

# Hopkins Youth Hockey Tryout Process and Policies

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## General Process

Hopkins Youth Hockey Association selects Bantam, Peewee, and Squirt teams for the upcoming season through a structured tryout process, spanning from 3-4 days, that incorporates skills review, HYHA intra-squad-scrimmages, scrimmage(s) with other hockey associations and/or competitive practices. (The Hopkins Park Nordics girls' program has its own processes for tryouts.)

**The goal of the tryout process is to ensure each player is given a fair evaluation and to place each player on a team at an appropriate competitive level for their individual abilities and development.** This will allow players to:

- Play with others of a similar skill level.
- Further develop their skills in a suitable team environment
- Most importantly.... Enjoy the game!

## Information for Players

- Players should attend assigned tryout sessions.
- At the first tryout session, players should check in and get a tryout jersey to keep for the duration of tryouts. Please return the jersey at the end of tryouts.
- Both socks must be the same color. Please use old HYHA game socks or blue or white socks only.

- No visible AAA or High Performance stickers, names, or logos are allowed on helmets, socks, or jerseys.
- Players should wear all standard hockey equipment, including mouthguard and neck guard. Check your hockey bag each day before tryouts.
- Players should arrive at the rink 30 minutes before each tryout session and be dressed and ready 5 minutes before the session.

If a player is sick or injured or otherwise unable to participate in tryouts, notify the [Director of Hockey Development](#) as soon as possible. (See more on absences below.)

## Tryout Procedures

Tryouts schedules are posted online and communicated by email. The number of tryout sessions will depend on the player's level/age.

The initial tryout groups will be established by placing all registered players at their level in a random order and divided so we have a roughly equal number of skaters and goalies. After the first or second sessions players will be assigned to a specific tryout scrimmage pool.

Scrimmage pool assignments will be emailed. Tryout pool assignments are designed to help the evaluators grade players of comparable skill level. Participating in a specific pool does not guarantee players will be assigned to teams drawn from that pool. Players may be asked to attend more than one tryout pool on the same day.

### **Goalie-Only Session:**

During tryouts, some levels may have a separate goalie-only evaluation session with volunteer shooters and evaluators allowed on the ice. All goalies must attend these sessions in addition to their assigned groups. The shooters will be volunteer players that are not trying out with the goalies. Goalie specific evaluators will grade these sessions.

## Tryout Staffing

### **Evaluators**

Evaluators are selected by the HDC based on their hockey experience, knowledge, qualifications, and independence from the players being evaluated.

### **On-Ice Coaches**

Registered coaches are recruited to help on ice and ensure player safety and fair play. Penalties are not called, but negative or dangerous player behavior may negatively impact their score.

## Absences from Tryouts

Players are encouraged to all tryout sessions. The more your player is seen by evaluators, the more likely your player will be placed on an appropriate level team. Do not make presumptions on where your player is rated in the middle of tryouts as a consideration of whether it is ok to miss a session. Missing a tryout session is missing an opportunity to be evaluated for placement on a team for an entire season. If you must miss a tryout, please report player's absence(s) to the [Director of Hockey Development](#) prior to the tryout session, including reason for absence.

Players who do not wish to participate in tryouts will be placed on the lowest level team for their age level.

Excused absences (e.g. illness, injury) will be brought to the Hockey Development Committee, which can use its discretion to place the player on an appropriate team.

## Team Placement

Teams are selected based on evaluator scoring achieved throughout the tryout process. Rosters will be filled and based on performance at tryouts. During the final roster assignment process, HYHA includes an outside mediator as an auditor before final rosters are posted.

Final rosters will be posted online after tryouts have concluded. Our goal is to post within 24 hours, if possible.

**Final rosters are final.** No player will be moved to a higher team after rosters are posted unless the higher-level team has an issue fielding a full roster. The Hockey Development Committee reserves the right to review and revise all team rosters for several reasons, including but not limited to:

- Injuries
- Bantam | 15U players that chose to play high school hockey

Selection to a specific team as a first-year player will not entitle a player to a roster spot at the same level in subsequent years.

## Post-Tryout Communications

We understand that the outcome of tryouts might not always be what your player had hoped for. However, team selections are final. HYHA strives for the best situation possible for all players and their development.

After tryouts, a **24-hour cooling off period** applies during which neither parents nor players may initiate contact with coaches or HDC or HYHA Board members. After this cooling-off period, feedback and questions from parents/players about the tryout process or outcomes can be shared via an online form provided to all members.

Player final ranking or score will NOT be shared with players/parents. Evaluator's comments will NOT be made available.

## High School Team Tryouts

HYHA recognizes that on occasion, players who have remaining Bantam eligibility may elect to try out for a high school team. HYHA has adopted the following policy, which will treat this situation as it would any other waiver request to play outside our association.

1. HYHA registered players who are in their final year of Bantam eligibility may request a waiver to try out for any high school junior varsity or varsity program.
2. The HYHA President and Director of Hockey Development must receive waiver requests via email within 24 hours of HYHA team rosters being posted. The email must identify the varsity program and the name of the head coach for that program.
3. With approval from the HYHA President, Director of Hockey Development and the appropriate Bantam team head coach, HYHA will reserve a roster spot on the assigned Bantam team until the results from the varsity high school tryouts are known. Players trying out for a high school varsity team cannot participate with the Bantam team during the high school tryout period.
4. If the player makes a high school team, they will **forfeit ALL of the HYHA season's fees.**
5. If the player fails to make the high school team, he will be permitted to return to the Bantam team immediately.
6. If a player fails to receive approval for any reason and still tries out for a high school team, HYHA is not obligated to reserve a roster spot on any of the HYHA teams and is not obligated to refund any portion of their season fees.

## HYHA Teams

It is the objective of the Hockey Development Committee to choose team levels that enable our players to learn, practice, apply, and master both the physical skills and mental toughness required by the game of hockey. Our goal is to provide the best opportunity for our kids to have fun and develop as hockey players.

Before HDC members vote on the matter, the Committee reviews teams' performance the past 3 seasons, the number of players forecast, and feedback received from coaches. Level declarations are made every spring for one season at a time, and reviewed every year.