

Hopkins Youth Hockey Tryout Process and Policies

GENERAL INFORMATION

Players are encouraged to attend each tryout. The more your player is seen by evaluators, the more likely your player will be placed on an appropriate level team. Do not make presumptions on where your player is rated in the middle of tryouts as a consideration of whether it is “ok” to miss a session. HYHA does not have a set policy of “excused” or “unexcused” absences for players who miss tryouts. Missing a tryout session is missing an opportunity to be evaluated for placement on a team for an entire season. If you must miss a tryout, please report player's absence(s) to the [Director of Hockey Development](#) prior to the tryout session. Team placement of a player who is not available to attend any tryout sessions will be decided by the HDC based on previous season placement, coach input, etc.

GENERAL PROCESS

Hopkins Youth Hockey Association selects Bantam, Peewee, and Squirt teams for the upcoming season through a structured tryout process, spanning from 3-4 days, that incorporates skills review, HYHA intra-squad-scrimmages, scrimmage(s) with other hockey associations and/or competitive practices.

The goal of the tryout process is to ensure each player is given a fair evaluation and to place each player on a team at an appropriate competitive level for their individual abilities. This will allow players to:

- Play with others of a similar skill level.
- Further develop their skills in a suitable team environment
- Most importantly.... Enjoy the game!

GENERAL PLAYER INFORMATION

- Players attend your assigned tryout session.
- At the first tryout session check in and get your tryout jersey to keep for the duration of tryouts and answer any questions. Please return the jersey at the end of tryouts.
- Must wear HYHA reversible practice jersey. If you are new to HYHA we will give you one or if you need a new size, bring your old one to trade out.
- Both socks must be the same color. Old HYHA games socks or blue or white socks only.
- NO AAA stickers or names on helmets or AAA socks or jerseys.
- Wear all your standard hockey equipment.
- Check your hockey bag each day before tryouts.
- Arrive at the rink ½ hour early before each session and dress and ready 5 minutes before session.

If you are sick or injured or otherwise unable to participate in tryouts, notify the [Director of Hockey Development](#) as soon as possible.

TRYOUT SESSION PROCEDURES

Tryouts schedules are posted on-line. Depending on their level, players will be asked to attend from three to five evaluation sessions. Each tryout session will be approximately 60 to 90 minutes in length and is designed to limit the number of players on the ice to a manageable number per session.

The initial tryout groups will be established by placing all registered players at their level in a random order and divided so we have an equal number of skaters and goalies. After the first and/or second sessions players will be assigned to a specific tryout scrimmage pool.

Scrimmage pool assignments will be emailed. Tryout pool assignments are designed to help the evaluators grade players of comparable skill level. Participating in a specific pool does not guarantee players will be assigned to teams drawn from that pool. Players may be asked to attend more than one tryout pool on the same day.

Goalie Only Session:

During the tryouts, some levels may have a separate goalie only evaluation session with only goalies, volunteer shooters, and evaluators allowed on the ice. All goalies must attend these sessions in addition to their assigned groups. The shooters will be volunteer players that are not trying out with the goalies. Goalie specific evaluators will grade these tryout sessions.

STAFFING

EVALUATORS

Evaluators are selected by the HDC based on their hockey experience, knowledge, qualifications, and independence from the players being evaluated.

ON ICE COACHES

Registered coaches are recruited to help on ice and ensure player safety and fair play. Penalties are not called, however a player who penalizes it may negatively impact their score.

SCORING & TEAM PLACEMENT

Teams are selected based on the scoring achieved throughout the tryout process. Rosters will be filled and based on performance at tryouts. After the tryout session, the evaluators will select teams based on tryout ratings. During the final roster assignment process, HYHA includes an outside mediator as an auditor before final rosters are posted.

Final rosters will be posted on-line after tryouts have concluded. Our goal is to post within 24 hours.

Final rosters are final. No player will be moved to a higher team after rosters are posted unless the higher-level team has an issue fielding a full roster.

Selection to a team as a first-year player will not entitle a player to a roster spot at the same level in subsequent years.

Team placement of a player who is not available to attend any tryout sessions will be decided by the HDC based on previous season placement, coach input, etc.

HIGH SCHOOL TEAM TRYOUT POLICY

HYHA recognizes that on occasion, players who have remaining Bantam eligibility may elect to try out for a high school team. HYHA has adopted the following policy, which will treat this situation as it would any other waiver request to play outside our association.

1. HYHA registered players who are in their final year of Bantam eligibility may request a waiver to try out for any high school varsity program.
2. The HYHA President and Director of Hockey Development must receive waiver requests via email within 24 hours of HYHA team rosters being posted. The email must identify the varsity program and the name of the head coach for that program.
3. With approval from the HYHA President, Director of Hockey Development and the appropriate Bantam team head coach, HYHA will reserve a roster spot on the Assigned Bantam team until the results from the varsity high school tryouts are known. Players trying out for a high school varsity team cannot participate with the Bantam team during the HS tryout period.
4. If the player makes a high school varsity team, they will **forfeit ALL of the HYHA season's fees.**
5. If the player fails to make the varsity high school team, he will be permitted to return to the Bantam team immediately.
6. If the player tries out for varsity and fails to make the varsity high school team but does make junior varsity, the player may choose to play junior varsity. In this instance, the player will **forfeit ALL of the HYHA season's fees.**
7. If a player fails to receive approval for any reason and still tries out for a High School team, HYHA is not obligated to reserve a roster spot on any of the HYHA teams and is not obligated to refund any portion of their season fees.

POST TRYOUT PROCESS

- Feedback from parents/players about the tryout process can be shared with the Board President.
- Player final ranking or score will NOT be shared with players/parents. Evaluator's comments will NOT be made available.
- After tryouts, a **48-hour cooling off period** applies during which neither the parents nor players may initiate contact with coaches, or HYHA Board members.
- Concerns regarding tryouts and team placement once tryouts are complete, must be submitted in writing to the [Board President](#) after the mandatory 48 hour cooling off period.

The Hockey Development Committee reserves the right to review and revise all team rosters for several reasons, including but not limited to:

- Injuries
- Bantam | 15U players that chose to play high school hockey.

GRIEVANCE POLICY

We understand that the outcome of tryouts might not always be what you had hoped for. However, team selections are final. HYHA 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 HYHA Board President <mailto:president@hopkinshockey.com>. 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 our members.

TEAMS

It is the objective of the Hockey Development Committee to choose team levels that enable our players to learn, practice, apply and ultimately master both the physical skills and mental toughness required by the game of hockey. Our goal is to provide the best opportunity for our kids to have fun and develop as hockey players.

Before HDC members vote on the matter, the Committee reviews our teams' performance the past 3 seasons, the number of players forecast and feedback received from coaches, association members and District 3. Level declarations are made for one season at a time and reviewed every year.