

PEEWEE AA & BANTAM AA TRYOUT GUIDE

UPDATED 7-28-2025

For the 2025-26 season, WYHA will have an optional tryout for the Bantam AA and PeeWee AA youth travel teams. If you are considering trying out for a AA-level team, please read and understand this entire document.

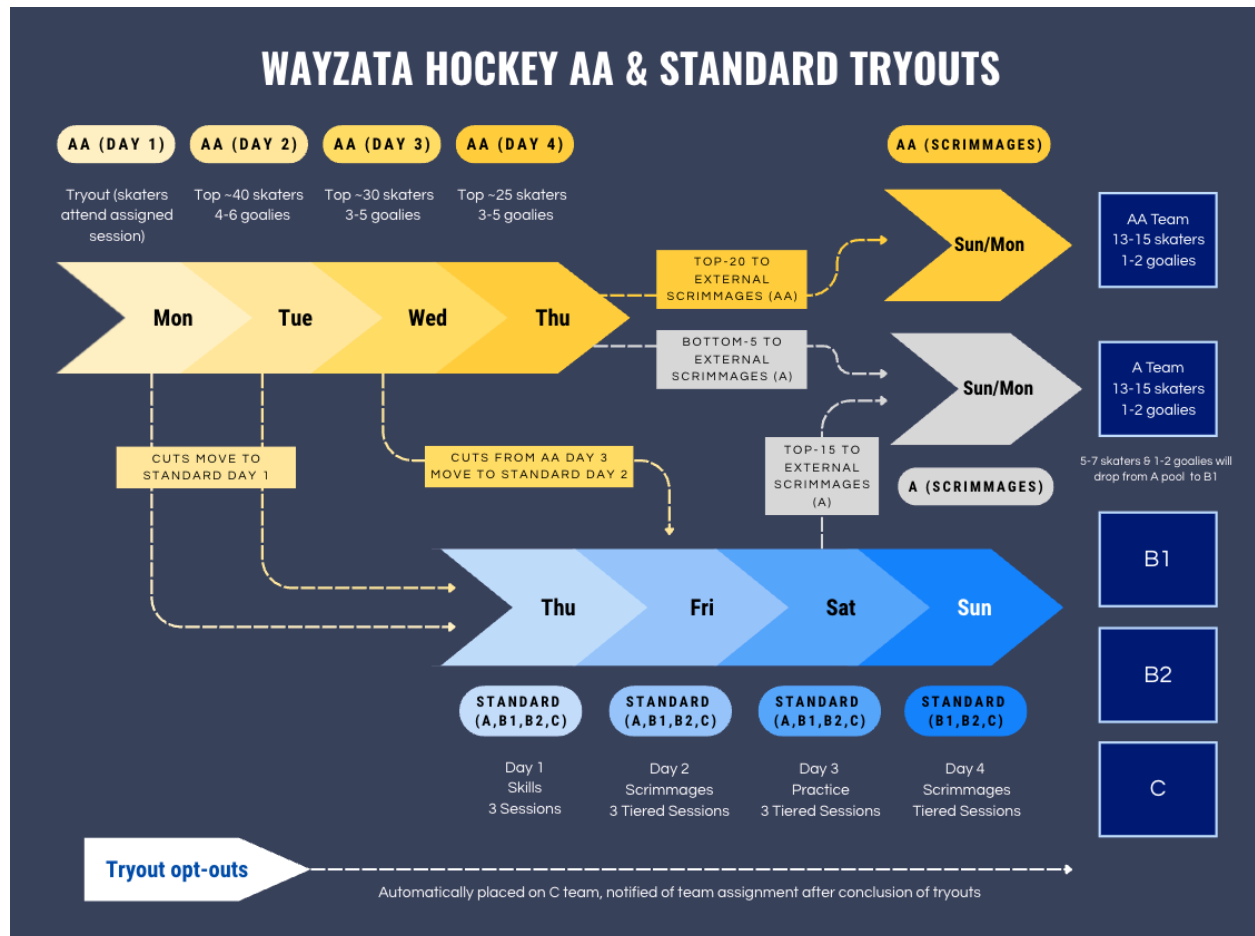
SUMMARY

- To be considered for a WYHA PeeWee AA or Bantam AA team, you must participate in the AA Tryout process.
- The AA Tryout will begin several days before the Standard Tryouts begin, and comes with a \$50 fee to cover the additional ice time and administrative costs.
- **Important:** The goalie skills evaluation tryout will occur before the AA Tryout begins. A detailed tryout schedule for each level will be posted on the WYHA website, please note the date and time of the goalie tryout for your level.
- You are guaranteed only one tryout session within the framework of the AA Tryout process; advancing to further sessions within the AA Tryout path depends on the evaluation of your play.
- Participating in the AA Tryout is not a guarantee of any kind that you will be placed on a higher-level team. Participation in the AA Tryout is completely voluntary and there are no qualifying conditions for doing so. In past years, players who have started in the AA tryout have ended up on teams at the B2 and C levels.
- Likewise, opting not to participate in the AA Tryout will not affect your ability to make an A-C team.
- Please see the **AA Tryout Flowchart** below for a visual representation of how the AA Tryout process works.
- If you begin in the AA Tryout process and are not selected to stay in the AA group after a AA Tryout session, you will drop down into the Standard Tryout (A/B1/B2/C) group and continue your tryout for one of the A/B1/B2/C teams.
 - **Note:** A small group of players who are moved down from the AA tryout after Day 3 of the extended tryout will not have to attend the Thursday night skills tryout. This means they will be placed in the highest tiered group for Friday night's internal scrimmages in the standard tryout.
- All references to the Standard Tryout throughout this document refer to the A/B1/B2/C tryout process.

- It is all players responsibility to check the daily tryout session posts and attend the tryout session they have been assigned to, whether in the AA Extended tryout or in the Standard tryout.

AA TRYOUT FLOWCHART

References 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. For example, after Day 1 of the AA Tryout if the evaluators determine that they want to see an additional 2-3 players they may opt to bring 43 players to Day 2 rather than 40. Or, on Day 2 the evaluators may decide that there are only 28 players deserving of continuing on to Day 3 instead of 30.



EXTENDED AA TRYOUT DETAILS

The on-ice tryout format for all AA Tryout sessions will be a mix of drills, small area games, and scrimmages and will be determined by the AA coaching staff and/or the WYHA Director of Hockey Operations, with approval by the WYHA Executive Committee.

SESSION 1 - Scrimmage

In Session 1 of the AA Tryout, all opt-in players will be grouped into one or two randomized sessions, depending on the total number of registered participants. After Day 1, evaluators and AA coaches will select the 40 highest-rated skaters to continue into Day 2. All other skaters who didn't rank in the top 40 will be moved to the Standard Tryout.

SESSION 2 - Scrimmage

After Session 2, the top 30 players as determined by the evaluators will continue to Day 3 of the AA Tryout. The bottom 10 players will be moved to the Standard Tryout.

NOTE: Sessions 1, 2, and 3 of the AA Tryout will be conducted prior to the Standard Tryout. Evaluation scores from those three days will NOT be considered as part of the Standard Tryout for players that are moved down from the AA Tryout on Session 1 or Session 2. Players that are moved down to the standard tryout after Session 3 will not attend the Standard Tryout Skills Session and be placed into the highest tier of internal scrimmages in the Standard Tryout.

SESSION 3 - Scrimmage

After Session 3, the top 20-25 players as determined by the evaluators will continue to Session 4 of the AA Tryout. The bottom 5 players will be moved to the Standard Tryout.

SESSION 4 - Practice Led by AA Coaching Staff

Session 4 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 and the WYHA Executive Committee.

SESSIONS 5 & 6

The final two sessions of the AA Tryout process will be scrimmages against external opponents with referees. After the final scrimmage, the top 13-15 players will be selected for the AA team and the bottom 5 players will be placed on the A team.

EXTENDED A TRYOUT DETAILS

The top 13-15 ranked players after the third day of the Standard Tryout will advance to the



Extended A Team Tryout, which will consist of two scrimmages against external opponents with referees. The final composition of the A team will be determined by taking the 5 players who did not make the AA team from the final AA Tryout session, plus the top 8-10 players from the Extended A Team Tryout.

ALL OTHER TEAMS

The remaining B1, B2, and C teams will be determined based on the results of the Standard Tryout. The bottom 5 players from the Extended A Team Tryout will be placed on a B1 team.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the rationale behind the AA Tryout process?

With a hockey association the size of WYHA, 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 the 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 general 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 participated on the top teams at 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, 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 top AA pool the entire time will have six tryout sessions. Players who choose not to participate in the extended AA Tryout will have four or five tryout sessions in the Standard Tryout process.

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



Day 2?

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 3 of the AA Tryout and then gets moved down to the Standard Tryout?

This scenario will happen to at least 5-10 players. In this case, players will skip the skills session of the Standard Tryout and be placed in the highest tier of internal scrimmages on night 2 of the Standard Tryout. Importantly, making it to Day 3 of the AA tryout is not a guarantee of making the 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.