

TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUT GUIDE

September 2026

The Wayzata Youth Hockey Association (WYHA) welcomes you to travel hockey! The WYHA website is the primary resource for specific tryout dates and times. In addition to those logistical details, this guide is designed to help players and families understand what to expect throughout the tryout process. Our goal is to provide transparency, answer common questions, and help players feel prepared and confident as they head into tryouts. We recognize that tryouts can bring a mix of excitement, anticipation, and nerves for many players and families, and we hope this guide helps make the experience as clear and positive as possible.

IMPORTANT DATES

Reference the [WYHA Tryout page](#) for dates and times specific to this season's Travel tryouts.

WHAT TO WEAR

To help ensure evaluations focus solely on player performance, **all players must wear** the following to avoid their equipment or jerseys/socks drawing unnecessary attention from evaluators:

- WHITE jersey with solid WHITE sleeves (there can be a logo on the chest and numbers on the back, but the sleeves/shoulders shouldn't have stripes or solid colors. The typical white Wayzata practice jerseys are perfect for this).
- Wayzata practice socks provided during tryout check-in
- Assigned pinnie number/color provided during tryout check-in
- Full set of hockey equipment, including mouthguard and protective neck guard (*beginning with the 2026-2027 season, per Minnesota Hockey, all Travel/Jr Gold players must have a mouthguard tethered to their helmet*)
- All non-Wayzata based helmet stickers and other non-Wayzata badging **must be removed** before the first try-out session

Players are recommended to wear:

- Navy blue colored helmet
- Navy blue colored breezers
- Wayzata color scheme (navy/gold or navy/white) hockey gloves

Other equipment notes:

- The Wayzata socks received during initial tryout check-in will become your travel team practice socks. DO NOT lose or turn in these socks after tryouts.
- Pinnie pullovers with tryout numbers/colors will be provided during initial tryout check-in and MUST be returned at the end of tryouts.
- If bringing a water bottle, fill it prior to the start of your tryout and have it clearly labeled with skater or goaltender name. Sharing water bottles is not permitted.

Skaters and goaltenders MUST be fully dressed and ready to play at the scheduled start time of their tryout.

PRE-TRYOUT WARM-UP SESSIONS

SKATERS & GOALIES

These are optional, included in the cost of registration, and open hockey sessions for all registered skaters and goalies to prepare for tryouts. Drills similar to those during tryouts will be reviewed and practiced during these sessions, but it will not be an exact replica of tryouts. We recommend that players attend at least one of these sessions so they are prepared for tryouts, however participation is not considered within the tryout evaluations in any way.

A player MUST be registered with WYHA and USA Hockey to participate in the warm-up sessions.

GOALIE-ONLY WARM-UPS

To help prepare for skills evaluation, goaltenders are strongly encouraged to participate in all warm-up sessions. There will also be a goalie-only warm up session which will focus on goalie skills drills.

The full pre-tryout warm-up schedule will be posted on the [WYHA Tryout page](#). It's very important to follow the assigned sessions to avoid overcrowding.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRYOUT DAY 1

TRYOUT FORMAT

DAY 1 - Skills

All players start with a skills-based session on Day 1 of tryouts. This session will consist of 3-5 drills designed to grade a player's skating and puck skills.

- Player pool assignments are **not** tiered and must be followed.
- If trying out as a goaltender only, you will be assigned to the goaltenders skills session.
- If trying out as a goaltender/skater, you will be assigned to a skater skill session. It is recommended to also attend the goaltenders skills session if possible. The remainder of the tryout will be as a skater. Goaltender/skater registrations will be placed on a team based on skating first, goaltending second.
 - Every effort will be made to place a goaltender/skater on a team at their level with less than two full-time goaltenders. If placed on a team with two full-time goaltenders, goalie playing time may be limited.

DAYS 2 & 4 - Internal Scrimmage

Based on the results of the Day 1 skills session, skaters and goalies will be placed into tiered tryout sessions. Days 2 and 4 will focus on game situations in organized scrimmages. As a general guideline, the later the tryout session is scheduled the higher the tier group.

- Bantams/15U - players participate at their preferred position - defense or forward. Defensive pairings and line assignments are random, however volunteers will be on hand to ensure all players get equal playing time and to set lines based on predetermined, randomized line combinations.
- PeeWees/12U/Squirrels/10U - players participate at all positions. Volunteers will be on hand to ensure all players get equal playing time and to set lines based on predetermined, randomized line combinations.

DAY 3 - Practice

All skaters will skate with their assigned tier, determined by their cumulative tryout rankings, on Day 3 (practice) and Day 4 (controlled scrimmage).

- Practice plans will include a set of drills to focus on specific skills and isolate players in game situations. Competition drills and small area games will be areas of focus.



External Scrimmages

The AA and A pools will have scrimmages against other Associations after Day 4.

HOW ARE TEAMS SELECTED?

Team selections will be made in accordance with the Travel Team Formation and Coach Selection Policies and are final once published to the WYHA website.

HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT TEAM I'M ON?

After team selections are complete, you will be able to check the WYHA tryout page to find your team assignment for the season. Team assignments are generally posted within 24-48 hours from the completion of tryouts.

Shortly after the teams are posted on the website, families will be contacted by Head Coaches welcoming players to the team and providing details on the first practice and jersey hand-out. *Please expect your first practice to start as soon as 1-2 days after team formation.* The ice schedule is generally released in 3 batches throughout the season. The batch release dates will be posted on the website and communicated to all WYHA members early in the season.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does it mean to opt-out of tryouts?

To be considered for a spot on a travel team at the AA-B2 levels, you must participate in tryouts. If you do not want to participate in tryouts you may opt-out of the process. In this scenario, you will be placed on a team at the lowest playing level.

What if I can't participate in tryouts?

You must make every effort to attend all tryout sessions. No exceptions will be made for vacations or similar conflicts. Only illness, injury, religious conflicts, or specific approval from the Director of Hockey Operations will be considered excused absences. If you miss tryouts due to an unexcused absence, please contact the Director of Hockey Operations (tryouts@wayzatahockey.org) and be aware that such an absence may affect your final team placement.

What happens if I get sick or injured, or if I have a religious conflict?

If injured, ill, or aware of a religious conflict BEFORE TRYOUTS BEGIN, it's critical to notify the Director of Hockey Operations (tryouts@wayzatahockey.org) as soon as possible in advance.



If a skater or goaltender is unable to participate in tryouts due to an injury or illness DURING TRYOUTS, parents are responsible for contacting the Director of Hockey Operations (tryouts@wayzatahockey.org). If the illness or injury continues, each day parents must update the Director of Hockey Operations (tryouts@wayzatahockey.org) on the status of their player.

How is my evaluation affected by an excused absence?

In the event of an excused absence, the Director of Hockey Operations and the VP of Travel/VP of Girls Travel will consult with evaluators and, if necessary, prior coaches to determine the appropriate tryout tier assignments for subsequent tryout sessions. If a player gets sick or injured and cannot participate in the remainder of tryouts, multiple coaches familiar with the player will be consulted to determine final team placement.

What is the process for players moving up or down in the tryout tiers?

Players are evaluated individually during each tryout session. From time to time, a player's evaluation scores may indicate that they should move up or down into a different tryout tier. This is a natural part of the evaluation process and such moves are discussed in detail by the DHO, evaluators, and VP's of Travel. There is never a mandated number of "move-ups" or "move-downs" between tiers, instead such player movement may occur naturally because evaluators determine a player is in the wrong tier based on their on-ice performance or due to evaluator scores in some cases. At times, it may seem like there is little or no movement from one tier to another, or that there is only downward movement of players. This may be because the top player pool is being narrowed down towards the final player pool for that level. For example, if there are 25 players in the A pool headed into the final day of tryouts and the final player pool is only 20 players, then a net total of five players must move down to the next tier below. This may mean two players move up and seven move down, or no players move up and five move down, etc.

What if I have questions about tryouts?

Questions/concerns about the tryout process must go through the Director of Hockey Operations. Do not bring those questions directly to travel coaches or evaluators. Email your questions to tryouts@wayzatahockey.org.

What if I have feedback on my players placement?

Team selections are final. WYHA strives for the best situation possible for all players, and there will be a spot for every player that will allow them a chance to



develop and enjoy playing this great sport.

Grievances will not be discussed on the phone. All contact regarding grievances will not be accepted until one week (7 days) after the completion of your level's final tryout session. Every player/parent who wishes to have a meeting to communicate concerns will be given that opportunity as we value feedback from all of our members. Grievances should be emailed to both the Director of Hockey Operations and the VP of Travel or the VP Girls Travel (depending on the division of play for your player).

- Director of Hockey Operations hockeyops@wayzatahockey.org
- VP Travel vptravel@wayzatahockey.org
- VP Girls Travel vpgirlstravel@wayzatahockey.org