



WAYHA Team Tryout Guideline

Process Overview –

- Tryout sessions should be scheduled and communicated as much in advance as possible to avoid scheduling conflicts and maximize participation
- An evaluation committee will be formed for each age level being evaluated. Typically this would consist primarily of any coaches interested in being a head coach for that level and the ACE. It is preferable to have at least 4 people on the committee so other coaching assistant(s) may be included to meet or exceed that target. Outside evaluator(s) can be utilized with high school or other level coaches being good sources. If there are too many interested parties the ACE will choose the committee members based on coaching and hockey experience and qualifications.
- Periodically during the process and upon completion of the tryout, the evaluation committee shall meet to review notes with one board member in attendance to monitor the process and help mediate discussions. Once complete, skater rankings shall be reviewed and compiled, and skaters assigned to teams. Where possible, prior season head coaches should provide input to the process by ranking players in terms of overall value to the team as well as versatility. Note that opinions expressed by coaches and evaluators are for team placement only and **should remain confidential within the committee**.
- Once the teams are agreed upon, coaches will be assigned to teams. If more than one coach is interested in head coaching, the ACE, with assistance from the President, will perform an evaluation and make a recommended assignment. Once complete, the list of recommended coaches will be presented to the board for approval.
- We believe that everybody wants fair evaluations and to ensure the best evaluators and process as possible. Coaches are not guaranteed a particular team and are assigned to teams after the tryout results. We expect everyone involved in the process to act with integrity.

Coaching Guide to tryouts -

- Evaluations can be performed in one of two methods to be determined by the ACE and age level head coach (if known).
 1. Skaters can be evaluated as part of regular practices and scrimmages by the evaluation committee. Example: The first two weeks of practice will be considered evaluations for the team placement. After the two week session the placement process is followed as outlined above for final team selection. The window of evaluation should be longer than a typical tryout if coaches are evaluating while coaching and skaters are learning new drills.
 2. Specific tryouts can be held where the evaluation committee views the participants from off the ice. Plans for the tryout need to be created ahead of time and should be explained and practiced at least one time with the skaters so they are familiar with the drills being utilized during tryouts.
- The following guidelines should be followed for either approach.
 - Skaters should be grouped into similar skilled groups to allow for better comparison of skill. When a mid-level skater only interacts with lesser skilled skaters they look better than their skills actually may be. Skill groupings should be evaluated and adjusted throughout the tryout process.
 - Drills should include some skill sessions and small area games/full ice scrimmages. All coaches must be impartial through the process and limit their player encouragement and parent coaches should be advised to not encourage their own children.
 - Players interested in playing goalie at the squirt level should be evaluated as a goalie as well as a skater, particularly in situations where we have more players interested in goalie than number of teams. This may require a separate goalie tryout night. This does not apply for older levels where USA hockey recommends specialization at the goalie position.



WAYHA Team Tryout Guideline

Note tryouts will be open to parents but we ask that they view from the lobby or mezzanine (not stands)

Guide to players “playing up” to a higher age level

- When numbers are at a point where the board determines, with input from the ACE and coaching committee, it is in the best interest of player development to allow skaters from a younger age level to play up to the next higher age level, WAYHA will alert all players of that age of the opportunity. Anyone interested is offered the ability to try out. Final team sizes will be determined by the evaluation committee considering many factors including playing time, skills of the players, etc. Players will be placed on teams according to the guidelines set forth above.
- When a family requests the option for their child to play up at the next age level, the player will be allowed to try out for a team. If they rank in the top 50% of the collective summary of the evaluation committee, they will be considered eligible for the team subject to board approval considering all circumstances. If there is only one team and no tryouts, the decision will be made by the board with input from the ACE and head coaches of both age levels.

Any special request regarding team placement not addressed by the prior guidance should be submitted for evaluation to the ACE.