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## TRYOUT SELECTION POLICY AND PROCESS

SYHI is dedicated to the advancement of hockey and the betterment of club members. The following guidelines have been drafted to ensure that each skater who tries out for a travel team is fairly evaluated.

The selection process is used to place skaters at the appropriate level of team (Red/A, White/B, or Blue/C) in each age group. Players are required to submit registration materials and pay applicable fees by the registration deadline. Players who fail to meet these criteria will need to petition the Board in writing to be allowed to try out. The Board's decision will be final.

**Players are encouraged, though not required, to attend all practice sessions before tryouts.**  
The tryout and selection process are designed to be consistent, predictable, fair, and objective.

When you register for tryouts, you are agreeing to all parts of our tryout policy.

Your tryout fee will only be refunded if you are not placed on an SYHI travel team.

**The following rules and procedures apply:**

### **ON-ICE**

- 2-3 coaches selected by the Coaching and Player Development Committee (CPDC) to run drills and referee scrimmage play.

### **EVALUATORS**

- Head Coach for Red/TB/A teams.
- Up to four independent, unbiased evaluators selected by the CPDC.
- A "Red/A" coach may choose up to two evaluators.
- Each session must have a minimum of five evaluators, two of whom are independent, unbiased evaluators chosen by the CPDC.

## **SELECTION TEAM**

- President
- Vice President of Hockey Operations (VPHO)
- A /Red Head Coach for A team selection only
- B/C Coaches (when possible) for B/C selection
- CDPC member(s)
- Additional SYHI board member if deemed necessary or to fill in for another member who is unable to be present.

## **COACHING SELECTION**

- The only coaches that will be named prior to tryouts will be the top team coaches at 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U.
- If the situation allows, B/C coaches may be named and participate in the selection process. Otherwise, B/C coaches will be named after teams are selected.
- See coaching selection document for more information.

## **NUMBER AND COMPOSITION OF TEAMS**

The Board of Directors in coordination with the CPDC will determine the number of teams for each age group and level, and the number of players on each team. The total number of teams per level and players for each team will fluctuate year to year depending on the following factors:

- Total amount of players: the target roster size for each team 10U and older is 15 skaters and 1-2 goalies. Final numbers for each team will be determined based on talent, coaches' feedback, and registration total for an age group. The CPDC/Executive Committee has the final say on roster size.
- Skill level of the entire group of skaters: If the number of registered players necessitates the need for four teams at an age level, the CPDC and Executive Committee will determine team levels suitable for the registrants' level of play. This will NOT be determined prior to the tryout.
- If there is a clear divide in the skill level of players on the blue team, the committee will assign players who need additional development to the rec/development team.
- The red team head coaches at 12U and older are responsible for determining if their teams will be Tournament Bound teams. This decision will be made each year based on the team's talent.

**If a decision is down to 2 players and the team size will only accept 1 skater, preference will be given to:**

- A SYHI skater over the non-SYHI skater (as registered during the prior season).
- A second-year skater over a first year skater.

**If the selection team cannot come to a consensus involving more than two players, the final selection will be based on the rankings of players from the pool of independent evaluators.**

## **TRYOUTS AND TEAM PLACEMENT**

**At the Squirt level (10U), players may NOT try out for specific positions (other than goalie positions).**

All drills will be communicated to skaters prior to the tryout session, either during practice sessions or verbally/online before tryouts.

**Players will be evaluated using A/B/C scoring.** Each letter corresponds with a score and will be tallied prior to selection, giving each player a number score. The scores will be arranged highest to lowest. These rankings are one component that will be used during selection.

**Other details that may be used during the selection process include** the previous year's coach's evaluations and observations made during the practices/games preceding tryouts.

**Players who do not participate in tryouts** (without a board-approved reason for missing) will be placed at the lowest level team in that given age group. If the lowest level team has been assigned the maximum number of skaters & goalies, said player will be assigned to our development team.

**If a player will be absent** from any tryout dates and wishes to be considered for all levels of teams, the parent/guardian MUST notify the VPHO. The player may be granted the opportunity to be placed based on the sessions he/she is able to attend.

**If a player must miss tryouts due to extenuating circumstances**, the player will be initially placed at the lowest level team within that age group. The player will be evaluated in a minimum of 2 practices by on-ice coaches including but not limited to the current placement coach and the potential higher team coach. With sufficient notification, this evaluation can occur prior to tryouts. Any unapproved absence will be placed at the lowest level team within that age level.

**A player at 12U or older with extenuating circumstances and who has been in SYHI for 2 or more seasons** may be given consideration for placement at an appropriate level above the lowest team without an evaluation.

**If a player is injured during tryouts** the VPHO will discuss the player's ability to return to the tryout for that day or any succeeding day(s). If the player cannot return to the tryout, they will follow the process identified above.

**All players who wish to tryout shall wear all equipment required by USA Hockey rules.** No skater will be allowed to try out without the proper equipment in place. If during the tryout process the on-ice coach sees that equipment has been removed or not properly worn the skater will be excused to replace this one time only. If the same player is seen again without this equipment, they will be excused from the tryout process and placed on the lowest level team in that given age group.

**Players may NOT try out for a specific team.** The tryout process is set up to place the players at the appropriate level based on the skill of the player. A skater who wishes to decline placement on a team can petition to be placed on the team directly below. See “Special Circumstances” below.

**The length of tryouts varies depending on group size and will be determined by the CPDC on an annual basis.**

### **IN-HOUSE TRYOUT SCRIMMAGES**

Each age group will be divided into equal ability teams. Scrimmages may be full-ice, half-ice, or cross-ice evaluation sessions.

At levels where checking is allowed by NYSAHA/USA Hockey rules, players who abuse checking or check illegally will be warned. If the physicality is determined by on-ice coaches to be egregious, the player will be excused from the tryout process by the on-ice coaches or the VPHO.

### **GOALIE TRYOUT AND PLACEMENT**

1. Goalies will participate in the normal tryout sessions for their age group.
  - Depending on the number of goalies, the VPHO and CPDC may choose to hold a special goalkeeper tryout session.
2. Team selections for goalies are determined by both the normal tryout sessions and the goalkeeper tryout session (if one is held). Goalie placement depends on the following factors:
  - Skill level of each goalie
  - Total number of goalies available
  - Previous year coaching evaluation
3. If possible, two goalies will be rostered on each team.
  - If the number of goalies available is not even, goalies are placed by skill level.
  - One or more teams may have two goalies and one or more teams may have one goalie.
  - At no time will a team be permitted to have more than two goalies if one team has only one goalie.
4. Goalies may also request to be evaluated as skaters. These requests are due to the CPDC and VPHO in writing (email) by March 1st.
  - Players rostered as a goalie for the top-level teams (“Red/TB”) are not allowed to skate out in games without prior approval from the head coach, CPDC and VPHO (all Goalies at the white level and below only require head coach approval).
  - Based on the number of teams at an age level and the number of goalies available to support those teams, the Coaching Committee may not allow players to be evaluated for both (goalie and skater) positions for that season. This would be communicated to all potential goalies a minimum of two weeks prior to the start of tryouts in any given year.
5. USA Hockey does not encourage the specialization of Goalies at the 10U. All players will try out and be evaluated as both a skater and goalie. **In the event a player would like to specialize in the position at 10U, the parent or guardian of said player may petition the board for exemption.** Any exemption to the specialization rule will be made on a case-by-case basis. Parents should contact the VPHO to begin this process.

## **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

- To ensure coaching staff is available at each level, coaches with multiple children in the same age group who are selected for different teams may request that their players be placed together on the lowest level team of the players selected. This is a special circumstance to be determined by the CPDC.
- Families with multiple children in the same age group who are selected for different teams may request that their players be placed together on the lowest level team of the players selected.

## **SKATE-UP POLICY**

As a general rule, SYHI discourages skaters from trying out and skating up with a higher level. In most cases, the Association believes skaters are better served skating at their age-appropriate levels. In rare instances, it is recognized that a skater may possess such advanced skills that skating up a level is warranted. The organization is aligned with USA Hockey Guidelines for skaters (not including goalies) petitioning to skate up a level which includes:

- The player must request permission to try out from the SYHI BOD.
- If approved, the player must register for and attend the tryouts at the expected age level and the “skate up” level.
- The player must rank in the top five of all players evaluated at the older level in order to be placed on a team at that age level.

Any player who is listed as ineligible by NYSAHA will not be permitted to try out.

## **ADDRESSING ISSUES AND INTERPRETATION OF THIS POLICY**

- Disagreements or issues regarding this policy should be brought to the attention of the CPDC and VPHO for resolution.
- The SYHI Board of Directors reserves the right to interpret or modify this policy based on a majority vote of the board.
- Evaluators and coaches are carefully selected and should be trusted to exhibit integrity throughout the process. Their job is to provide fair evaluations and rank players. This does not leave time to provide individual constructive feedback. Your child's regular season coach is the best source for feedback about your child's development.

## **TRYOUT SUMMARY**

1. Players must provide a valid USA Hockey registration.
2. No players will be permitted to tryout unless all financial obligations to SYHI and/or their previous organization have been satisfied.
3. Players must check in before each tryout session and be at the rink at least 45 minutes prior to the start of tryouts.
4. Tryouts will consist of multiple sessions of ice drills and/or scrimmages. These 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 of evaluation, a player may be released from further tryout. Notifications will be made by the VPHO.
5. 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 pinny with a

number. The jersey or pinny 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.

6. Players unable to tryout must notify the VPHO in writing prior to the beginning of tryouts. The CPDC will review policy and determine the proper path for that player.