



NEW PRAGUE
HOCKEY

2026 - 2027

APPENDICES

★ **UPDATED: JULY 20TH, 2026** ★

A. SKILL-BASED PETITIONS UP

Background: To ensure consistent and appropriate consideration of players that submit a skillbased petition up to the next level, the below outline describes key steps and data points to be followed and reviewed. This applies only to skill-based petitions, for which age/grade is not a consideration. The intention for acceptance of skill-based petitions would be that the player and/or their peers would not benefit from their continued participation at their current level and that their continued play at that level would negatively impact both the development of said player and their peers.

Petition Submission – Prior Season Requirements (Skill-Based):

- The below are requirements for a player to be eligible to try out for the next level in the upcoming season. If these requirements are met, the player is allowed to participate in try-outs at the next level but **does not guarantee a placement at that level**
 - ◆ Will be a 2nd year player at their current level (no double grade-level jump).
 - ◆ Played on the top level team in the prior season.
 - ◆ Petition is formally supported by email from both the prior-season Level Lead and Head Coach (non-parent).
 - Non-parent requirement: If a parent serves as Head Coach and/or Level Lead, the HDC designates alternate approver(s) (e.g., assistant coaches).
 - The written support must include:
 - What development opportunities the player will gain at the next level that are not available at current level.
 - Documented, specific examples from the previous season demonstrating that the player consistently performs at a level beyond their existing level peers and that mirrors or exceeds that of next-level players.
 - Confirmation the player has the maturity to compete with older players in a more competitive environment and represents the values of NPHA (i.e. respect, work ethic, competitiveness)
- Petition submission is recommended by the HDC and approved by the NPHA Board.

Petition Approval – Tryout Requirements (Skill-Based):

- Players petitioning up will participate in the entire tryout process at both the upper level and their age-level
- To be eligible to play at the next level, the final overall score from the player must be in the top seven of final pool
- If the player does not score in the top seven of the final tryout pool, they will return to their age level.

Roster Requirement – Placement Process:

- Notwithstanding the skill-based requirements outlined above, the HDC retains discretionary authority to elevate players to a higher level when roster needs require it, provided such placements are made in the best interest of the player and the association.

*Petitions related to Mite player placement, including skill-based requests to participate at the Squirt/10U level, will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Board of Directors and the Hockey Development Committee (HDC). Decisions will take into account player development, roster composition, team formation, player safety, and the overall needs of the Association and approved by both the Board and of Directors and the Hockey Development Committee (HDC).

B. NPHA TRYOUT PROCESS 2026-27

Welcome to the start of the 2026-27 hockey season. The information provided is designed to communicate what will take place throughout the tryout process. This will include the tryout schedule, registration process, skills and scrimmages, scoring by evaluators, team selections, and tryouts for missing or injured players, and grievances regarding team selections.

Please note that in order to participate in player tryouts, player registration must be completed by the tryout deadline of September 19th.

The purpose of hockey tryouts is to group players by ability. The objective is to provide an appropriate level of competition for each player that will challenge their skills and increase their knowledge and enjoyment of the game.

Due to the competitive nature of tryouts, players should make sure they are well rested and arrive at the tryout session at least 30 minutes early. Attendance at a pre-season clinic and dry land training is recommended but not required.

Parents, guardians, and grandparents, please be advised that you will not be allowed in the arena area.

If you have any questions before or during the tryout process, please direct them to the Vice President or any member of the HDC.

Peewees/Bantams/Squirts/10U/12U – September 26 and 27, October 3 and 4

Extended evaluations as needed up until 12/31 as determined by the HDC

**These dates are subject to change as needed*

Tryout Registration

On the first day, players are to check in at the tryout registration table where they will be issued a numbered tryout jersey. These jerseys are to remain with the player throughout the tryout process. Players should only wear their assigned jerseys for the tryout session. Players who forget their jersey or switch jerseys will not be allowed to step onto the ice until the situation has been corrected. All players must wear a black helmet, black breezers, and NPHA colored socks; any deviation from this must be approved by the tryout committee. Tryout jerseys must be returned to the association upon completion of the tryout process, or a \$30 fine will be assessed.

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→ SQUIRTS/10U, PEEWEES/12U, & BANTAMS TRYOUT SCHEDULE

Girls Trying Out for Boys' Team

It is acceptable if a girl decides to try out for a boys' team. However, they cannot move back to a girls' team once tryouts have started. This applies to all levels of players.

Scoring Process

The basis for the team selection uses a scoring system to rate individual player skills and game play utilizing a scoring methodology whereas a player's score is based on the percentage of points accumulated over three days of assessment. Each evaluator utilizes a 0 – 5 scale to assess each player's ability across twelve categories over the first three days of tryouts. Those individual evaluator scores are averaged across all evaluators resulting in the player's aggregate score. The twelve categories assessed by each evaluator are: Basic Skating, Edges and Balance, Basic Puck Skills, Transitions, Crossovers, Basic Shooting, Passing & Puck Control, Offensive Play, Defensive Play, Player Engagement, Physical Engagement, and Scoring Ability. The skills and situations used in the tryout scoring process have been derived from a variety of credible hockey organizations. This process provides for training of evaluators in the use of the scoring system so

that competent, reliable, and consistent scoring is achieved at all levels. Evaluators will be given ample opportunity to see how each player performs in specific on-ice skills.

Tryouts may consist of both skills and game play evaluations designed by the HDC. Day 1 and 2 of tryouts are primarily assessments of individual skating, edgework, puck handling and shooting skills through standard drills and cross ice games. Day 3 of tryouts “Scrimmage Day” is a combination of cross ice and full ice games evaluating team play, player engagement and offensive and defensive play. Day 4 of tryouts are full ice games. After day 2 of tryouts, players will be split into 2 pools based on evaluator scoring from day one and two. Schedules may change based on potential outside scrimmages if utilized.

At the end of the tryout session all evaluation sheets will be tabulated. Scores will be confidential and not released to anyone outside the HDC or the Board of Directors. Scores will be held until completion of tryouts and certification/approval of teams by the NPHA Board of Directors.

[Tryout Rubric - All Levels](#)

Evaluators

Non-parent, independent evaluators will be selected for each level based on their hockey coaching and/or playing background. They will also be asked to commit to all tryout sessions if possible. In addition, coaches are expected to participate in evaluating players and making team selections. Parents and players are asked to avoid discussing the tryout process with the evaluators and coaches.

Team Selections

Upon completion of the initial tryouts process, the HDC will review the resulting scores and averages to determine a preliminary list for team selection. The NPHA Board may request visibility into this review process, including access to scoring data and evaluation summaries, to support transparency and alignment. As a part of the tryout process, adjustments in team size and player placement may be made after receiving input and advice from past and current coaches at each level. The scoring is to be used as a guide but not the ultimate determining factor. Head coaches, past coaches, and the tryout committee can be consulted on final player placement, and the board may request dispositions of these communications for final approvals. The ultimate player placement lies with the HDC and its recommendations to the Board. At the conclusion of the 4-day tryout process, proposed teams and coaches will be presented to the Board for approval. There may be a need for extended tryouts which would be based upon the coaches’ evaluation of players at up to 5 consecutive practices at each level. After completion of these adjustments (herein referred to as extended evaluations), the HDC would present any proposed team adjustments to the NPHA Board of Directors for final approval. The extended evaluations and adjustments may be implemented if the HDC and coaching staff at that level determine that there is a need for them. The extended evaluations will be used on an as needed basis and will not be used unless there are extenuating circumstances. Because high school hockey starts AFTER youth tryouts, adjustments in player placement may have to be made if players that made a Bantam team during tryouts move to the high school level. Possible adjustments may include, but are not limited to, moving players between teams, placing injured players that were unable to tryout on the correct skill level team, moving PeeWee’s up to Bantams, and looking for Bantams from other associations to help make a complete New Prague team. Generally, the HDC and NPHA’s philosophy is to not move players “down” a level and to only move players “up” which periodically can result in the number of players on a team being skewed within a level (e.g. more players on PeeWee B versus PeeWee A), however following extended evaluations the number of players on each team will align with District 6 and Minnesota hockey guidelines. In the case of injured players, a spot may be left open on the highest team for the injured player or the next most qualified player to move up to the highest team.

→ MITES/8U PLACEMENTS SCHEDULE

Mite/8U – October 24 and 25

**These dates are subject to change as needed*

During the first weekend of the Mite/8U's regular season, all players will be skating as a group. You will be notified as to when your son/daughter will skate that first weekend. These two days will be used for establishing Mite/8U teams, otherwise known as Mite/8U placements.

First-year Mites are not required to attend placements. This policy is designed to ensure that our youngest players can focus on developing their fundamental hockey skills and enjoying the game without the pressure of placement evaluations.

You will be notified of the exact times your player(s) will skate. The goal of the first weekend is to start the year off for all kids with a good foundation of skill-based training while evaluations are going on at the same time. A similar scoring system will be used as is used for our upper-level tryouts.

On the first day, players are to check in at the registration table where they will be issued a numbered pullover. These pullovers are to remain with the player throughout the placement process. Players should only wear their assigned pullovers and either a black or white jersey for the tryout session. Players who forget their jersey or switch jerseys will not be allowed to step onto the ice until the situation has been corrected. It is recommended that all players wear a black helmet, black breezers, and NPHA colored socks.

→ TRYOUT FAQ

So why does the HDC and the Board review and approve the teams and not just take the numbers as they come in?

There are several scenarios that require discussion such as:

- Players missing sessions: did we see enough of that player to place?
- Scores are very, very close. Did something happen one of the days that wasn't reflective of that player's skills the other 3 days?
- Team size and level requirements from District 6, Minnesota Hockey and NPHA
- Do the scores indicate that we may need to change the level of a team?

Can't the group just override scores and "make" things say what they really want?

- No names or jersey numbers are shown until needed. The scores drive the conversation.
- System has an audit log that tracks all score changes. Shared by system admins to HDC members as a safeguard.
- HDC members with player at the level being reviewed are not in the room, not on the ice during tryouts, not in the conversation about team size, level or anything else until names are revealed and coaches need to be chosen.
- Evaluators do not see each other's scores; they also don't stick around to review the team selection process.
- There are 12 voting HDC members and many additional board members representing all levels of NPHA. Every season creates healthy discussion on this process and outcome.

What about goalies, girls and mites?

- We hire a third-party company to provide expertise and detailed feedback on goalie evaluations as well as invite an additional independent evaluator to offer yet another perspective.
- Mites and girls all can go through a placement process with scoring in Team Genius.

How does the Day 4 “Bubble” process work?

- Day 4 of the tryout process is reserved for specific identification and evaluation of players above and below the approximate team sizes. The number of players evaluated is based on the prior 3 days of average scores
- All evaluators are asked to assess: 1) Relative rank of the players being evaluated and 2) Their thoughts on level designation in the event a B1 / B2 recommendation needs to be made
- Final player determination is made prioritized by: 1) Team Genius scoring, 2) Day 4 evaluation, 3) Evaluator input about level designation, and 3) Feedback from New Prague coaching staff
- NOTE: If a Board or HDC member's player is being discussed they are asked to leave the coaches room while a determination is being made.

What about Coaches, will my kid get placed on a team based on the need for an awesome Coach like me?

- No.
- There are times when HDC or Board members will call on parents who didn't sign up to coach if there is a gap
- Coaching determination is made after player determination and based on member/parent feedback and the coach's survey.
- NOTE: If a Board or HDC member is being considered as a coach they are asked to leave the coaches room while a determination is being made

→ TRYOUTS/PLACEMENTS FOR ALL LEVELS

- Injured Players: PARENTS OF ANY PLAYER WHO WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND A TRYOUT OR PLACEMENT SESSION DUE TO ILLNESS OR INJURY MUST REPORT THE ABSENCE TO THE HDC COORDINATOR AND VICE PRESIDENT PRIOR TO THEIR CHILD'S SCHEDULED TRYOUT/PLACEMENT SESSION. The player will be given an additional opportunity to try out at the extended evaluations if needed. The player will be scored using a similar system. However, only coaches will be used to evaluate the player.
- If a player participates in tryouts while sick or injured, it will be considered their official tryout. Sick or injured players cannot use the tryout for "extra ice time." If you are on the ice during tryouts, that counts as your tryout. If a player is too sick or injured to participate, they must wait until they are cleared to participate, at which point an extended evaluation will be conducted.
- After the completion of the extended evaluation, players who were unable to compete during tryouts or unable to attend the extended evaluations due to illness or injury will be placed on the lowest level team for that age group. These players will be given an opportunity to move up to their appropriate level prior to December 31st.

Grievances

The Grievance Process is described in Section 6.H of the handbook.

Coaching Selections

Coach assignments for each team will be recommended by the HDC to the Board of Directors. Coaching recommendations will be made based on previous coaching experiences, end of the year parent and coaching surveys, as well as the applicant's team preference.

C. CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Purpose: The New Prague Hockey Association (NPHA) recognizes the value of families who maintain continuous participation in the Association. Continuous membership supports long-term player development, volunteer engagement, fundraising efforts, financial planning, and the overall sustainability of the Association.

This policy establishes eligibility for Continuous Member Registration Rates and Standard (Non Member) Registration Rates.

Continuous Member Registration

Families who maintain uninterrupted annual registration with the New Prague Hockey Association beginning with the 2026–2027 hockey season shall qualify for the published Continuous Member Registration Rate.

Continuous membership remains in effect provided the player remains continuously registered with NPHA each hockey season.

Standard (Non-Member) Registration

- The Standard (Non-Member) Registration Rate shall apply to:
 - ◆ New participants who do not qualify for an exception under this policy.
 - ◆ Returning participants whose continuous membership has lapsed.
 - ◆ Participants who do not otherwise qualify for the Continuous Member Registration Rate.

Registration Rates

- The Board of Directors shall annually establish:
 - ◆ Continuous Member Registration Rates
 - ◆ Standard (Non-Member) Registration Rates
- For the 2027–2028 hockey season, the Standard (Non-Member) Registration Rate shall include the following additional fee in addition to the annually approved registration fee:
 - ◆ Squirt: \$750 additional
 - ◆ Peewee: \$1,000 additional
 - ◆ Bantam: \$1,250 additional

The Board of Directors shall review these additional Standard (Non-Member) Registration Rates annually as part of the Association's budgeting process. The Board may increase, decrease, or eliminate these additional amounts by Board action based upon the financial needs of the Association.

Exceptions

The following participants shall remain eligible for the Continuous Member Registration Rate regardless of prior membership status:

- 1. Mite / 8U Players
 - ◆ This policy does not apply to Mite/8U participants.
- 2. New-to-Hockey Participants
 - ◆ A player participating in organized youth hockey for the first time shall qualify for the Continuous Member Registration Rate during their initial season.
- 3. Approved Residency Waivers
 - ◆ Players participating under an approved Minnesota Hockey or USA Hockey residency waiver shall qualify for the Continuous Member Registration Rate.
- 4. Extraordinary Circumstances
 - ◆ The Board of Directors may approve an exception by majority vote when extraordinary circumstances exist, including but not limited to:

- Military relocation
- Parent employment relocation
- Documented medical hardship
- Family hardship
- Other circumstances determined by the Board to be consistent with the Association's mission

Any approved exception shall be documented in the Board meeting minutes.

Transition

Registration during the 2026–2027 hockey season establishes a family's initial Continuous Membership status. Families who remain continuously registered through registration for the 2027–2028 hockey season shall qualify for the Continuous Member Registration Rate beginning with the 2027 2028 season.

Annual Review

The Board of Directors shall review this appendix annually as part of the Association's budgeting process and may revise registration schedules, surcharge amounts, or administrative procedures through Board action consistent with the Association's Bylaws and Policies.

D. LOCKER ROOM POLICY

In addition to the development of our hockey players and enjoyment of the sport of hockey, the safety and protection of our participants is central to the goals of the New Prague Area Hockey Association (NPHA). NPHA adheres to USA Hockey's SafeSport Program to help protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse, and other types of misconduct, including emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, and hazing. To help prevent abuse or misconduct from occurring in our locker rooms, NPHA has adopted the following locker room policy. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms.

It is expected that the following guidelines will be respected and implemented fully as defined below.

Locker Room Monitoring

A Locker Room Monitor must be present, **inside** the locker room, at all times when a team is using the locker room. This applies to practices as well as home and away games/scrimmages. It is the team's responsibility to supply the Locker Room Monitor for each practice or game. The Locker Room Monitor must be a member of the association that has completed the SafeSport training and has passed the required background screening.

NPHA has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (generally 20-30 minutes before practices, 45-60 minutes before games, and 30 minutes after practices and games). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. Players should not enter the locker room any earlier than these agreed upon times. A sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas shall be conducted before players arrive. No players should be in the locker rooms without adequate supervision – that is, no player should enter a locker room without a Locker Room Monitor and at least one other player present. If there is not a Locker Room Monitor present, players will need to wait in the lobby until the Locker Room Monitor has arrived.

Parents in Locker Rooms

Parents who are not serving as a coach, team manager, or Locker Room Monitor are not allowed in the locker room, except for with teams at the Mite/8U level. If an upper-level player (i.e., Squirt/10U or older) needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear due to injury or disability, then we ask that parents assist their child with these items before arriving at the arena or assist with tying skates inside the lobby.

Naturally, with our youngest age groups it is necessary for parents to assist the players getting dressed. We encourage parents to teach their players as young as possible how to get dressed in their hockey gear so that players will learn as early as possible how to get dressed independently. In circumstances where parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches are permitted to ask that the parents leave for a short time before the game and for a short time after the game so that the coaches may address the players.

Mixed Gender Teams

Some of our teams consist of both male and female players. It is important that the privacy rights of all our players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. NPHA will have the male and female players dress/undress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single locker room before the game or team meeting. Once the game or practice is finished, the players may come to one locker room for a team meeting and then the male and female players proceed to their separate locker rooms to undress and change. If separate locker rooms are not available, then the players will take turns using the locker room to change. We understand that these arrangements may require that players arrive earlier or leave later to dress, but we believe that this is the most reasonable way to accommodate and respect all our players.

Cell Phones and Other Mobile Recording Devices

Cell phones and any other mobile devices with recording capabilities (including voice recording, still cameras, and video cameras) **are not permitted to be used in the locker rooms, by anyone, under any circumstances.** Use of cell phones or other mobile devices in the locker room is a violation of the above player, parent, and coach responsibilities. Each instance is subject to disciplinary actions. Players, Parents, and Coaches responsibilities and Conduct may extend to the following social content such as cell phones, and or social media. A player, parent, or coach may be eligible for disciplinary actions based on inappropriate use, bullying, digital content sharing, and or use of social media that does not abide by the player, coach, and parent code of conduct. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken **outside** of the locker room. If a team is having repeated problems with cell phone use in locker rooms, NPHA supports Team Managers/Coaches collecting all mobile devices prior to the players entering the locker room. Devices will be returned at the conclusion of the practice or game time.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

NPHA prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey Safe Sport Handbook. Participants, employees, or volunteers in NPHA may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these locker room policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates the USA Hockey Safe Sport Policies. To report any actual or suspected violations, you may email USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or call 1-800-888-4656.

E. TRYOUT RUBRIC

Level A player at this level will be able to...	Puck Control	Passing	Shooting	Individual Offensive Tactics	Individual Defensive Tactics	Team Play	Other
Mite/6U Level 1 & 2	Stationary Stickhandle	Stationary Forehand & Backhand Pass	Forehand Wrist Shot				
	Weave with the Puck	Moving Forehand & Backhand Pass	Backhand Wrist Shot				
Mite/8U Level 3 & 4	Attack Triangle	Stationary Bankpass	Forehand Flip Shot	Body Fakes	Angling	Basic Positions	
	Open Ice Carry Fwd & Bwd	Pass & Follow	Backhand Flip Shot	Stick Fakes	Basic 1 on 1	Forecheck (Hawk, Cheetah)	
	Weave with the Puck			Net Drive	Escape "Turn Away from Pressure"	Defensive Zone (House)	
					Puck Retrieval		
Squirt/10U	Attack Triangle	Moving Fhand & Bhand Pass	Forehand Wristshot	Body Fakes	Angling	Basic Dzone	
	Side-Front-Side Stickhandling	Cross & Drop	Backhand Wristshot	Stick Fakes	Basic 1 on 1	Basic Breakouts	
	Open Ice Cary		Tips/Deflectio ns	Net Drives	Escape "Turn Away from Pressure"	Basic Entries	
					Puck Retrieval	Basic Forecheck 1-2-2 Cheetah, Hawk, Bloodhound	
					Gap Control	Basic Penalty Kill	
					Stick Pressure "Stick on Puck"		
Peewee/12U	Stick handle with eyes up	Moving Fhand & Bhand Pass	Forehand Wristshot	Angling	Angling	Execute all positions in the Dzone with and without the puck	Beginning of Strength Training

	Attack Triangle	Cross & Drop	Backhand Wristshot	Shoulder Check	Shoulder Check	Execute all positions in the Ozone with and without the puck	F.A.S.T Mentality
	Quick Hands	Indirect Board Pass	Tips/Deflections	Deception	Escape "Turn Away from Pressure"	Basic Forecheck 1-2-2 Cheetah, Hawk, Bloodhound	1% Better each day
		Pick up Bad Passing	Beginning Slapshot		Puck Retrieval	Box PK	
			Quick Release		Gap Control	Overload PP	
					Stick Pressure "Stick on Puck"	Breakout Strategy	
					Beginnings of Body Contact		
Bantam/15U	Stick handle with eyes up	Cross & Drop	Quick Release	Angling	Angling	Execute all positions in the Dzone	Importance of Strength Training
	Attack Triangle	Indirect Board Pass	Slapshot	Shoulder Check	Stick Pressure "Stick on Puck"	Execute all positions in the Ozone	Importance of Hydration
	Quick Hands	Pick up Bad Passing	1 Timer	Puck Support	Shot Blocking	1-2-2 Forecheck	Importance of Sleep
		Find Seams	Tips/ Deflections	Change Puck Angle	Box Out	Box PK	Compete, 1% better each day
		Moving Fhand & Bhand Pass	Get to the front of the net	Deception	Front	Overload & Umbrella PP	
					Shoulder Check	Breakout Strategy	
					Deception		

Level A player at this level will be able to...	Edge Control	Starting & Stopping	Forward Skating	Backward Skating	Turning & Crossovers
Mite/6U Level 1 & 2	Balance	Front V-Start	Gliding Forward	Gliding Backward	Glide Turns
		Backward C-Cut Start	C-Cuts	C-Cuts	Beginning Transitions
		Two-Foot Parallel	Forward	Backward Stride	

		Stop	Stride		
			Quick Start	Quick Start	
Mite/8U Level 3 & 4	Inside & Outside Edge Glide	Outside Leg Stop	Crossover	1 Crossover/Reach	
	Slalom	One-leg bwd stop			
	Heel to Heel	Two-leg bwd stop			
Squirt/10U	1 Leg Weaving	Outside Leg Stop	Acceleration	1 Crossover/Reach	Pivots
	Evasive Turns	One-leg bwd stop	Quick Feet	Backward Scissor Skate	Tight Turns
	Escapes	Two-leg bwd stop		Backward Striding	Crossovers Fwd & Bwd
Peewee/12U	Evasive Turns		Acceleration	Backward Skating	No strong side for cross over
	Escapes		Quick Feet	1 Crossover/Reach	Transitions both side
	Deception				
Bantam/15U	Evasive Turns		Acceleration	Backward Skating	No strong side for cross over
	Escapes		Quick Feet	1 Crossover/Reach	Transitions both side
	Deception		Evasive Skating		