

SYHA Tryout Guide and Policy 2022

PURPOSE

SYHA has developed a tryout process for tryouts which is intended to place players on teams matching the individual skills and competitive level of each child. Great care has been taken to ensure that the process is fair, impartial, and that coaches are able to accurately assess the skills and abilities of each player.

EVALUATORS

Independent (Objective) Evaluators – There will be at least three (3) independent evaluators at each division to perform objective player evaluations and provide input to the Head Coaches. Independent evaluators are selected based on their hockey experience and knowledge, as well as an ability to assess hockey skills. They will not have children in the tryout process at the level that they are evaluating.

TRYOUT SCHEDULE & FEES

Tryouts for SYHA teams, except High School and 8 and Under, for the following season shall be conducted at the conclusion of the current season. Tryout dates and fees will be published on the SYHA website (saugertiesyouthhockey.com) and distributed via email and on Facebook.

If your child is selected for a travel level team you will be asked to fill out all required paperwork including a Commitment Form within 48 hours of team selection. The Commitment Form is your commitment to the team and the teams' commitment to you. You will also be asked to place a non-refundable \$350.00 deposit to secure your spot on the roster.

TRYOUT LEVELS AND AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

SYHA Mustang tryouts will be conducted separately for each level - 10u, 12u, 14u and 16u.

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Competitive Levels

"A" Level

- o Coaches teach advanced level of skill development for players who have the desire and the ability to compete at the "A" level or higher
- o Players are selected for "A" level teams as a result of a competitive try-out
- o Offered at the 10u through 16u levels;
- o "AA" designation is dependent on the level of skill for a given year.
- o Approximately 60 1-hour practice sessions (approximately 20 of which is with a professional skating coach)
- o 1-3 hours per week of off-ice training
- o 45 or more games a season; Travel includes both local and away games which could involve travel time of 2 or more hours

"B" Level

- o Teaching emphasis is on intermediate to higher level skill development
- o Players are selected for "B" level teams as a result of an evaluation
- o Offered at the 10u through 16u levels
- o Approximately 60 1-hour practice sessions (approximately 20 of which is with a professional skating coach)
- o 1-2 hours per week of off-ice training
- o 25 or more games a season; Travel includes both local and away games which could involve travel time of less than 2 hours

"C" Level

- o Teaching emphasis is developmental based upon progressive skill development
- o Players are selected for "C" level teams as a result of an evaluation
- o Offered at the 10u and 12u levels
- o Approximately 40 1-hour practice sessions (approximately 20 of which is with a professional skating coach)
- o 15 games a season; Travel includes both local and away games which could involve travel time of less than 1 hour

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The Tryout Process

1. SYHA conducts open and competitive tryouts. Players are not guaranteed a position based on their previous year's team and/or coach.
2. Tryouts are overseen by the President and Vice Presidents with help from SYHA coaches, they will oversee the on-ice portion, selection of evaluators and format of the tryouts.
3. Portions of the Tryouts may be open to the public. However, in order to permit the evaluators to have a full range of access to see the players, portions of the rink, including locker rooms and ice may be restricted from spectators.
4. Players and parents, shall abide by the USA Hockey Code of Conduct and Parent Code of Conduct.
5. There is a nonrefundable fee charged for tryouts (fee is subject to change by the SYHA Board of Directors).
6. Players must provide a valid USA Hockey registration.
7. Players must provide a signed player release if coming from a USA Hockey sanctioned youth hockey association other than SYHA.
8. No players will be permitted to tryout unless all financial obligations to SYHA have been satisfied.
9. Players must check in and receive pinnie before each tryout session and be at the rink at least 30 minutes prior to the start of tryouts.
10. Tryouts will consist of up to three sessions of on ice drills and/or scrimmages. These on ice-drills and/or scrimmages will be the basis for evaluating each player's ability for the level of competition. At any point after the first day evaluation, a player may be released from further tryout.
11. Every effort will be made to shield the identity of the players from the evaluators so that an objective tryout process is maintained. Each player will be assigned a jersey or a pinnie with a number. The jersey or pinnie must be worn by the player during the entire tryout process (at each session). No player may trade numbers with another player. Players should not wear a jersey with their name on it.
12. Players unable to tryout due to medical reasons must notify a Vice President in

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writing prior to the beginning of tryouts. If a player is unable to complete the tryouts due to medical reasons, the Vice President must be notified immediately. The Tryout Committee will review each situation independently and decide on a placement for the player. Consideration will be given to the following: 1) Ability of player in the past; 2) Consultation with past coaches; and 3) Severity of disability and probability of return for the upcoming season.

13. All players (registered for tryouts) shall participate in the entire scheduled tryout process for their prospective age level.

For 2022 12u tryouts only: If your player is a selected “call back” player, he/she must attend all “call back” tryout sessions. If a player refuses to return for a “call back” tryout session or declines selection for a particular team, that player will be given an organizational release or may play in our SYHA House Development Program.

14. The Vice President(s) will try to accommodate a legitimate scheduling conflict. Notice of conflict must be given at least 48 hours prior to the first scheduled tryout session. A conflict with another sport will typically not constitute an excused absence.

Tryout FAQs

Q: How do I register for Tryouts?

A: Pre-registration for tryouts can be accessed here:

<https://www.saugertiesyouthhockey.com/>

Walk-ups are permitted with an appropriate release (if from outside program), payment of tryout fee and completion of registration form on site.

Q: How is my child identified on ice?

A: At check-in each player will be assigned a numbered pinnie. The evaluation team is only given the jersey number and color to help ensure an impartial evaluation.

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Q: How are selections made?

A: For each tryout, a team of independent evaluators rank the players based on a number of skills (skating, stick handling, shooting and game situations). They will also be assessing the teams' needs as a whole. The assessments are recorded based on the tryout jersey assigned to the player. Following the final tryout, the evaluators review the tryout results, discuss each player in detail, and select the roster based on full consensus of the evaluators.

Q: Can my player play above his/her age level? (for example 10u up to 12u)

A: Per NYSAHA, under no circumstances can an 8u and 12u player play up. A 10u player can not play up unless they receive an exception from the NYSAHA ADM Coordinator. (This will only occur for an extraordinary reason only and not be based solely on skill.)

Q: Who performs the assessments?

A: The evaluators are individuals with extensive hockey backgrounds who are not affiliated with the team that is being assessed or the individual players on the ice, along with the coaches from each level.

Q: How are goaltenders evaluated?

A: Goaltenders are selected through the same process with an eye on Goaltending skills. It is possible consultation with MAC goaltending will be involved. A team goalies will be selected based on Goaltending ability.

Q: Are returning players assured a spot on the roster?

A: No. Selections can only be made with the consensus of the committee considering on ice performance.

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Q: How could a player who may have been a top player the previous year, not be selected for the following season?

A: The level of competition changes each year, and players develop at different rates. Everyone has a fresh chance each season. Sometimes a player for whatever reason does not give his/her best performance, while another player puts forth an exceptional effort during the tryouts. Additionally the makeup of the entire team will be considered.

Q: What happens if a player did not attend all sessions?

A: Attending all sessions gives him/her the best opportunity to be assessed and selected. There is no “penalty” for not attending all sessions, however A teams usually have mandatory attendance. An individual may be selected based on only one tryout if his/her skill is very clearly demonstrated to be among the stronger players participating.

Q: What happens if a player is not able to attend tryouts due to illness or injury?

A: Eligible players not able to participate in any part of the tryout process for health/medical or other reasons must contact their respective Level Director or Director of Player Development in advance. The player will not be penalized in the evaluation process for missing a portion of the tryout, but it is in his/her best interest to attend all sessions if at all possible. (If possible, a special assessment may be made available to a player missing an entire tryout due to unavoidable circumstances). A medical note may be requested.

Q: How is the size of the roster determined?

A: That is largely at the discretion of the head coach, based on the anticipated needs of the team.

Q: Are tryout fees refundable?

A: No. Tryout fees are non-refundable. The fees are used to cover the ice cost

Q: Will there be another opportunity to try out for the same team?

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A: In some cases, a supplemental tryout may be necessary; any such tryouts will be communicated on the website in advance. It is not uncommon for a team to select part of their roster in the spring with the rest being selected in the fall.

Q: Can I get feedback on my son/daughter's performance during tryouts?

A: The focus of the evaluation committee is to perform the difficult job of ranking the players, and not to construct development feedback for each individual player. To provide constructive developmental feedback would take considerably more time.

Q: What do I do next if my son/daughter has been selected?

A: If your child has been selected you will be asked to fill out all required paperwork including a Commitment Form within 48 hours of team selection. The Commitment Form is your commitment to the team and the teams' commitment to you. You will also be asked to place a non-refundable \$350.00 deposit to secure your spot on the roster.

Q: What is an EJ Team?

A: The Eastern Junior Elite Prospects League was created to prepare players to become the Junior, Prep School and College recruits of the future. Many of the owners of top Junior programs, top Prep School programs and AAA Youth organizations regularly scout the EJEPL and its (90) partner organizations. Players will be exposed to NCAA style practices--including systems, plays, skill development, off-ice training techniques, and most importantly--academic guidance.

The EJEPL creates a seamless transition process which will allow players at the 9 U to the 18 U levels to develop their skills and learn systems play with the ability to stay in their organizations all the way to College. Players can be promoted from the 15-16-18 U teams to their Junior parent teams or similar Junior development Leagues. During the season, players may also be rewarded with the opportunity to practice and play with teams at the next level up, culminating with the parent clubs in each organization.

For more info on the EJ league please visit:

<https://www.ejepl.net/page/show/530744-home>

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Q: What does Tournament Bound mean?

A: A Tournament Bound Team (TB team) is designated to compete in the State tournament. This team competes within the Hudson Valley Hockey League (HVHL) Tournament Bound division and plays league games with the opportunity to qualify and compete in the NYS Tournament.