

# TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUT GUIDE 2025-2026

UPDATED 7-28-2025

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The Wayzata Youth Hockey Association (WYHA) welcomes you to travel hockey! Please refer to this guide for all of the pertinent information to this year's tryout process. We are aware that this time of year can be a stressful time for both players and their families - our aim is to be transparent about our process and to provide all the information you might need about the process.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Please ensure you are aware of when your tryouts will take place. Below are the important dates for each playing level.

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### **BANTAMS**

- Pre-tryout Warm-ups (optional)
    - Saturday, 9/20 & Tuesday, 9/23
  - AA Team tryout (opt-in for players who want to try out for the AA team)
    - \$50 additional fee applies
    - Starts Monday, 9/22
    - See the [2025-2026 AA Tryout Guide](#) for more details.
  - Standard tryout (all players, all levels)
    - Thursday, 9/25 - Sunday, 9/28
    - Outside scrimmages for AA and A team pools
      - TBD, AA and A pool will each play a total of two scrimmages on either Sunday/Monday/Tuesday 9/28 - 9/30.
  - **Attention Goalies!** Your tryout begins on Sunday, 9/21. This year's goalie skills evaluation dates are shown below:
    - Bantams: Sunday, 9/21/2025, 6:00-7:30pm
    - Note: goalies in the Extended AA tryout will attend the first AA session on Monday, 9/22. Goalies not in the Extended AA tryout will skip the skater skills session on 9/25 and rejoin the Standard Tryout sessions starting Thursday, 9/26.
  - LINK: [Full Bantam tryout schedule with dates & times](#)
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### **GIRLS 15U**

- Pre-tryout Warm-ups (optional)
    - Saturday, 11/1 & Sunday, 11/2
  - Tryouts (mandatory)
    - Tuesday, 11/4 - Friday, 11/7
      - **Important note regarding timing of 15U tryouts:** NEW this year. 15U Tryouts will begin after the completion of Wayzata Girls HS Tryouts. For more information on this new process, please click the link found here: [15U Registration Option for High School Tryouts](#)
    - Outside scrimmages for A pool(s)
      - TBD
  - **Attention Goalies!** Your tryout begins on Tuesday, 11/4. This year's goalie skills evaluation dates are shown below:
    - 15U: Tuesday, 11/4/2025 - 5:00-6:00pm
    - Note: you should attend this goalie skills session and then rejoin the tryouts on Wednesday, 11/5 - skipping the skater skills session on 11/4.
  - LINK: [Full 15U tryout schedule with dates & times](#)
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### **PEEWEEES**

- Pre-tryout Warm-ups (optional)
  - Saturday, 9/27 & Tuesday, 9/30
- AA Team tryout (opt-in for players who want to try out for the AA team)
  - \$50 additional fee applies
  - Starts Monday, 9/29
  - See the [2025-2026 AA Tryout Guide](#) for more details.
- Standard tryout (all players, all levels)
  - Thursday, 10/2 - Sunday, 10/5
  - Outside scrimmages for AA and A team pools
    - TBD, tentatively Sunday, 10/5 and/or Monday, 10/6
- **Attention Goalies!** Your tryout begins on Sunday, 9/28. This year's goalie skills evaluation dates are shown below:
  - PeeWees/12U: Sunday, 9/28/2025, 5:15-6:45pm
  - Note: goalies in the Extended AA tryout will attend the first AA session on Monday, 9/29. Goalies not in the Extended AA tryout will skip the skater skills session on 10/2 and rejoin the Standard Tryout sessions starting Friday, 10/3.

- LINK: [Full PeeWee tryout schedule with dates & times](#)
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### **GIRLS 12U**

- Pre-tryout Warm-ups (optional)
    - Saturday, 9/27 & Monday, 9/29
  - Tryouts (mandatory)
    - Wednesday, 10/1 - Saturday, 10/4
    - Outside scrimmage for A pool
      - TBD
  - **Attention Goalies!** Your tryout begins on Sunday, 9/28. This year's goalie skills evaluation dates are shown below.
    - PeeWees/12U: Sunday, 9/28/2024, 5:15-6:45pm
    - Note: you should attend this goalie skills session and then rejoin the tryouts on Thursday, 10/2 - skipping the skater skills session on 10/1.
  - LINK: [Full 12U tryout schedule with dates & times](#)
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### **SQUIRTS**

- Pre-tryout Warm-ups (optional)
    - Saturday, 10/4, Sunday, 10/5, and either Monday 10/6 or Tuesday 10/7
  - Tryouts (mandatory)
    - Thursday, 10/9 - Sunday, 10/12
    - Outside scrimmage for A pool
      - TBD, tentatively Monday, 10/13
    - **Attention Goalies!** Goalie tryouts begin on Wednesday, 10/8/2025, with the Squirt/10U goalie-specific skills tryout at 7:45-9:00pm. Goalies will next participate in their assigned tryout session on Friday, 10/10.
  - LINK: [Full Squirt tryout schedule with dates & times](#)
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### **GIRLS 10U**

- Pre-tryout Warm-ups (optional)
  - Saturday, 10/4 - Tuesday, 10/7, and Wednesday 10/8
- Tryouts (mandatory)
  - Thursday, 10/9 - Sunday, 10/12
  - Outside scrimmage for A pool
    - TBD, tentatively Monday, 10/13
  - **Attention Goalies!** Goalie tryouts begin on Wednesday, 10/8/2025, with the

Squirt/10U goalie-specific skills tryout at 7:45-9:00pm. Goalies will next participate in their assigned tryout session on Friday, 10/10.

- LINK: [Full 10U tryout schedule with dates & times](#)
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## **PRE-TRYOUT WARMUP SESSIONS**

### ***SKATERS & GOALIES***

These are optional, free, and open hockey sessions for all skaters and goalies to prepare for tryouts. Drills similar to those during tryouts will be reviewed and practiced during these sessions, but it will not be an exact replica of tryouts. We recommend that players attend at least one of these sessions so they are prepared for tryouts, however participation is not considered within the tryout evaluations in any way.

Your player **MUST** be registered with WYHA and USA Hockey to participate.

### ***GOALIE-ONLY WARM UPS***

To help prepare for skills evaluation, goaltenders are strongly encouraged to participate in all warm up sessions. There will also be a goalie-only warm up session which will focus on goalie skills drills.

The full pre-tryout warm-up schedule will be posted on the [WYHA Tryout page](#). It's very important to follow the assigned sessions to avoid overcrowding.

## **IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRYOUT DAY 1**

To avoid the possibility of a player's equipment or jerseys/socks drawing added attention from evaluators, **all players MUST wear:**

- WHITE jersey with solid WHITE sleeves (There can be a logo on the chest and numbers on the back, but the sleeves/shoulders shouldn't have stripes or solid colors. The typical white Wayzata practice jerseys are perfect for this).
- Wayzata game socks provided during tryout check-in
- Assigned pinny color provided during tryout check-in
- Full set of hockey equipment, including mouthguard and protective neck guard.

Players are recommended to wear:

- Navy blue colored helmet
- Navy blue colored breezers



- Wayzata color scheme (navy/gold or navy/white) hockey gloves

NOTE: The Wayzata socks received during initial tryout check-in will become your travel team socks. DO NOT lose or turn in these socks after tryouts.

Pullovers with tryout numbers will be provided during initial tryout check-in and MUST be returned at the end of tryouts. If bringing a water bottle, bring filled and clearly labeled with skater or goaltender name. Sharing water bottles is not permitted.

Skaters and goaltenders MUST be fully dressed and ready to play at the scheduled start time of their tryout.

## TRYOUT FORMAT

### *DAY 1 - Skills*

All players start with a skills-based session on Day 1 of tryouts. This session will consist of 3-5 drills designed to grade a player's skating and puck skills.

- Player pool assignments are **not** tiered and must be followed.
- If trying out as a goaltender only, you will be assigned to the goaltenders skills session.
- If trying out as a goaltender/skater, you will be assigned to a skater skill session. It is recommended to also attend the goaltenders skills session if possible. The remainder of the tryout will be as a skater. Goaltender/skater registrations will be placed on a team based on skating first, goaltending second.
  - Every effort will be made to place a goaltender/skater on a team at their level with less than two full-time goaltenders. If placed on a team with two full-time goaltenders, goalie playing time may be limited.

### *DAYS 2 & 4 - Internal Scrimmage*

Based on the results of the Day 1 skills session, skaters and goalies will be placed into tiered tryout sessions. Days 2 and 4 will focus on game situations in organized scrimmages. As a general guideline, the later the tryout session is scheduled the higher the tier group.

- Bantams/15U - players participate at their preferred position - defense or forward. Defensive pairings and line assignments are random, however volunteers will be on hand to ensure all players get equal playing time and to set lines based on predetermined, randomized line combinations.

- PeeWees/12U/Squirts/10U - players participate at all positions. Volunteers will be on hand to ensure all players get equal playing time and to set lines based on predetermined, randomized line combinations.

### ***DAY 3 - Practice***

All skaters will skate with their assigned tier, determined by their cumulative tryout rankings, on Day 3 (practice) and Day 4 (controlled scrimmage).

- Practice plans will include a set of drills to focus on specific skills and isolate players in game situations. Competition drills and small area games will be areas of focus.

### ***External Scrimmages***

The AA and A pools will have scrimmages against other Associations after Day 4.

## **HOW ARE TEAMS SELECTED?**

### ***AA and A Teams***

After evaluators' scores have been finalized, the final AA and A team selections will be made by the team coaching staff with evaluator discussion and feedback.

### ***B and C Team(s)***

After evaluators' scores have been finalized, skaters and goaltenders will be ranked according to their final tryout score. Wayzata fields balanced teams at all B and C playing levels. To determine teams, round robin drafts are held for each level, with B1 team(s) going first, followed by B2 and then C teams, as applicable. Prior to the player/team draft, head coaches are identified for each team. Head coaches are allowed to bring one assistant into the draft room to assist with player selection.

Team selections will be made in accordance with the [2025-26 WYHA tryout policy](#) and are final once published to the WYHA website.

## **HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT TEAM I'M ON?**

After team selections are complete, you will be able to check the WYHA tryout page to find your team assignment for the season. Team assignments are generally posted within 24-48 hours from the completion of tryouts.

You will also be contacted by coaches providing information regarding team assignment and time and date of your first practice.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**



### ***What does it mean to opt out of tryouts?***

To be considered for a spot on a travel team at the AA-B2 levels, you must participate in tryouts. If you do not want to participate in tryouts you may opt out of the process. In this scenario, you will be placed on a team at the lowest playing level.

### ***What if I can't participate in tryouts?***

You must make every effort to attend all tryout sessions. No exceptions will be made for vacations or similar conflicts. Only illness, injury, religious conflicts, or specific approval from the Travel Tryout Committee will be considered excused absences. If you miss tryouts due to an unexcused absence, please contact the Travel Tryout Committee immediately and be aware that such an absence may affect your final team placement.

### ***What happens if I get sick or injured, or if I have a religious conflict?***

If injured, ill, or aware of a religious conflict BEFORE TRYOUTS BEGIN, it's critical to notify the Travel Tryout Committee (email: [tryouts@wayzatahockey.org](mailto:tryouts@wayzatahockey.org)) as soon as possible in advance.

If a skater or goaltender is unable to participate in tryouts due to an injury or illness DURING TRYOUTS, parents are responsible for contacting the Travel Tryout Committee immediately. If the illness or injury continues, each day parents must update the Travel Tryout Committee on the status of their player.

### ***How is my evaluation affected by an excused absence?***

In the event of an excused absence, the Travel Tryout Committee will consult with evaluators and, if necessary, prior coaches to determine the appropriate tryout tier assignments for subsequent tryout sessions. If a player gets sick or injured and cannot participate in the remainder of tryouts, multiple coaches familiar with the player will be consulted to determine final team placement.

### ***What is the process for players moving up or down in the tryout tiers?***

Players are evaluated individually during each tryout session. From time to time, a player's evaluation scores may indicate that they should move up or down into a different tryout tier. This is a natural part of the evaluation process and such moves are discussed in detail by the DHO, evaluators, and Tryout Committee. There is never a mandated number of "move-ups" or "move-downs" between tiers, instead such player movement may occur naturally because evaluators determine a player is in the wrong tier based on their on-ice performance or due to evaluator scores in some cases. At times, it may seem like there is little or no movement from one tier to another, or that there is only downward movement

of players. This may be because the top player pool is being narrowed down towards the final player pool for that level. For example, if there are 25 players in the A pool headed into the final day of tryouts and the final player pool is only 20 players, then a net total of five players must move down to the next tier below. This may mean two players move up and seven move down, or no players move up and five move down, etc.

***What if I have questions about tryouts?***

Questions/concerns about the tryout process must go through a member of the Travel Tryout Committee. Do not bring those questions directly to travel coaches or evaluators. Email your questions to [tryouts@wayzatahockey.org](mailto:tryouts@wayzatahockey.org).

***What if I believe a mistake took place?***

Administrative errors not related to team placement will be resolved as quickly as possible.

We understand that the outcome of tryouts might not always be what you had hoped for. However, team selections are final. WYHA strives for the best situation possible for all players, and there will be a spot for every player that will allow them a chance to develop and enjoy playing this great sport.

If you would like to share your concerns and get a better understanding of the tryout results, email your Level Coordinator.

Grievances will not be discussed on the phone. All contact regarding grievances will not be accepted until one week (7 days) after the completion of your level's final tryout session. Every player/parent who wishes to have a meeting to communicate concerns will be given that opportunity as we value feedback from all of our members.