

Northern Tier Stars Hockey



2024/25 Season

**Tryout Policy, Procedures &
Team Selection Process**

WELCOME

Welcome to the Northern Tier Stars 2024/25 tryouts. This guide is intended to summarize the procedures used to determine what level each skater will play at this season.

This process is designed to place each skater at the level of play that will best promote the development of their hockey skills. Please read all this information carefully and review it with your child so they know what to expect when they arrive at the rink.

Tryouts are a stressful time for the kids, parents and the volunteers who coordinate it. To make the process as efficient as possible, there are a few things that parents and skaters can do to ensure tryouts run smoothly.

Players and families will need to follow the Isanti Ice Arena policies and procedures.

Make sure you know what time to be at the rink. It is very important that the kids are at the rink, dressed, and ready to skate 20 minutes prior to their scheduled ice time.

This will allow us time to make any necessary last-minute changes. If the session before yours ends early, we may have the opportunity to begin the next session early. Parents, this is your responsibility.

Problems will arise. Some you will see coming, some you won't, and it is very important everyone cooperate with the tryout staff and be patient throughout the entire process.

Below are rules for both parents and skaters:

- All players must wear a black or white Northern Tier Stars practice jersey from last year. Players may not wear any Elite, AAA, or any other jerseys, socks or helmets not approved by the Northern Tier Stars Co-Op Committee. If a player does not have a practice jersey from last year one will be provided at check in.
- Any name plates/stickers on jerseys or helmets must be removed or taped over before going on the ice.
- Please wear Northern Edge, Northern Tier Stars, Cambridge/Isanti, St. Francis or North Branch socks only.
- This rule will be enforced for each skater, at each session, at all levels.

SKATERS:

BE ON TIME – Dressed and ready to go 20 minutes prior to your session. You will not be able to enter the building until 45 min prior to your scheduled ice time.

- Show up for tryouts in shape. Do not let the pre-skate be the first time you have skated this season. There are many area rinks that have open hockey as well as open skating.
- Inspect your hockey equipment and repair anything that needs to be in game condition.
- All USA Hockey equipment i.e mouthguards, helmets, neck guards, are required for tryouts, as of 08/01/2024 neck guards required for all USA Hockey sanctioned events.
- Give 100% each time you skate a drill or skate in a scrimmage; try not to be nervous, relax, remain calm and focus on what you are doing.

- Pay close attention and follow directions.
- BELIEVE IN YOURSELF!

PARENTS/SPECTATORS:

Parents/Spectators will not be allowed inside the arena during tryouts. One parent will be allowed inside to help tie skates before their child's tryout begins. Parents are expected leave immediately after tying skates.

- Be realistic of your child's ability. Do not put any extra pressure on your child. They know why they are at tryouts and what is at stake.
- Relax, stay calm, and enjoy the tryouts. If you are calm and having fun, then chances are good that your child will too.
- Any issues or concerns you may have should be discussed in an adult and orderly fashion with a Northern Tier Stars Co-Op Committee member or a member of any association Board.
- Your help is essential to the success of tryouts. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Any person(s) disrupting the tryout process will be asked to leave the rink and not be allowed to return until the tryouts are complete. This includes all Coaches and Board Members at tryouts as well.

GOALTENDER TRYOUT PROCESS

Goaltenders at all levels will participate in a skill session with MEGA Goaltending evaluators at their specific age & location. Goaltenders will also participate in each scrimmage at their respective level. The evaluator will give each goalie a score of 1-9 points for each drill demonstrated.

Skills to be demonstrated are:

- Movement/Positioning
- Technical/Efficiency
- Rebound Control/Recovery
- Complete Level/Intensity
- Stopping the Puck

Goalies will also receive scores of 1-10 points for each shift they play in the scrimmages. In addition to the drill session skills, scoring during the scrimmages will be based on the following:

- Rebound Control
- Team Play
- Stopping the Puck
- Overall Ability

The number of goalies at each level will determine how many shifts each goalie will skate. Goalies will rotate every 3 shifts from net to net to the penalty box. Each individual goalie shift will span a time of 5 minutes. Scores from the drill sessions and the scrimmage sessions will be combined to create a final score.

TEAM SELECTION PROCESS:

If there are only as many goalies at a particular level as there will be teams, no matter the point spread between goalies, the highest scoring goalie will play for the top-level team, the second highest scoring goalie will play for the second level team and the 3rd level goalie for the 3rd level team, etc.

All skaters who try out for a goalie position, and are placed on a team as a goalie, are expected to play the goalie position throughout the season.

The Northern Tier Stars Co-Op Committee reserves the right to place goalies on teams as needed as long as it represents the order of placement at tryouts.

Until we are certain of how many goalies and teams we will have at a given level, this procedure will most certainly change or may be altered to ensure that each goalie has a fair and equal opportunity, and that each team will have a goaltender.

SKATER TRYOUT PROCESS

EVALUATORS:

The evaluation team is comprised of 4 individuals. These evaluators are Level 3 or higher certified coaches who have each coached at the traveling level from Read/React in Forest Lake. They will evaluate each skater on the following:

- Skating skills, forward and backward
- Puck skills, stickhandling and shooting
- Team play
- Rink awareness
- Effort

U10, U12 & U15 PROCEDURE:

Tryouts consist of 3 scrimmage sessions:

- The scrimmage sessions will include both full ice and cross-ice scrimmages, depending on the session.
- For all levels, overall scoring will be 33.3% from each scrimmage session.

Note to all skaters during scrimmage sessions: Any flagrant penalties will result in the judge's deducting points from the offending skaters score. If the penalty is deemed to be with intent to injure another skater, the offending player will be ejected from the remainder of that session and receive no score for that particular session. The Northern Tier Stars Co-Op Committee will meet to determine if further action should be taken.

SCRIMMAGE FORMAT (All Levels):

Each level will be randomly divided into groups. Each group will then be randomly divided into lines matching the scrimmage format. Each line will skate one-minute shifts. The lines will be shuffled after a specific set of shifts. Skaters will receive scores of 1-10 points for each shift they skate, scores will be based on the following skills:

- Team Play & Effort
- Skating Ability
- Rink Awareness
- Shooting & Passing Skills
- Board & Corner Play
- Offensive & Defensive Play

Ghost skaters will be necessary to complete lines during the scrimmage sessions. Ghost skaters will not receive scores for the shifts they skate. Ghost skaters will be selected randomly and given ample recovery time before their next shift. Ghost skaters are unaware of performing this unevaluated shift to ensure fairness to all skaters.

SCORES:

At the conclusion of the third scrimmage session, the scores for each skater will be totaled and listed in order from the highest score to the lowest score at each level. These scores will help determine the Pool selection process detailed in the team selection section, which will be held during session 4. In the event there are two skaters who are tied, the following procedure will be used to break their tie:

- 1st tie breaker: Total score of the second scrimmage session
- 2nd tie breaker: Total score of the first scrimmage session
- 3rd tie breaker: Total score of the skills evaluation
- 4th tie breaker: Number of years at level of play (i.e. 1st year U15 vs 2nd year U15)
- 5th tie breaker: Level classification played at during previous season (i.e. A U15 vs AA U15)
- 6th tie breaker: Coin Flip

Scores will not be posted at the rink, nor will they be given or shown to anyone other than the Northern Tier Stars Co-Op members during the tryouts.

TEAM SELECTION PROCESS:

At the conclusion of session 3 of the tryout process, the scores for each skater at each level will be totaled and listed from the highest score to the lowest score for team placement. This list will only be available to the Co-Op Committee, associated Board Members, and Head Coaches. The scores will be reviewed as detailed below for the session 4 "pool".

The top 70% of players for each team are determined by evaluation scores. The additional roster spots for the team will be selected by the designated Head Coach/Co-Op Committee, which will occur on or near day 4 of the try-outs. The remaining 30% of the roster must be selected from the next grouping of players that is equal to the number of remaining roster spots multiplied by two.

Example Scenario:

- 15 player team roster
- Top 11 ranking players are locked by 70% rule
- Remaining 30% of roster equals 4
- Doubled equals 8
- Head Coach/Co-Op Committee have a grouping of the next 6 ranked players based on evaluation scores to select the final 3 roster spots. The tryout committee and selected Head Coach can add additional players to the potential roster pool if there is a tie or very close score at the 30% cutoff. The Head Coach and Co-op Committee will express reasoning for each selection to the Cambridge/Isanti, St. Francis and North Branch Board designees for approval.

****U15 pools or teams will not be finalized until after highschool tryouts have completed.****

If a board member or tryout committee member is the parent or guardian of a skater that is in the 30% selection window or if the parent or guardian of a skater is not in the 30% but has been requested by the coach as a coach's selection, the parent/guardian will not participate in the discussion regarding the coach's selections for this team.

The Northern Tier Stars Co-op Committee must review and approve all final roster selections. Upon approval, the final rosters will be posted as soon as they are available.

If there are any circumstances, COVID-19 issues or unforeseen situations during the tryout process that are not covered in this guide, it will require Northern Tier Stars Co-Op Committee action to resolve the issue. Northern Tier Stars Co-Op Committee reserves the right to change or alter any part of the tryout process or procedures to ensure a fair and equal opportunity for all skaters.

ATTENDANCE & INJURY POLICY

ATTENDANCE/TARDY POLICY:

All skaters are expected to attend and be on time for all sessions at their respective level. Any skater who will be absent or tardy must notify the Northern Tier Stars Co-Op Committee. Skaters who are late or absent without prior approval from the Northern Tier Stars Co-Op Committee will receive no scores for the ice time they miss. Skaters who have the approval to be late or absent will have their scores averaged out to provide a score for any time missed. Excused absences will be granted only in situations that are uncontrollable, emergency in nature, or considered life changing.

- If a skater chooses not to participate in the tryout process, the skater will be placed on the lowest level team at their appropriate age group.

INJURY/ILLNESS POLICY:

Skaters who are not able to tryout due to illness or injury must notify the Northern Tier Stars Co-Op Committee prior to scheduled evaluations. A note from a doctor may be requested to release your child to participate in the tryouts.

The Northern Tier Stars Co-op Committee will hold an open spot for 10 days after the final tryout date for any skater who cannot participate in the tryouts due to injury or illness, and have

met the requirements of this policy. If after the 10-day extension, and the player has still not returned to the ice, there can be an appeal if needed to the Girls Director who will take the appeal to the Co-Op Committee for review.

Upon the skater's recovery and release from the skater's doctor, the skater will have up to 3 hours of pre-skate and 3 hours of evaluation ice time with the head coach at the last level. The head coaches of all teams will evaluate the skater during these time frames and determine the appropriate level/team for the skater based upon his/her skill. All team selection decisions must be approved by the Northern Tier Stars Co-op Committee.

PRE-SKATE & TRY OUT TIMES

All pre-skate and try-out times can be found by navigating to www.northerntierstars.org. Please reference this page for all dates and times. Please monitor this page as dates and times can change.