



MOUND WESTONKA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

TRAVEL TRYOUT POLICY

TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUT GOVERNANCE: The ultimate governing body for the tryout process and the team selection is the Mound Westonka Hockey Association (“MWH”) Board of Directors (“Board”). The tryout process will be conducted by the MWH Hockey Operations Committee (“HOC”) under the direct supervision of the MWH Board member in charge.

TRYOUT PROCESS: The purpose of the tryout process is to ensure a fair and impartial approach to evaluate players and assign them to teams based on their determined skill level. The tryout process consists of a series of on-ice sessions. The duration, format, and number of sessions is developed by the HOC for each level being assessed, subject to MWH Board approval. The tryout sessions will be designed to evaluate hockey intelligence, skill, level of compete, work ethic, sportsmanship, team play, and other factors recommended by the HOC. Evaluators will observe sessions and assign scores that will be used to help determine team placement. Parents are not allowed to be spectators.

TRYOUT AND TEAM SELECTION: Sessions are closed to anyone not formally involved in the tryout process, unless otherwise specifically allowed by this Policy. Players are only allowed to tryout as a goalie or skater. The tryouts consist of several sessions, usually over a course of one to two weeks. MWH aims to keep teams within a range of 11 (10 skaters and 1 goalie) to 20 (18 skaters and 2 goalies).

TRYOUT SELECTION COMMITTEE: The Tryout Selection Committee will consist of the following individuals: Director of Hockey Operations, Tryout Coordinator, Goalie Coordinator, Squirt Level Coordinator, Peewee Level Coordinator, and Bantam Level Coordinator. If a vote involves a tryout selection committee member's child, then they will recuse themselves from the conversation and vote. The Vice President of the Board has a tie breaker vote. If requested by the Tryout Selection Committee, coaches may be present for team selection for the sole purpose of discussing their potential team composition. Final team determinations require MWH Board approval.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS: All players must wear standard MWH jersey and sock colors (i.e., black, white, or red). First-year Squirt level players are exempt from this rule because they have not been outfitted in a standard MWH uniform. Any helmet stickers denoting AAA teams or similar must be removed prior to tryouts (with the exception of Tier 1/2 stickers). Upon entering the arena, players will proceed to the check-in table where they will be given a numbered vest. The vest is kept for the entire tryout process and must be returned on the last day of tryouts. It is the player’s responsibility to make sure they bring the vest to each session, wear it, and return it. At the direction of the Tryout Selection Committee, players will be assigned tryout dates/times, which will be posted on the westonkahockey.org website. As players progress through the tryouts process they are placed into an A/B1, B1/B2, or B2/C assignment pools. At the direction of the Tryout Selection Committee, players originally placed in a certain pool may move into a different pool for



further evaluation or may be asked to not attend specific tryout sessions in order for evaluators to focus on specific pools of players.

TRYOUT OFFICIALS: Tryout officials will consist of outside evaluators (i.e., non-parent or no player within the travel program), members of the Tryout Selection Committee, Tryout Selection Committee invited coaches, and the Board member in charge. There will be a minimum of six evaluators scoring the tryout process. All evaluators will be recommended by the HOC and approved by the MWAH Board. The tryouts will be conducted by an on-ice moderator. The moderator will have a plan that has been formulated prior to the start of tryouts. Variance from the prescribed plan will be at the discretion of the Tryout Selection Committee. The Tryout Selection Committee will engage individuals to assist with such tasks as locker room monitoring, bench coordination, and time/clock oversight.

TEAM SELECTION: Team selection will occur at the conclusion of the tryout process. If evaluators or members of the Tryout Selection Committee have questions about a player, input may be solicited from prior year scores / rankings, previous coach feedback, and in-person evaluators. After evaluations, if there are two players in a statistical tie for a position on a team, second year players will receive preference over first year players. Medically restricted players at the time of tryouts will be considered on a one-off basis; timely written notice is required to be provided to the Tryout Coordinator. Team selection will be based on the tryout scores (except under a medical necessity) and the Tryout Selection Committee solicited input from evaluators and coaches. Players that have conflicts with tryouts, which may cause them to be absent from the scheduled tryout session, must communicate the conflict in writing to the Tryout Coordinator at least 14 days prior to the conflicted tryout session. If a conflict exists, players may miss one tryout day; the average scores from all the player's tryout days will be used for the conflicted day's score. The HOC member assigned to a given level will facilitate team selection discussions. It is the intention of the MWAH to post team selections within 7 calendar days of the last tryout session. Team selections will not be posted during the school day.

TIER 1/2 EXCEPTIONS: Players that are selected to represent MWAH in the Fall Tier 1 or Tier 2 High-Performance hockey leagues will be allowed to miss tryout days that conflict with game days. Players must attend all other days and make every effort to attend tryouts on practice days. Parents must notify the Tryout Coordinator and their Level Coordinator at least a week prior to the start of tryouts or whenever the schedule is available. Those players will be assessed by the Tryout Selection Committee which will review available scores from days they attend, past evaluations, and conversations with previous coaches.

TRYOUT PERSONNEL DETAILS: It is expected that all persons participating in an administrative capacity should arrive at the arena at least 30 minutes prior to their commitment. Evaluators and coaches should limit their attention to the players on the ice. It is recommended that they place themselves independent of other evaluators; however, some communication may be warranted and is acceptable. After each session, evaluators will convene in a debriefing session that will be facilitated by the Tryout Selection Committee.



TRYOUT STRESS: Tryouts are a stressful activity for all parties involved. As adults, please do your best to minimize additional stress during this time for our youth. It is important for parents to provide support and be enthusiastic. The best advice we can give you is to tell your child how proud you are of them, to go out and do the best they can, have fun, and whatever happens, you are proud of them. As a parent, you need to make sure that you step back and understand that the words you choose and feelings you reflect to your child will have an impact on them going forward. Positively reinforcing your child's play rather than critiquing the tryout process or criticizing other players can only assist the player's development. As we all know, once the new teams are formed and the first practices begin, the optimism of having a successful season becomes the focal point.