



2020-21 Sibley Area Youth Hockey

TRYOUT PROCEDURES

2020-2021 SAYHA Tryout Procedures

Q: Who will be eligible to participate in clinics and tryouts?

Players will need:

1. To register on time through SAYHA registration process and pay all the applicable fees prior to clinics and tryouts.

2. Register at the appropriate age level that falls within the Minnesota Hockey guidelines and the [SAYHA Handbook](#).

a. If a player is found to purposefully be signing up for the wrong age level, the SAYHA Board of Directors, with direction from the Hockey Committee, will decide the appropriate action.

Q: When is the first date of Player tryouts for each level?

Please see full schedule on the SAYHA Website and check for updates (sibleyareahockey.org)

Q: How will we know what session our child will skate?

Level directors will be posting the session groups online as clinics draw closer.

Q: Who will be choosing the teams during tryouts?

Each level, e.g. squirts, will have their own outside Nonparent evaluation team.

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Q: Who Makes Up the Evaluation Team?

The evaluation team can be made up of parent and non-parent level coaches, College coaches, as well as evaluators who do not have a child on the team. There will also be at least one goalie committee member evaluating the goalies and working with the other members of the evaluation team to pick the goalies for each level. For the goalie specific tryouts, there will be at least three evaluators for each session.

At each level it is recommended that there are 3 people on the evaluation team. It is recommended that there is a good balance non-parent evaluator so there are checks and balances in place to maintain integrity of the process. Not all evaluation teams will reflect the recommendation below, but the Tryout directors will use this in guiding them during the process of developing an evaluation team.

- Three non-parent evaluators approved by the HDC director and hockey director. The hockey committee may be used to support this decision, if needed. All involved should understand that it is difficult to get the perfect mix of people who can all commit the extensive amount of time and hard work it takes to properly evaluate and distribute players on this scale.

Q: What should All registered coaches at each level expect to help out with?

All individuals who are registered to coach should expect, and may be asked, to help out in the following ways.

- Help run drills on the ice
- Help officiate a scrimmage
- Help run a bench (open doors and or organize the players)
- Help run the clock
- Help players get jerseys organized
- Help monitor dressing rooms, tie skates (U10 and squirt) etc.

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Q: How are players evaluated?

Tryout Day 1

Day 1 will consist of individual skills being tested through standardized drills. Fundamental skills will be observed during this time. In-house scrimmages will also likely be played on day 1. After day 1 evaluators will hand in their data collection score sheets, which evaluate a player on the following.

- Individual Skills
- Backwards skating skills including transitions
- Forwards skating skills with special emphasis on speed
- Stick handling skills and the ability to skate with speed carrying the puck
- Shooting skill as well as the ability to create scoring chances and or goals
- Game Skills.
- Competing hard (working hard all over the ice) consistently in all areas of the tryout.
- Puck protection skills as well as the knowledge of how to avoid creating turnovers.
- Makes hockey plays, is creative, uses his/her teammates with puck movement.
- Reads the play well.
- Supports the puck offensively and shows understanding of defensive skills such as playing on the inside of the puck, nose over the puck, using stick on stick etc.

The collection of this data, after day 1, will help the evaluating team, create two to three groups of players for day 2. One group will be formed of the higher scores while the middle and/or lower group will be the remaining players with the lower scores. So roughly a 50/50 split or 33/33/34 split, as an example.

Tryout Day 2

Each group formed from day 1 will now be split in half or thirds, forming two to three groups. These two to three groups will play against each other in an in-house scrimmage. A second and different data sheet will be used by the evaluation team during Day 2. After day 2, evaluators will meet and discuss the placement of all players for day 3; Groups for day 3 will be posted by the Level Director as soon as is reasonably possible.

Tryout Days 3

These evaluations will consist of evaluators observing players scrimmage against different associations, where possible. Evaluators will meet after the session to discuss player movement and placement. The different levels (Squirt vs U12 for example) will have different amounts of players so some levels will require 3 days of tryouts.

Goalie Specific Tryouts

During the goalie tryouts, each goaltender will be evaluated on fundamental movement and a number of shooting drills. The Goalie Committee will coordinate with the Level Directors to schedule a time to attend the pre-tryout clinics in order to demonstrate and prepare the goalies for this tryout. Each evaluator will score each of the goalies for each drill and these score sheets will be turned into the Level Director and used in a similar manner as described above in splitting the goalies into the appropriate skill level groups for tryout Day 2 and beyond. Goalies will be scored by the level evaluation teams along with a member of the Goalie Committee during the in-house and external scrimmages.

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Q: Once a player is put in a lower group after Day 1 is, he always going to stay there?

The evaluation team has the flexibility to move players into any of the groups during any time during the tryout process. If a player deserves a look with a higher scored group, the evaluation team will be able to move them up into that spot.

We are fully aware that evaluators can miss a player, especially on day one, and also players can have a bad first day for a number of reasons. Because of this reason please encourage your child to compete, work hard and give full effort.

Q: Choosing of the final teams

Each team at each level will be chosen after the entire evaluation team has met and discussed each and every player. The HDC director, with support of the evaluation team, has the flexibility to bring in other level coaches to aid in the formation of the final teams.

Evaluators will discuss many items including but not limited to:

- Qualitative and quantitative data from the Day 1 scoring sheets.
- Qualitative and quantitative data from the Day 2 scoring sheets.
- Positive, as well as constructive, qualitative evaluations on a player during game play
- Positive, as well as constructive, qualitative evaluations on a player's attitude and behavior on the ice, on the bench as well as in the locker room and lobby areas
- Others things evaluators will be looking and listening for include, coachability, work ethic, body language, how well a player treats his peers, a player's verbal language, amount of penalty's a player takes (is the player in control of his actions), if he/she is good for team chemistry as well as other important attributes that aid in the formation of a successful team.

In short, there are many intangibles, other than hockey skills, that guide evaluators to pick a player for a team. It is important that parents and players all understand and trust the experience of the evaluation team to make the choices they feel will lead to the best hockey experience possible with the options they all have.

Q: How do we find out what team our child is on?

Level directors will post the results online after all teams have been formed.

Q: What do I do if I do not agree with where my child has been placed?

Please remember that every coach wants to pick the best team possible. If your child does not make the team he was dreaming about and you are wondering why, please take 24 hours to ponder over your thoughts and then feel free to e-mail the level director so he can organize a time to communicate. As long as a respectful conversation occurs and parents are calling so they can learn, as opposed to shed some frustration, then both sides will benefit. As adults we all have to be capable of agreeing to disagree in regards to difficult decisions. Remember that tryouts are the worst time of the year for coaches, evaluators, and players. It is not easy or fun to do but it is necessary so please respect those volunteers for stepping up to help, knowing they could make someone unhappy.

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Q: Do all players get the same amount of ice time during tryouts?

During the first two days, all players will have the same amount of ice time unless the evaluating team feels it is necessary to have some chosen players skate additional time in a second session. One reason for this is so evaluators may need more time to properly evaluate a player they did not see enough of. A second reason may be to add player(s) to help with numbers so a session will run smoothly and fairly.

During scrimmages against different associations (Tryout Days 3) players may or may not skate on each day depending on what the evaluation team needs to observe in order to make the decisions they need to make.

Q: Can a parent coach give his own child a score?

No, a parent coach will not be able to give his son or daughter a score. The level director will use the average score from the other evaluators for the parent coaches score sheet.

Q: Will Tryouts be Closed?

This is closed based on MN Hockey requirements due to Covid19.

Q: What does my son or daughter wear for tryouts?

They will wear the association's tryout jersey assigned to them when they enter the arena. It is also recommended that they wear a black helmet, breezers and gloves. This is not mandatory, but these are the colors of our program and keeps the amount of different colors on the ice to a minimum.

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Q: What happens if my child is sick or injured before or during tryouts?

Sometimes situations arise during the tryout period which prevents a player from attending one, two or even all tryout sessions. We recognize this year, that we may experience more of this during tryouts. These would include but not be limited to, injury, sickness, covid19, death in the family, school functions, or religious events. It is not the intent of SAYHA to have these circumstances negatively affect a young person's hockey season. The following guidelines act as the template around which decisions will be made regarding the placement of players on traveling teams even if they have missed all or part of tryouts.

Regardless of the circumstances it is highly recommended that the Level Director followed by the Hockey Director and Hockey Committee learn of the situation as far in advance as possible. Failure to inform SAYHA could adversely affect the placement of the player.

In the case of an injury the family needs to send a very detailed letter from a physician...

- Explaining the prognosis of the injury.
- Why the player cannot play during tryouts.
- When the player may be back and when they do get back what will they be able to physically do.
- Any precautions coaches should take with this player until 100%.

Upon learning about the players circumstances the Level Director will meet with the Hockey Director and members of the Hockey Committee to decide a fair outcome for all involved. Because there are so many different types of circumstances that are possible, making a rule to fit all is unrealistic so trust needs to be placed in the hands of the decision makers to make a swift, honest and fair ruling. Unfortunate circumstances will have considerations based on.

- Players evaluation during any of the attended sessions, if applicable
- Prior year level of play and level coach's input
- Level Director, Hockey Director, and Level Coaches will take all scenarios into consideration to allow the players to best succeed.

If a player does not participate in any of the tryouts and does not inform SAYHA of their circumstances, that player will be placed on the lowest level team unless it is found that communication was not possible to inform SAYHA in due time.

Q: Who decides how many teams will be at each level?

The Tryout director will decide, with the support of the Hockey Committee, the number of traveling teams at each level. This will be based on USA Hockey guidelines and registration numbers.

- All decision making for final team selection will follow the "Best Practices" model as outlined by MN Hockey and USA Hockey criteria. All final decisions will have SAYHA's and the respective team's best interests in mind.

Q: Who decides how many players are on each team?

The evaluation team, guided by the HDC Director, will approve the number of players on the traveling teams. Squirt evaluation team, for example, will approve the number of players on each squirt team under the direction of the Squirt Level Director. The Hockey Director and Hockey Committee can be included by the Level Director to help in the decision-making process.