

Central Vermont Youth Hockey Team Tryout and Placement Process

(10U-16U)

1. Purpose and Scope

This tryout and team placement process applies to Black Bears players in the **10U, 12U, 14U, and 16U** levels. The primary goal is to ensure fair, objective, and developmentally appropriate team placements while supporting a positive hockey experience for all players.

Important Note:

Black Bears **does not allow double rostering between coed and girls programs**. Families must commit to either the coed or girls' program for the season.

2. 8U and 6U Evaluations

Players in **8U Travel** will be evaluated through a separate, age-appropriate process during early-season practices. These evaluations are designed to be fun, developmentally focused, and less formal. Players are generally grouped based on initial skill rankings, with adjustments made throughout the season as needed.

3. Tryout Environment

- **Tryouts are closed to spectators.**
Only designated on-ice coaches, evaluators, and board members are allowed in the rink during evaluation sessions. Live barn will also be shut off for 10U-16U.
 - Players are given a pinnie and number so all evaluators can remain neutral.
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4. Tryout Format

- Tryouts will include **at least two sessions** for 10U and may require 2 sessions for 12U and 14U in number of players permits.
 - Sessions will feature a combination of:
 - Skills assessments
 - Scrimmages
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5. Attendance and Absences

Players are strongly encouraged to attend **all tryout sessions**. If a player must miss a session, parents must email **info@blackbearhockey.org** at least **24 hours in advance**, stating the reason for the absence. If a player is unable to try out due to injury or other absence, their placement will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

6. Tryout Scoring

- The President and Hockey Director will choose the skills/ scoring formats in Team Genius
 - Evaluators will objectively assess hockey skills and gameplay during sessions.
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7. Evaluators

- Evaluators must have strong hockey knowledge and experience.
 - Evaluators will be impartial.
 - They may include Black Bears coaching staff, board members, and qualified outside evaluators.
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8. Automatic Team Placements

- CVYH adheres to an open tryout at all levels; a player is **not** guaranteed a position on their previous year's team.
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9. Player Communication

Unless otherwise notified by the Hockey Director, all players should **attend all evaluation sessions**.

10. Tryout Committee

- Core Members:
 - President
 - Hockey Director (Girls or Coed)
 - Tryout Coordinator

- In the event of a conflict of interest, another impartial board member will stand in
 - Additional organization members who show interest in the committee will be used in the following way to ensure results stay confidential:
 - On-Ice Coaching Help
 - Check-In
 - Pinnie handout/pick up.
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11. Goalie Evaluations

- A qualified outside evaluator will be used.
 - Collaborate with the goalie evaluator to determine the key skills, techniques, and drills to focus on during evaluations.
- Participate in standard tryout sessions at their age-appropriate level, but will be looked at by a specific evaluator.

12. Final Team Selection

- Final rosters are determined by the Tryout Core Members
 - Head coaches will be chosen by the board of directors
 - Team rosters will be posted on the **Black Bears website** as individuals are registered with Black Bears and rostered through USA Hockey.
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13. Bubble Evaluations

- Coaches may be asked for input on "bubble players" for final roster decisions.
The Tryout Committee will oversee and approve final placements.
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14. Roster Sizes & Team Numbers

- The Board of Directors and the Tryout Core Members will determine:
 - The number of teams per age group
 - The number of players per team
 - Adjustments are based on:
 - Total registered players

- Skill levels
 - Program goals
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15. Post-Evaluation Questions/ Appeals

All questions, concerns, or appeals must be directed to the **Board of Directors**. They will either address the matter or involve the Hockey Director as needed.

16. Age-Level Participation

Players will only be evaluated with their **age-appropriate group** unless:

- They have been **pre-approved** to try out at an older level.
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17. Opting Out of Tryouts

If a player **chooses not to participate** in evaluations (e.g., due to inexperience or being new to hockey), they will be placed on the lowest team at their age level.

18. Injured/Unavailable Players

- Players unable to attend due to injury must provide a **doctor's note**.
 - If a player is unable to try out due to injury or other absence, then their placement will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
 - Mid-season adjustments (before Dec. 31) may occur, and the steps taken must follow the Mid-Season Player Movement Policy
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19. Rosters and Deadlines

- Preliminary CVYH/USA Hockey rosters will be submitted by **September** for preseason use.
- Final rosters must be set by **December 31** (dates subject to change per CVYH/USA Hockey).