

MOUND WESTONKA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUT POLICY

TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUT GOVERNANCE: Tryouts are closed to parents or any other outside spectators that have players trying out at that time. The ultimate governing body for the tryout process and the teams selected is the MWHHA Board of Directors. The tryout process will be conducted by the MWHHA HOC under the direct supervision of the MWHHA Board member in charge. It is the sole purpose of this process to assign players to teams based on their overall skill level. It must be noted that the tryout process is a subjective medium that relies on the best judgment of its evaluators and coaches, whose sole objective is to place kids at a level where they will be provided the best opportunity for growth in their hockey abilities. Players are only allowed to tryout as a goalie or skater; not both.

TRYOUT PROCESS: The basic tryout process consists of a series of on-ice sessions. The duration, format, and number of sessions is developed for the level being assessed and has been approved by the MWHHA Board. These sessions have been formatted to highlight a player's individual skills, competitive instincts, team play, and knowledge of the game. Hard work and sportsmanship is always under review. A player's overall skill level will be derived from the evaluators' assessments of these attributes-

TRYOUT AND TEAM SELECTION: The MWHHA has an established process for conducting team tryouts. The objective of the tryout process is to ensure that each player is given a fair evaluation and placed at the most appropriate level for their abilities. The tryouts consist of several sessions, usually over a course of one to two weeks. When it applies, MWHHA 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, Director Player Development, Tryout Coordinator, Goalie Coordinator (Goalies only), and Travel Level Coordinators. The BOD VP has a tie breaker vote. The BOD does not have oversight into team composition, but final determinations are approved by a BOD vote. Non-Parent coaches can be present for team selection and give input but do not have a vote. If a vote involves a tryout selection committee member's child, then they will recuse themselves from the conversation and vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS: We require all players skating in the tryouts to wear standard MWHHA colors. That is a solid color jersey of white, black, or red and MWHHA socks. First year Squirt level players are exempt from this rule because they have not been outfitted in a standard MWHHA uniform. Any helmet stickers denoting AAA teams or similar must be removed prior to tryouts (with the exception of Tier 1/2 stickers). Upon entry into the arena, the players will proceed to the check-in table where they will be given a practice 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. Players will initially be assigned tryout dates/times based on their last name (alphabetically). This will be posted on the westonkahockey.org website after the closing of registration. As players move into the more scrimmage focused portion of the tryouts, they are placed into an A/B1, B1/B2, or B2/C pool. At any time and at the discretion of the evaluators, players originally placed in a

certain pool may move into a different pool for further evaluation. Please consult the website before you come to the rink to find the player's placement in the player pool.

TRYOUT OFFICIALS: Tryout officials will consist of outside evaluators (non-parent), coaches, and the Board member in charge. There will be a minimum of three evaluators (non-parent) scoring the tryout process. All evaluation staff will be recommended by the HOC and approved by the MWHHA Board. The tryouts will be conducted by an on-ice moderator. The moderator's sole responsibility is to run the on-ice operations of the tryout process. The moderator will have a script that has been formulated prior to the start of tryouts. Variance from the prescribed script will be at the sole discretion of the Board member in charge. The moderator should do his/her best to maintain a business-like but light-hearted atmosphere. During the competitive games phase of tryouts, a bench coordinator(s) may also be deployed. The bench coordinator(s) will communicate player line-ups according to a prescribed script formulated prior to the start of tryouts. Moderators and bench coordinators have no input into the evaluation process.

TEAM SELECTION: Team selection will occur at the conclusion of the tryout process. If evaluators or coaches have questions about a player's capacities (yet unanswered via tryouts), input can be solicited from team genius previous scores, Discipline problems from previous years, previous Head coach, in-person skater and goalie evaluators. The tryout Coordinator will gather this information and present it to the Selection committee. If a tryout coordinator's children are involved the director of hockey operations will take over. After evaluation, if there are two players in a virtual 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. We encourage and expect early communication regarding any medical situation that would affect a player's ability to try out. The selection of a team will be based on the tryout markings (except under a medical necessity) and input from the involved 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 at least 14 days prior to the conflicted tryout session to the Tryout Coordinator. The Tryout Coordinator will confirm receipt of the conflicted session. If a conflict exists, players may miss one tryout day and the average score from all other tryout days will be averaged and used for the conflicted day's score. The Board member assigned to a given level will facilitate team selection discussions. It is the intention of the MWHHA to post team selections within 48 hours of the last tryout session; however, the posting of team selections will not be rushed. Our goal is to have proper team selection. Team selections will not be posted during the school day.

TRYOUT PERSONNEL DETAILS: It is expected that all persons in an administrative capacity arrive at the arena at least 30 minutes prior to the first session. Off-ice 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 Board member in charge and will include coaches, evaluators, and may include the on-ice moderator.

TRYOUT STRESS: Tryouts are a stressful activity for all parties involved. As adults, please do your best to minimize additional stress during this time. 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 love 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.

TIER 1/2 EXEMPTIONS

Players that are selected to represent MWHHA in the Fall Tier 1 or Tier 2 High Performance Hockey Leagues will be allowed to miss any 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 take available scores from days they attend, past evaluations, and conversations with previous coaches.