

1.0 General

- 1.1 These policies and procedures will be followed for selecting participants for each Morgantown Hockey Association (MHA) amateur travel team that will be competing in the Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League (PAHL) and Pittsburgh Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) during the upcoming hockey season.
- 1.2 The primary objective is to enable each individual player to play at their appropriate skill level, giving them the best opportunity for improvement and enjoyment of the sport.

2.0 Tryout Schedule

- 2.1 Team tryouts are typically held after the National Championships, in accordance with USA Hockey and Mid-Am guidelines.
- 2.2 The specific dates will be set by the Ice Scheduler and announced in advance.
- 2.3 In the event of ice unavailability after the National Championships, MHA will seek permission from its governing bodies to host tryouts at a date and location as close to National Championships as possible.
- 2.4 The tryout schedule will be posted on the MHA website and communicated to all registered participants via email.

3.0 Process to Register for Tryouts

- 3.1 The dates for tryouts will be proposed by the Ice Scheduler and approved by the Board in late February/early March..
- 3.2 Tryout Registration will occur prior to regular season end.
- 3.3 Tryout Registration will be held online via the MHA Website.
- 3.4 A Registration Deadline Date will be set by the MHA Board of Directors. This deadline date will be specified on the Tryout Registration communication.

3.5 A Tryout Fee will be due at Tryout Registration.

- 3.5.1 The amount of the Tryout Fee will be determined by the MHA Board of Directors.
- 3.5.2 The Tryout Fee will be refunded if a position is not offered.
- 3.5.3 The Tryout Fee will be applied to the participant's fees for the upcoming year once the player accepts an offered position on a team.
- 3.5.4 The Tryout Fee is non-refundable if a position is not accepted.
- 3.6 A **Late Tryout Fee** will be assessed for those registering after the Registration Deadline Date.
 - 3.6.1 The amount of the Late Tryout Fee will be determined by the MHA Board of Directors.
 - 3.6.2 This fee is not part of the Tryout Fee and is not refundable.

4.0 Tryout Process

- 4.1 Tryouts will be a closed process.
- 4.2 The number of teams at each level will be determined based upon the number of players registering to try out for that level and their ability.
- 4.3 The goal will be to maximize the number of players able to participate competitively at each level while maintaining within the recommended minimum and maximum numbers of players per team, as indicated in the table below.

Recommended Minimums & Maximums per Team

Age Group	Skaters (Min – Max)	Goalies (Min – Max)
8U	8 – 10	1 - 2
10U	13 – 18	1 - 2
12U	13 – 18	1 – 2
14U	13 – 18	1 – 2
16U/ 18U	13 – 18	1 – 2

- 4.4 In special circumstances, the MHA Board of Directors may allow for slight deviations from this recommendation, but in no event shall the number of players on a roster be less than 11 or more than 20 as directed by PAHL.
- 4.5 Skaters are assessed based on their age and stage of play, including:
 - o Skating Skills
 - o Puck Handling Skills
 - o Hockey/Game Knowledge
 - o Athletic Ability
 - o Coachability
 - o Player Commitment
 - o Player Attitude and/or Behavior

4.6 Evaluators

- 4.6.1 Evaluators for each age level are recruited by the Coaching Director.
- 4.6.2 The Evaluators consist of the “projected Head Coach” and independent evaluators from age classifications not involved with the age level or any age level affected by a potential play-up when there is more than one team at that age level.

5.0 Team Selection

This section applies only to Blades teams. Per PIHL, Mohawks teams must follow different regulations for team placement based upon the player’s address or enrolled school.

- 5.1 The number of teams at each level will be determined based on the number of players registering to try out and their ability.
 - 5.1.1 When there is only **one team** at a given age level:
 - 5.1.1.1 All players wishing to play at that age level are required to register for tryouts and attend the tryout.
 - 5.1.1.2 All registrants **who try out** will be placed on the roster and offered either **Full Time, Developmental, or Practice Only** positions.
 - 5.1.2 When there is **more than one team** at a given age level:
 - 5.1.2.1 All players wishing to play at that age level are required to register for tryouts and attend the tryout.
 - 5.1.2.2 The number of tryout sessions for each age-level is dependent upon the projected number of teams at that age-level.
 - 5.1.2.3 The Evaluators rank all players trying out at a given level, and the list is given to the Coaching Director.
 - 5.1.2.4 After the final tryout of that age-level, the coaches and evaluators meet to discuss the results. Proposed Developmental players or Practice Only players will be identified, per coach discretion, due to safety reasons and competitive skill level.
 - 5.1.2.5 Final team selection will be determined by the "projected Head Coach" with approval by the Coaching Director and the President of the Board of Directors to ensure fair selection.
 - 5.1.2.6 Within a timely manner of the last tryout session, the MHA Board of Directors will be presented with the team roster composition for approval.
 - 5.1.2.7 If necessary, due to lack of available players within the age level, the Coaching Director, Head Coach, and Team Manager may contact players/families to determine interest in playing up to fill a roster at a higher age level. Play-up requests must adhere to USA Hockey and Mid-Am requirements, should address a specific need by the older team while not negatively impacting the lower team, and must be approved by the Board of Directors . For details, refer to Section 9.0.

6.0 Team Placement

- 6.1 Players will be placed on teams based on their performance during tryouts.
- 6.2 Players that do not attend tryouts will not receive an offer for a position on a team.
- 6.3 Full-Time players will participate in all practices and games and pay a full Regular Season Fee.

The Regular Season Fee is the annual fee assessed by MHA which covers the cost of player's practices, games, and other expenses associated with playing on the Morgantown Blades and/or Morgantown Mohawks. Fees paid prior to team placement (tryout fee and commitment fee) are applied to the Regular Season Fee. Late fees are not.

- 6.4 If a player is deemed not capable of competing at the same level as the rest of the players on the team, the coach has the option to offer a **Developmental** roster position.
 - 6.4.1 Developmental players will participate in all practices and pay a reduced **Regular Season Fee**.
 - 6.4.2 Developmental players may participate in games at the Head Coach's discretion.
 - 6.4.3 Once a Developmental player participates in half or more of games, they will be assessed a Full-Time Player Regular Season Fee.
- 6.5 A **Practice-Only** player position will be offered to players that cannot compete at the appropriate competitive skill level.
 - 6.5.1 Practice-Only players will participate in all practices at a reduced **Regular Season Fee** and will not be eligible to play in games.
- 6.6 The Coaching Director will provide feedback to players upon request to help them understand their strengths and areas for improvement.

7.0 Skill Development Program Requirements

- 7.1 8U and 10U travel players are required to participate in the Skill Development Program.
- 7.2 A Skill Development Program Fee may be included in the 8U and 10U Blades Registration Fee.
- 7.3 12U players who elect to participate in the Skill Development Program must pay the appropriate Skill Development Program Fee.

8.0 Playing at Older Age Classification

- 8.1 **Play-Up Requests:** A player less than the minimum age for an age classification may be permitted to move to an older age level if the Hockey Development Committee and the Head Coach of the older age-level team determine that the player is capable of competing at that level and there is sufficient justification for the move.
 - 8.1.1 Any player petitioning to play-up must try out at both age-levels.
 - 8.1.2 If a player is participating in an age classification with two teams, players from the lower division team cannot skip the higher division of their age classification, even to play on a similarly skilled team in an older age classification.
 - 8.1.3 Per PAHL, Cross-Ice players may not play-up.
 - 8.1.4 The team the player is leaving cannot be left below the recommended minimum number of players, and the team the player is moving to cannot exceed the recommended maximum number of players (see table above). If the coaches and/or evaluators feel that exceeding the recommended minimum or maximum numbers are justified, they can bring their argument to the MHA Board of Directors for review. The MHA Board of Directors will then determine whether the move-up should be allowed.
 - 8.1.5 As per the Rules and Regulations of the Mid-American Hockey Association, and the USA Hockey Summary of Insurance Coverage for Members, the MHA Board of Directors must give its approval before the player can play in the higher age classification.

- 8.1.6 The decision shall be made based upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the MHA Board of Directors, judging that the move is in the best interest of the players, both teams involved, and the organization.

8.2 Mid-Am “Play-Up” Policy

- 8.2.1 It is the policy of Mid-Am for players to play within the appropriate USA Hockey-defined age classification set forth above. Mid-Am recognizes that in some instances there are exceptional players who would be better served by playing in the next, higher age classification and there are situations in some Local Associations where a player(s) may need to play in the next higher age classification in order to form balanced teams with enough players. Except as provided in the following subsection, in such situations, Mid Am allows players to “play-up” one year in playing age, provided the following criteria are met:

- 8.2.1.1 The Local Association must have a well-defined, written policy that addresses procedures for identifying potential players, determining the player’s skill level, emotional maturity and physical abilities to be successful on the higher age classification team. The policy must also assess the impact the move may have on both the team he or she would play on in their appropriate birth-year age classification and the team he or she may be “playing up” on.
- 8.2.1.2 Only written requests submitted by a player’s parent or guardian may be considered by the Local Association’s governing Board.
- 8.2.1.3 Players must demonstrate the skill, physical ability and mental maturity required to “play-up” on the next age classification team.
- 8.2.1.4 There should be an evaluation of the player’s skills and abilities completed by the Local Association’s Coaching Director and other impartial coaches in the Local Association.
- 8.2.1.5 No more than 25% of any team roster may be composed of players “playing up.”

9.0 Method for Notifying Parents and Finalizing Rosters following Tryouts

- 9.1 Within 48 hours after completion of the team rosters, the Head Coach will offer a roster spot to all players who were deemed to have made the team, and will designate them as Full Time, Developmental, or Practice.
 - 9.1.1 This initial notification will be in the form **of a phone call** and an actionable emailed offer.
- 9.2 Upon receiving the notification, the player will have 48 hours to accept the emailed offer and register for the team on the Morgantown Hockey website or to decline the offer.
 - 9.2.1 Failure to respond within 48 hours denotes declining of the position, which allows the Head Coach to offer the position to the next player in line.
- 9.3 **If there are multiple teams at an age-level**, players on the first team will be notified.
 - 9.3.1 Within 48 hours after notification of the first team players, the second team will be notified, and so-on.

- 9.4 Once rosters are finalized, they will be submitted to the association Registrar for subsequent submission to PAHL.

10.0 Accepting a Roster Spot

- 10.1 Acceptance of an offer constitutes a financial commitment to MHA.

10.2 A **Commitment Fee** must be paid when a roster spot is accepted, and the player is registered.

10.2.1 The **Commitment Fee** is a non-refundable payment that secures a player's spot on a team and confirms participation for the season.

10.2.2 The amount of the Commitment Fee shall be determined by the MHA Board of Directors.

10.2.3 In the event MHA cannot field a team, the Commitment Fee will be refunded to the family.

10.2.4 If the roster spot is declined within 48 hours, the Commitment Fee will not be charged.

10.2.5 If a player is offered a roster spot on more than one team (e.g., Mohawks and Blades), the Commitment Fee must be paid for each roster spot.

11.0 Players Missing the Spring Tryout

- 11.1 Any player who misses the Spring Tryout will be given a separate tryout session in the Fall with the team(s) at that particular age level.

11.1.1.1 The Hockey Development Committee can suggest where this player should play if they do not feel that the player fits with the initial team.

- 11.2 If there are 2 or more teams at that age-level, the player will try out with the team that most appropriately matches their skill level, based upon the level at which they played during the previous season.

11.2.1 Ideally, this should simply be the player practicing with the appropriate team in front of the Hockey Development Committee to ensure that the player's talent level is appropriate for the team for which they are trying out.

11.2.2 The Hockey Development Committee can suggest where this player should play if they do not feel that the player fits with this team and can recommend that the player tryout/practice with another team within that age level.