



## 2020-2021 Tryouts and Contracts FAQ

**Q: What do I need to do for my player to be considered for a 2020-2021 Devils Youth team?**

**A:** In order to be considered for a team, you must register your player for tryouts through our website. If you have already registered, you are all set and you do not need to register again. We ask that you register for tryouts by **Friday, May 15** so we have all the information we need to begin the process of selecting teams and respond to inquiries from players coming in from outside the club.

**Q: I can't remember if I registered or not. Is there a way to check if my player is registered for tryouts?**

**A:** If you are unsure whether or not you have registered for tryouts, email [kelly@devilsyouth.com](mailto:kelly@devilsyouth.com) and we will check for you.

**Q: Will Devils Youth charge a tryout fee even though there are no tryouts?**

**A:** We are still collecting our usual tryout fee of \$200 for Tier 1 players and \$150 for Tier 2 players (goalies and Mites are still free). We think it is important for us to have an idea of who is really committed to playing for our organization so we can make educated decisions regarding team placements. We do not want to offer sixteen contracts for a team and have six of them go unsigned, leaving the remaining players without a team and with limited options, because parents were taking advantage of free or very low-cost tryouts to "play the field." With that said, we will apply players' tryout fees to their tuition if they are offered a contract, and we will refund their tryout fees if they are not offered a contract. Tryout fees will not be refunded to players who are offered contracts and choose not to sign.



**Q: How will tuition and payment plans work?**

**A:** Right now, we do not feel that we have enough information to accurately determine a fair tuition for the 2020-2021 season. Therefore, we will be collecting a good-faith deposit of \$500 at the time of contracting, and we will let you know what your maximum tuition will be assuming we hit the ice on August 1 and the season looks the same as it normally does. If the season is not the same – for example, it starts later or we are limited as to the number of tournaments or games we can do – we will adjust the tuition accordingly. We do want to make it clear that there are some fixed costs that are the same whether the season is two months long or ten months long, so it is not the case that a season that is  $\frac{3}{4}$  as long as a normal season will cost  $\frac{3}{4}$  as much as a normal tuition. However, we will seek to be as fair as we possibly can. On August 1, we should have enough information to decide on a fair cost for the season and we will start collecting the remainder of your tuition at that point. You will have the option to either pay your tuition in full on August 1 or to pay in installments on the first day of every month from August to January.

**Q: What if I sign a contract in June, but I lose my job and can no longer afford the tuition? Can I get a release?**

**A:** As per AAHA rules, our contracts will include a COVID-19 Financial Hardship Refund Policy. A hardship under this policy must be related to the COVID-19 pandemic, where a family's financial condition changed after signing a contract and prior to July 31, 2020. Any player who receives a COVID-19 Hardship Refund will be ineligible to play with another organization during the 2020-2021 season.

**Q: When and how will my player be offered a contract?**

**A:** As per AAHA rules, Tier 1 contracts will be offered on June 1, and Tier 2 contracts will be offered on June 11. The process will be the same as it would be if we were holding normal tryouts. On June 1, we will send an email to players who are invited to play for our Tier 1 teams containing the registration link, and we will email players who were not selected for a Tier 1 team letting them know that we will be considering them for a Tier 2 team. On June 11, we will email the remaining players and either offer them a contract for a Tier 2 team or let them know that we are unable to offer them a spot.



**Q: I'm getting a lot of pressure from Coach X at another organization to commit to his team for next season immediately. What should I do?**

**A:** Unfortunately, not every organization is handling the contracting process thoughtfully, deliberately, and fairly. If you are receiving pressure from another organization to make a commitment for next season prior to the contract dates noted above, here's what you should do:

- Most importantly, you should reach out to a member of the Devils Youth staff to discuss any questions or concerns about your particular situation.
- You should be aware that any commitments made prior to the official contract dates of June 1 for Tier 1 and June 11 for Tier 2 are non-binding for both parties.
- You should consider reporting any misconduct to the AAHA, because your team and/or player could be penalized if you enter into a contract prior to the official contracting date.

**Q: How many teams will Devils Youth be fielding next year?**

**A:** Based on the information we have right now, we expect to have a similar number of teams as we had last season. Between youth teams and girls teams, we plan to have 4-5 Squirt teams, 5-6 Pee wee teams, 4-5 Bantam teams, three 15/16 & under teams, and two 18 & under teams.

**Q: I see that the AAHA memo contains minimum roster sizes. Does that mean that you will only select the minimum number of players for each team?**

**A:** The purpose of the minimum roster size is to prevent organizations from sheltering players. The AAHA is seeking to protect players from signing a contract for a team that does not have enough players to be viable. We will be looking to select the same number of players that we would under normal circumstances.

**Q: What if there are not enough players to field a team at my child's level?**

**A:** Devils Youth continues to be committed to providing all our returning players with a place to play, absent extraordinary circumstances. With that said, there could be a situation where we do not have enough players to field a team at a particular level. If this is the case, we will notify you as soon as possible so that you will have an opportunity to find another organization, and we will do what we can to assist with that process.



**Q: Will you be holding any on-ice evaluations at all?**

**A:** Unless a miracle occurs and rinks are able to safely open prior to the official contract dates, we will not hold any on-ice evaluations. While it would be our preference to offer players general contracts now and place the players on specific teams when we can properly conduct on-ice evaluations, we recognize that most of our parents prefer to have surety regarding their child's level of play before making a commitment for the season. We plan to announce each team's level of play (AAA, AA, A, or B) at the time of contracting, with the caveat that there may be some unanticipated changes at the league level that could affect team placement. For example, if the leagues decide to structure their divisions differently or create additional divisions in order to reduce travel, we may need to re-evaluate team placement. However, if something like that occurs, we will let you know as soon as possible.

**Q: Without on-ice tryouts, how will you evaluate players coming in from outside the Devils Youth organization?**

**A:** Unfortunately, there is no good answer to this question. At the Tier 1 level it is a little bit easier, because coaches tend to know who the strongest players are at their level and they have a pretty good idea of how players compare to each other. However, the further we go into a level, the harder it is to make decisions without actually seeing players skate and compete against each other. Even at Tier 1, there are players who are coming from a team outside the AYHL, moving to NJ from out-of-state, or looking to move up from a Tier 2 team, and sadly those players are at a considerable disadvantage because they are unknown to our coaches. We are doing the best we can to evaluate players based on the information available to us, but this is definitely not the ideal situation.

**Q: My child has been having team calls with their teammates from last season. Is that because you plan to just keep teams intact for the coming season?**

**A:** No. We started having team calls in order to support our players, allow them to spend time with their teammates in a locker room(ish) environment, give them some structure to their week and something to look forward to, and to let them know that we are thinking about them even though we aren't seeing them at the rink.



**Q: Will there be an opportunity for players to move up or down once they get back on the ice if they appear to have been misplaced?**

**A:** We are looking to give ourselves some flexibility to move players up if we find that they have been misplaced, possibly by leaving a spot or two open on our AAA or AA teams and selecting a slightly larger roster for A or B teams. Once we have signed a player to a contract, we will not move them down unless the parents and coaches mutually agree that it would be in the best interest of the player.

**Q: What will next season look like? When will the rinks open? Will there be social distancing measures taken at the rinks? Will parents be allowed in the building? Will we need to clear the building between practices and games? Will spectators, coaches, and referees be required to wear masks in the rink? Will players be required to wear masks? Will players be allowed to dress in the locker rooms? Will parents be allowed in locker rooms? What cleaning procedures will be in place? Will we be able to attend tournaments? What if we start the season and then we have to go back into lockdown? What if another player on my team is exposed to COVID?**

**A:** These are all very valid and important questions, but unfortunately, we do not have answers to any of them right now. Our top priority has always been, and will continue to be, the health and safety of our players, families, and staff members. We will follow the guidelines put into place by federal, state, county, and local governments and will err on the side of caution. We will seek to be as fair and transparent as possible as we work through all these unknowns. Parents with any specific concerns are always welcome to reach out to a member of our staff, and we will do everything we can to help you to feel comfortable at the rink. One thing we can say is that we are hopeful that we will finally get LiveBarn at Codey Arena so people can watch games from home if they are not allowed in the rink!

KCD | May 10, 2020

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