



ERYHA Travel Team Tryout Policies & Procedures

The goal of the tryout process is to ensure accurate and fair assessment of each player and to place every player on a team with similar skill level where they will be provided the best opportunity for growth in their hockey ability.

Tryout Policies

It is the policy of Elk River Youth Hockey Association to conduct travel team tryouts at the beginning of each hockey season in a manner and to the extent as justly and with the highest degree of integrity as possible. During the tryout process, the President, VP and Level Directors will keep in mind that tryouts will be conducted considering the best interests of the association first and foremost, the individual team next, and the individual player after that.

1. Only the Level Director(s), Goalie Coordinator, President, Vice President, Registrar and Secretary, or, if needed, any recusal-prompted replacement board member substitute are allowed in the office while tryout player scoring procedures are taking place. At the time of team selection, the head coach may also be present.
2. Once each tryout session has been completed, the evaluation sheets will be collected from each evaluator before leaving the premises and will be appropriately disposed of by the Tryout Administrator once they are entered into the database.
3. Tryouts will be closed to everyone except players scheduled tryout time, and official ERYHA tryout personnel.
4. No player names will be listed on the evaluation sheet.
5. Parents must abide by the 24-hour rule before contacting any ERYHA Board member to discuss his/her player's tryout evaluation.
6. Making a given level team one year does not guarantee to play at the same level in the following year.
7. A player may only try out for one level of play (i.e., a girl must elect to try

- out for a Boys team or a Girls Team).
8. All ERYHA members, athletes, and families are all responsible for their personal decision-making regarding opt-in/out of playing youth sports such as hockey. The ERYHA board will not entertain requests from any ERYHA member or other to have a player be placed/not placed on a specific travel team. Any exception to this rule must involve a parent or guardian providing the ERYHA board with a written request outlining a serious reason that will need to be approved by the ERYHA board before tryouts. A parent/guardian suggesting that his/her player will quit hockey if the ERYHA board does not comply does not qualify as a serious reason.
 9. Any ERYHA player giving illegal hits or intentionally inflicting injury will NOT be tolerated during the tryout process. Situations will be dealt with on an individual basis.
 10. The ERYHA Board can deviate from the tryout policy solely when a deviation benefits the association.

Tryout Procedures

Tryout Phases and Pools

Tryouts will be conducted through a series of Phases, with each Phase resulting in at least one team at that level (AA/A/B1/B2). Phase 1 would be equal to the 1st or top team at that level.

If a team was not fielded at a given level, that Phase would be removed from the tryout process (e.g., if no A team will be fielded, tryouts would proceed from Phase AA to Phase B1).

Tryout Injury Procedures

Parent/Guardian of a player unable to tryout must approach the ERYHA Board of Directors with an appeal for a tryout waiver with a written doctor's excuse, before the tryout sessions.

An injured/ill player must be expected to return to 100% of his/her playing capabilities by December 1st, based on doctors' estimation, to be eligible for a spot on an AA, A or B travel team. This date is based on the Minnesota Hockey roster deadlines. Players who cannot be expected to perform at their full playing potential by December 1st can be placed on a C team for the season, provided there are

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openings.

The matter will be discussed between the player's previous years' coach and current year's level director. The final decision regarding an injured player's placement will be the respective Level Director's, Director of Development, President and Vice President.

Tryout Absence Procedures

Any absence due to acute illness or family emergency will need to be approved in writing by the LD/President/Goalie Coordinator. This will be addressed on a case by case basis.

Tryout Procedures

Evaluation Skills Session Phase – This phase will consist of individual skater skills and small game evaluations. **All skaters electing to try out at either the A or B level must take part in this phase.** If numbers dictate more than one group be necessary, players will be split as equally as possible into groups.

Skills Evaluation(s)

- A pre-determined set of drills and small games will be used to evaluate skaters on skating, passing, shooting, puck handling/puck possession, hockey sense, playmaking ability/movement w/o puck, offense and defensive positioning, complete level/work ethic. If the Head Coach is a non- parent, they may be one of the evaluators.

Note: Skills Session Phase is not applicable to Bantam tryouts.

Phase AA/A or First Team Phase – All players electing to try out for the AA/A level teams will participate in this phase. For the sessions, players will be split into teams as equally as possible according to skills evaluations. Depending on the number of skaters, there may be two or more groups. Teams may be adjusted after the first scrimmage session to create more balance or create specific matchups for further evaluation.

Scrimmage Evaluation(s)

- Players will scrimmage 5x5. Evaluators will evaluate skaters on compete level, work ethic & hockey awareness. If the Head Coach is a non-parent, they may be one of the evaluators.

- AA/A or First Team Pool – A collaboration of evaluators, coach & LD will identify a pool of the skaters and goalies to move on to the AA/A coach's tryout.

Scrimmage/Practice

- The Head Coach will be given additional hours of ice to use for practice or scrimmage. Some players may not participate in the practice/scrimmage at the coach's discretion to better evaluate the remaining players.
- At the conclusion of the additional practice/scrimmage, the Level Director, President, and Vice President will meet with the head coach to approve the final roster.
- The players not selected become automatic locks for the next level team.

Phase Two Pool – A collaboration of evaluators, coach & LD will select skaters and/or goalies that are eligible for team selection, at the end of the AA scrimmage session(s). The Phase One locked skaters and goalie are automatically rostered.

Scrimmage/Practice

- Players will scrimmage 5-on-5. Evaluators will evaluate skaters on compete level, work ethic & hockey awareness. If the Head Coach is a non-parent, they may be one of the evaluators.
- The head coach may be given additional hours of ice to use for practice or scrimmage. Some players may not participate in the practice/scrimmage at the coach's discretion to better evaluate the remaining players.
- At the conclusion of the additional practice/scrimmage, the Level Director, President, and Vice President will meet with the head coach to approve the final roster.
- The players not selected become automatic locks for the next level team.
- Process will repeat as necessary to roster all players. Depending on numbers, additional coach scrimmage/practices may be used to identify the remaining group or the remaining players will be rostered to a C Team.

Goalies Tryout Evaluations (All Levels)

Goalies will be evaluated in 3 sessions:

1. Goalie Skills Session
2. Skater Skills Evaluation Sessions
3. Scrimmages

The first session for goalies will be a goalie specific skills session. Each goalie will be evaluated and scored individually based on numerous categories. This portion of the tryouts will be both facilitated and evaluated by outside goalie evaluators.

From there, goalies will be broken up into groups and partake in the skater skills evaluation sessions. Each goalie will be evaluated and based on numerous categories. This portion of the tryouts will be facilitated by outside goalie evaluators.

Lastly, goalies will be evaluated in all sessions of the scrimmage phase of tryouts. Again, each goalie will be evaluated by outside goalie evaluators and will be evaluated in numerous categories.

After the completion of the top phase. We will then move to the coach's selection process. The AA/A coaches will select the goalies to move on to the AA/A Coaches Practice portion of tryouts. The goalies not selected will move to the next phase of tryouts.

Any absence during a player's scheduled tryouts must be approved via writing/email by the Goalie Coordinator and Level Director.