



# 2025-26 BANTAM AA & PEEWEE AA TRYOUT GUIDE

STMA will offer optional tryouts for the Bantam AA and Peewee AA youth travel teams for the upcoming season. If you are considering having your player participate in AA tryouts, please read this document in its entirety to ensure you fully understand all related details and expectations.

Note: Throughout this document, "Standard Tryout" refers specifically to the A/B1/B2/C evaluation process

## SUMMARY

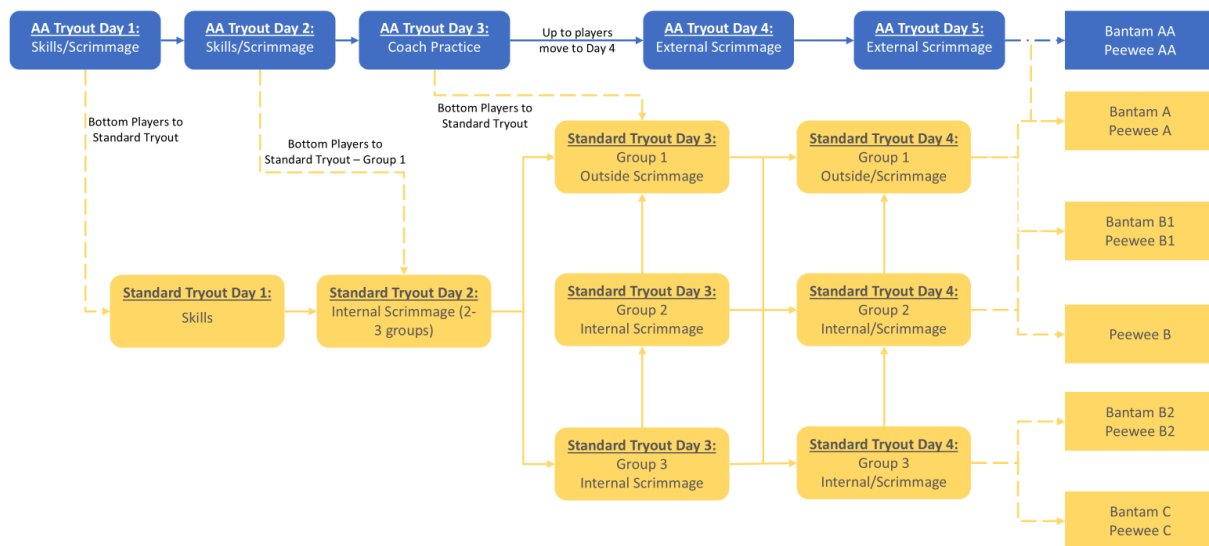
- To be considered for placement on an STMA Bantam AA or Peewee AA team, players must participate in the AA Tryout process.
- The AA Tryout will begin before the Standard Tryouts begins and comes with a \$100 fee (non-refundable) to cover the additional ice and administrative costs.
- Each participant is guaranteed one initial AA tryout session. Advancement to subsequent AA sessions is based on player evaluation.
- Participation in AA Tryouts does not guarantee placement on a higher-level team. The AA tryout process is entirely optional and open to all players, regardless of prior qualifications.
- Players who begin in the AA Tryout process may ultimately be placed on any team level (AA through C).
  - Likewise, opting not to participate in the AA tryout will not affect your ability to make an A through C team.
- If a player is not selected to continue with the AA group, they will transition to the Standard Tryout path and remain eligible for those teams (A through C team).
- It is your responsibility to review daily tryout postings and attend all assigned sessions, whether in the AA Extended Tryout or the Standard Tryout process.



## AA TRYOUT FLOWCHART

Reference to the number of players advancing from one round to the next in the examples below are for illustrative purposes. The number of players advancing to each round may differ (up or down) from what is shown below, at the discretion of the evaluators.

### STMA AA and Standard Tryout



## EXTENDED AA TRYOUT DETAILS

The on-ice tryout format for all the AA Tryout sessions will be a mix of drills, small area games, and scrimmages. Tryout plans will be created by the AA coaching staff and/or the STMA Director of Hockey Operations.

### SESSION 1 – Skills/Scrimmage

In session 1 of the AA Tryout, all opt-in players will be randomized into 2 groups, depending on the total number of registered players. After Day 1, evaluators and AA coaches will select the remaining skaters to continue into Day 2. All other skaters who didn't get selected will be moved to the Standard Tryout.

### SESSION 2 - Skills/Scrimmage

After Session 2 the remaining players selected by the evaluators will continue to Day 3 of the AA Tryout. The players not selected will be moved to Day 2: Standard Tryout - Group 1.



### **SESSION 3 Practice Led by AA Coaching Staff**

Session 3 will be a practice led by the AA coaching staff. The practice plan will be developed by the AA coaches and approved by the Director of Hockey Operations. After Day 3, up to 20 players will be selected to move on to the Day 4 & Day 5 outside scrimmages. The players not selected will be moved in the Day 3: Standard Tryout - Group 1.

### **SESSIONS 4 & 5**

The final two sessions of the AA Tryout process will be scrimmages against external opponents with referees. After the final scrimmage, the players will be selected for the AA team and the bottom players will be placed on the next highest level team.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### *What is the rationale behind the AA Tryout process?*

With a hockey association the size of STMA, the sheer number of players can make it difficult to appropriately evaluate every player's skill level. It can be particularly difficult to evaluate the large group of players that tend to gravitate towards the middle of the skill curve, and to effectively differentiate between players on the edges of the A-B1 split and B1- B2 split. By separating the top-end players from the Standard A-C Tryout process, it allows Standard A-C Tryout evaluators more opportunities to evaluate the A, B1, B2, and C players while competing with and against players of their own skill level. Similarly, grouping the AA level players together early in the process allows for evaluation of those players against similarly skilled players throughout the duration of their tryout.

#### *How do I know if my player has a chance to make the AA team?*

There is no set rule and all players who opt-in to the AA Tryout will be evaluated based on their play during the tryout process. We do offer some guidelines if you aren't certain whether to register your player for the AA Tryout. Historically, the top AA travel teams tend to consist of players who played on the top teams as their level from the previous season. For example, the players that make up the Peewee AA team tend to come from last year's Peewee AA, Peewee A and/or top Peewee B1 players and/or from last year's Squirt A team.



*What is the maximum number of tryout sessions my player could be asked to participate in?*

Players who stay in the AA Tryout pool the entire time will have five tryout sessions. Players who choose not to participate in the AA Tryout will have four tryout sessions in the Standard Tryout process.

*What happens if my player starts in the AA tryout and gets moved down after Day 1?*

In this scenario, the player will be placed randomly into one of the skills sessions on the first day of the Standard Tryout.

*What if my player makes it to Day 2 or Day 3 of the AA Tryout and then gets moved down to the Standard Tryout?*

In this case, after the day when the player is eliminated from the AA Tryout they will be placed in the top group of the next day's Standard Tryout. From then forward they will be evaluated just like all the other players in the Standard Tryout. Importantly, making it to Day 2 or 3 of the AA tryout is not a guarantee of making the AA team.

*If my player drops from the AA Tryout after Day 3, are they guaranteed to make the Bantam A or Pee wee A team?*

No. In this scenario, the player would be automatically sent to the Group 1 scrimmage of the Standard Tryout. There is no guarantee that the player would be considered a locked player for selection on the Bantam A or Pee wee A team.

*Can a player be moved up from the Standard Tryout into the AA Tryout?*

No. Players who do not participate in the AA Tryout from the beginning of the process will not be considered for the AA team. Once a player transitions from the AA Tryout into the Standard Tryout (A/B1/B2/C), they cannot return to the AA Tryout path.