

MAINE GLADIATORS

Tryout FAQ

What are travel teams? – Travel hockey, or Tier 1, Tier 2 and 3 teams, are the highest levels of hockey our organization offers, designed for players who want a highly competitive, intense season. The travel hockey season begins around Labor Day and ends in March. Tier 1, 2 & 3 hockey is more expensive than house (Tier 4) because their season starts 6-8 weeks earlier than Tier 4, they have more practices during the season, and they play more games. There is considerably more travel for Tier 1, 2 & 3 hockey teams.

What is Tier 1 hockey? – The Gladiators are proud to offer Tier 1 hockey. The Tier 1/AAA hockey offering for the upcoming season has expanded. The offering for the 2024-2025 season is for player birth years 2011-2015. This is an elite level of hockey for advanced players, necessitating a larger time commitment and more travel requirements than Tier 2 and 3 travel teams.

When are tryouts? – Tryouts begin March 4th and continue for several weeks depending on age and level.

What do tryouts cost? - \$50 for coed tryouts, \$25 for girls tryouts. Registration and payment must be done online via the Gladiators website. We are trying to minimize walk-in registrations. Walk-in registrations are \$70. Goalies tryout for free.

Where does my player go on tryout nights? – Players will register at the front desk at NSBA, receive their colored/numbered pinny, and report to their assigned locker room(s) to get ready.

Who runs the Gladiators tryouts? – This year, Cam Robichaud and his Puc Development staff will run all on-ice tryouts.

Are tryouts subject to change? – Yes, things can change at a moment's notice. Changes could include the day and time of a tryout if, for example, if there were a lack of players for an age group OR if there are too many kids for a certain age group necessitating an additional hour of ice.

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What if my player has to miss tryouts? – All able-bodied players must attend tryouts. RETURNING Gladiator players that are injured or on a family vacation can make a travel team. They must register for tryouts and reach out to the board president ahead of tryouts to inform them of their situation. Head coaches must talk to last year's Gladiators coach and/or watch video to properly evaluate those player(s). Players trying out from outside of the organization must attend tryouts to be evaluated and placed on a team. There are no exceptions for players outside of the Gladiators organization.

What if my player doesn't make Tier 1, 2 or 3? – Your child can play house hockey for the Gladiators, beginning in October/November. There is no tryout for Tier 4 house hockey.

How are coaches chosen? – All coaches apply, are interviewed and selected by the board. Tier 1/2 coaches are chosen prior to tryouts. Tier 3 coaches are selected from the applicant pool the week of tryouts, after Tier 1/2 teams are picked. This way, all players have the opportunity to make a Tier 1/2 team. The board relies on the integrity of coaches that apply to coach travel teams, along with the board's awareness of player ability, that a coach's child can compete at the Tier 2 or Tier 3 level. Tier 1 coaches will not have any player affiliations.

How are assistant coaches chosen? – Assistant coaches are initially chosen by head coaches after all Tier 1, 2 and 3 teams are picked. Assistant coaches that are chosen are subject to approval by the board.

How are travel teams picked? – Each division will have 1-2 outside evaluators and two internal evaluators, one of which is the coach. The two outside evaluators do not know the players, thus they remain impartial, keeping rankings fair. Evaluators will rate players using a number scale in a variety of categories. After a tryout session, evaluators meet to compare and discuss player rankings. Evaluators must be in agreement on their rankings. Additionally, evaluators do not have player names. Each player trying out can only be identified by their pinny number and color.

How many travel teams will there be in each division? - This was pre-determined by the board and is posted on the Gladiator's website. However, the number of teams is subject to change based on the number of players that tryout for each division, player compete level, and availability of coaches. This includes the possibility of having B teams or "Bronze" teams in certain divisions for the 2024-2025 season.

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When will I know if my player made travel? – If your player makes a Tier 1 team, they will be called by the coach after the tryout (that same evening). If your player does not make Tier 1, they will need to attend Tier 2/3 tryouts. If your player makes a Tier 2 team, they will be called by the coach after the first or second tryout (that same evening). If your player does not make Tier 2, they will need to attend the third tryout. If your player makes a Tier 3 team, they will be called by the coach after that tryout (the same evening). If your player declines a spot on a travel team, that player becomes ineligible to play on a lower tier travel team and can only play Tier 4 hockey for the coming season (i.e., a player declines a tier 2 spot desiring only to play tier 3). For coed U16, U18 and girl's teams where there may be only one tryout, players selected will be called within a 48- hour window by that team's head coach.

What if my player is chosen for one of the Tier 1, 2 or 3 teams? – The head coach will discuss with you the mandatory commitment contract signing meeting. This will be an evening at the rink the same week as tryouts. At that time, a non-refundable \$400 deposit for Tier 2 &3, and a \$500 deposit for Tier 1 is due with the commitment contract. Contracts must be signed, returned, and deposits must be paid within 24 hours of a roster spot offering to a player, following a tier's tryouts. The Gladiators will accept cash or check ONLY for the deposit payment at the time of the contract signing. Fittings for jerseys/gear will be later this spring and are also mandatory.

If I have questions during tryouts, who can I ask? – We welcome your questions. There will be folks from the Gladiators working the door the evening of tryouts. You can ask one of them, you can chat with Melissa Casserly (league administrator) or one of the board members.

Why is tryout week so stressful? – It is that way for everyone, especially the players. Take a deep breath! All families feel this way during tryouts. Encourage players to work hard on the ice and do their very best!

To learn more about Gladiator travel teams or to register for tryouts, please visit:
<https://www.maineagladiators.com/travel>