



TRYOUT PROCEDURES

CGHA Tryout Procedures

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

Players will need:

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

a. *Players with outstanding debts to CGHA will need to contact the CGHA Budget Director (budgetdirector@cghockey.com) in order to make arrangements to clear up these past debts. Players will be redlined and unable to participate in tryouts or pre-tryout clinics if their accounts are not up to date or no agreement with the Budget Director has been made. Please do not wait until the last minute to clear these matters up.*

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

a. *If a player is found to purposefully be signing up for the wrong age level, the CGHA 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 CGHA Website and check for updates (cghockey.com)

Q: When are goalie tryouts?

Goalie tryouts will generally occur on the day prior to the first day of player tryouts. For 2018, goalie tryouts will occur:

Please see full schedule on the CGHA Website and check for updates (cghockey.com)

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

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

Q: Who will be choosing the teams during tryouts?

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

CGHA Tryout Procedures

Q: Who Makes Up the Evaluation Team?

The 1st day of evaluations may include non-parent level coaches, high school coaches, hockey director, hockey committee members, level directors, and also evaluators who do not have a child at that level. Most on-ice help for day 1 will consist of a parent or non-parent head coach. Some Non-parent and parent coaches will be allowed to watch, but not score during evaluations. A parent head coach will be allowed in the evaluation room with other evaluators. An assistant parent coach may be used for questions by the head coach, but only after the evaluation team has confirmed that coaches son or daughter to have scored/performed high enough to be placed on that 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.

Through remaining evaluation days, it is recommended that there is a good balance of parent and non-parent evaluators so there are checks and balances in place to maintain integrity of the process. We will allow parent and non-parent coaches to observe tryouts, as their input will be needed for team alignment. No parent coach will have input on a team until their daughter/son has been identified at that level by the evaluation team.

Remember: We heavily rely on non-parent coaches to support our teams. They are needed in the process and it is on the level director, hockey director, and evaluators to ensure a fair process. The parent coaches daughter/son will not make a higher or lower level team because they have been willing/asked to coach.

At each level it is recommended that there are 4-6 people on the evaluation team. Not all evaluation teams will reflect the recommendation below but all level directors will use this in guiding them during the process of developing an evaluation team.

- One (1) high school coach
- One (1) hockey committee member
- One (1) level director
- One (1) goalie coach
- Three – Five (3-5) level coaches (Will not be included in any collected scoring)
- One – Two (1-2) non-parent evaluators approved by the level 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.

CGHA Tryout Procedures

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 changes 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. Players can move up or down from that group based on performance of day 2.

Tryout Days 3 to 5

These evaluations will consist of evaluators observing players during internal scrimmages or 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 while others will require 5 days for evaluators to make proper decisions.

Goalie Specific Tryouts

Where possible, goalie specific tryouts will be held prior to the beginning of Tryout Day 1. 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.

CGHA Tryout Procedures

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 level 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.

CGHA Tryout Procedures

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 3-5) 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. This can also be the case later in day 2, to give the larger pool of players a better look.

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.

Q: Will Tryouts be Closed?

All Goalie Player Tryouts will be closed to the CGHA membership. This includes Day 1-2 of player evaluation days. We will allow parents to be present during any remaining days of in-house or external scrimmages that are held during the tryout period.

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

They will wear the association's practice jerseys that they have assigned to them for the upcoming year. They will want to bring both color jerseys. It is also recommended that they wear a black helmet, breezers and gloves along with black, green or white socks. 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.

CGHA Tryout Procedures

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 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 CGHA 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 CGHA 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 coaches 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 CGHA of their circumstances, that player will be placed on the lowest level team unless it is found that communication was not possible to inform CGHA in due time.

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

The level 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 CGHA'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 Level 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.