placed on the next highest-level team.
- Day 3 – Players in their respective pools may participate in an evaluated Scrimmage against an opponent outside of our Association. This Scrimmage will be evaluated in the same way Day 1 and Day 2 of the Tryout Process were scored. The Non-Parent coaches along with their coaching staff will manage the bench during this scrimmage and be responsible for assigning kids playing positions, etc.
- Day 4 (if necessary) – Players in their respective pools may participate in a Coaches practice, this practice will NOT be a scored evaluation. This practice is meant to aid any Non-Parent Coach in the final selection process of the team.

It is understood that due to the availability of potential scrimmage opponents and/or referees, evaluated scrimmages against opponents outside of our Association may not be feasible. If an outside opponent cannot be found for Day 3, an internal scrimmage similar to Days 1 and 2 will be held in replacement.

If an outside Association Scrimmage for Day 4 is not a viable option, the Hockey Operations Committee can choose to either hold another internal evaluated scrimmage or finish the tryouts after the conclusion of Day 3. The decision to extend tryouts to a Day 4 must be made prior to the start of the Tryout process and will be at the sole discretion of Hockey Operations Committee. The overall goal is to schedule these events as quickly and efficiently as possible to avoid any unnecessary delays in the team selection process.

#### **Evaluator scored sessions are completed.**

#### **Squirts:**

- Day 1 – Players split into 2 random scrimmage groups. Warm up Skating Drills are optional; Followed by Scrimmages of equal groups. Scrimmage 5 on 5, or 4 on 4 based on size of group. •
- Day 2 – Players split into 2 scrimmage groups, divided evenly based on the results of Day 1. Warm up Skating Drills are optional: Followed by Scrimmages of equal groups divided by Day 1 results. Scrimmage 5 on 5, or 4 on 4 based on size of group.

After Day 2, using the combined scores from Day 1 and Day 2, all players will be split into pools (AA Pool, A Pool, B1 Pool, etc. The Top-Level Pool will consist of players that will be considered for this team ONLY. The number of players included in each pool will vary year over year depending on team size and number of players registered each season. Upon completion of the Top-Level Pool this process will

continue using the same approach until all players are placed and all Pools are filled.

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- ❖ The Hockey Operations Committee, in conjunction with any Non-Parent Coaches and Level Directors, will determine the size of each Pool. The Pools will be selected using the combined scores from Day 1 and Day 2 of evaluated tryouts. At no time will the Hockey Ops Committee or any Non-Parent coach be allowed to select a player out of order in the combined scoring without taking each player that was tied or scored ahead of said player. For competitive purposes, if the Hockey Operations Committee, in conjunction with any Non-Parent Coaches decides to bring more players than the number to be placed on the final team, any player not making this team will automatically be placed on the next highest-level team. In the event of a Parent Coach, the Hockey Ops Committee will make all final decisions regarding Pool selection.
- Day 3 – Players in their respective pools may participate in an evaluated Scrimmage against an opponent outside of our Association. This Scrimmage will be evaluated in the same way Day 1 and Day 2 of the Tryout Process were scored. The Non-Parent coaches along with their coaching staff will manage the bench during this scrimmage and be responsible for assigning kids playing positions, etc. In the event a Parent Coach is needed at this level, the Hockey Ops Committee will manage the bench and ensure all players are given a chance to be properly evaluated. Every effort will be made to ensure that no member of the Hockey Operations Committee will be involved in the managing of the bench for an event that includes any of their children.
- Day 4 (if necessary) – Players in their respective pools may participate in a Coaches practice, this practice will NOT be a scored evaluation. This practice is meant to aid any Non-Parent Coach in the final selection process of the team. In the event of a Parent Coach, no practice will be held and the tryout process will end.

It is understood that due to the availability of potential scrimmage opponents and/or referees, evaluated scrimmages against opponents outside of our Association may not be feasible. If an outside opponent cannot be found for Day 3, an internal scrimmage similar to Days 1 and 2 will be held in replacement.

If an outside Association Scrimmage for Day 4 is not a viable option, the Hockey Operations Committee can choose to either hold another internal evaluated scrimmage or finish the tryouts after the conclusion of Day 3. The decision to extend tryouts to a Day 4 must be made prior to the start of the Tryout process and will be at the sole discretion of Hockey Operations Committee. The overall goal is to schedule these events as quickly and efficiently as possible to avoid any unnecessary delays in the team selection process.

#### **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 exceptions 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 player's physician detailing why he/she cannot participate should be provided as early as possible **BEFORE TRYOUTS BEGIN**. Any case that falls outside of this definition will be handled on a case by case basis by the Hockey Ops Committee.

- ❖ 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 or being out of town, 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. This may include having the player practice with multiple teams to better help determine what the appropriate level is for the player in question. Actual assignment may vary depending on registration counts as well as the number of teams.

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 if they participated in the Coon Rapids Youth Hockey Association. If the player is new to the Association the Hockey Ops Committee will meet and determine if the player will be allowed to participate in a move up tryout.
2. Player will only be eligible to try out one level up from the level in which they are USA Hockey eligible.
3. Player must score in the top three (3) during scored/evaluated tryouts in order to make the AA (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 "AA" skate does NOT guarantee a spot on the "AA" team).
4. 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 #3 .

If at any point it is determined that a player will not meet the requirements in item #3 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

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**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 Top-Level team to be played that season, the team selection process will begin at the end of the last evaluated session of tryouts. The final placement of players will be based on the total combined score of all evaluated tryout sessions. Based on the number of players to be assigned to the Top-Level team, the Top 10 skaters and top evaluated goalie will be placed on the Top-Level 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 (Non-Parent) 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 (Non-Parent), in conjunction with the Hockey Operations Committee and Level Directors, may have additional practice or scrimmage vs another Association to help aid in final team selections. For competitive purposes, if a Head Coach (Non-Parent) decides to bring more players than the number to be placed on the final team to any additional practice or scrimmage, any player not making this team will automatically be placed on the next highest-level team.
- The remaining players not selected to the Top-Level team may participate in additional sessions under the direction of the Head Coaches (Non-Parent), Tryout Level Directors, and Hockey Operations Committee, for that level. After completion of any potential 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 skaters and top goalie available to be placed on the 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 practices or 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 practice or scrimmage, any player not making this team will automatically be placed on the next highest-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. Please keep in mind CRYHA may not field a team at each

level.

### **Additional Final Team Selection Information**

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- Once the Top-Level team has been selected, the remaining teams can be selected in the following descending order. First will be the AA/A Team selection, followed by A, B1, then B2, and finishing with C. Please keep in mind CRYHA may not field a team at each level.
- 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 player's 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 some coaches may 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 Hockey Operations 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 QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.**

- ❖ Once the 24-hour waiting period has expired, please e-mail your concern or questions to our Association's 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**

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- 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.
- 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**

