

## General Tryout Policies and Rules

This section outlines the basic policy and guidelines for the administration of the Forest Lake Hockey Association tryouts. Matters and unique circumstances may arise not specifically covered in this section. As applicable the President, Vice President of Operations, Tryout Director, Boys/Girls Directors or the Board of Directors shall rule on such matters in accordance with the bylaws. Any such ruling will be made in the best interest of the Forest Lake Hockey Association.

FLHA makes every attempt to ensure that each player is given a fair and unbiased evaluation and that all players are placed at the most appropriate level. This applies to Mites/8U, Squirt/10U, Pee wee/12U, and Bantam/15U levels.

A. Tryouts are closed. Only those with direct responsibilities with tryouts will be allowed on the tryout side of the arena. The exceptions to the closed tryout policy are coach practices and tryout scrimmage games.

B. Attendance –

- a. All tryout sessions are mandatory, except in the event of illness/injury or family emergency. For any absence related to in-season sports conflicts, the Tryout Director must be notified 7 days in advance prior to the start of tryouts for that players age group/level.
- b. Players who miss a tryout date for any reason will be evaluated on the tryout session(s) they attend, as long as the notification requirements have been met.
- c. The process for players missing a coach practice or tryout scrimmage will be determined by the head coach.

C. Injury and Illness Absences -

- a. The board will accept a documented notice (proof of phone call, email or written letter) from the Minnesota Department of Health, stating that an individual either quarantine, a stay at home recommendation due to possible COVID-19 exposure or a positive COVID-19 test result.
- b. The board will accept a doctor's note of illness or injury as a valid reason for missing a tryout session.
- c. Upon providing documentation above, the standard process for team placement of an injured player would apply.

D. Family Emergency –

- a. In the case of a family emergency, the board must be notified prior to the start of tryouts for the players age group/level as soon as possible.
- b. A committee consisting of the President, Tryout Director, Boys/Girls Director and other applicable board members will determine if the incident warrants a family emergency classification, but generally things such as the following would constitute a family emergency;
  - i Death in the immediate family
  - ii Funeral attendance
  - iii A recent disaster to the home such as a house fire or tornado damage
- c. Player classified as having a valid family emergency will then fall under the Injured Player Placement Policy for team placement.

E. Injured Player Placement Policy – this applies to players injured prior to the start of tryouts or during the tryout process.

- a. A committee consisting of the President and/or VP Ops, Boys/Girls Director, and additional applicable Directors, past and present, as needed.
- b. This committee will consider past team placement, any tryout scoring earned prior to injury, and other factors deemed relevant to determine the players' most likely team placement.
- c. Any injured player that is placed in the A/AA pool will be considered a coach pick.
- d. If a player is injured part way through a session every effort will be made to have the player scored.

F. Traditional tryout Grouping Formation- This section applies to levels where there is no "Top Team Tryout" and/or applies to the "Traditional Tryout" portion of the process.

- a. Tryout groups for the first session will be formed alphabetically and split into an even number of players per group.
- b. Groupings will then be divided into two evenly distributed pools based on the first session scores (Skills for 10U/Squirrels, 12U/Peewees & Battle Day for 15U/Bantams) for the next session until the completion of Phase 1.
- c. Phase 2 will group players into AA/A pool & B pool for additional sessions.
  - i If applicable, players who fail to score high enough during Phase 1 to be considered for the B pool will conclude their tryouts with the end of Phase 1.

#### **G. Jerseys and Equipment**

- a. All players must wear their assigned jerseys throughout the tryout process. No player will be allowed to tryout without their assigned jersey.
- b. All required protective gear including mouthguards must be worn.
- c. Socks must be matching FLHA issue or all black, all white, all gold, or all maroon.
- d. Only FLHA helmet decals.
  
- e. Locker room and on ice behavior – The FLHA has a zero-tolerance policy for disruptive or inappropriate behavior in the locker rooms and on the ice. This includes illegal and dangerous play on the ice. Players will be asked to leave and will be given a score of zero for the session.

#### **Evaluators**

- A. No evaluator shall evaluate their own player or have a direct relationship (relative, neighbor, etc).
- B. Evaluators must be approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors prior to the start of tryouts.
- C. Lakes Area Goaltending is responsible for securing goalie evaluators. Goalie evaluators must be approved by the Board of Directors

## **Coaches**

- A. All contingent coaching candidates with players who are trying out for the top team will be allowed watch all sessions (3v3, 5v5, 5v5) while your player is still participating and for levels where we have not yet named the head coach. If your player is cut after any session, you will no longer be able to attend. The intent is to give you, as the potential HC of the top team, as much opportunity to view the players that will ultimately make up your roster.
  
- B. Named contingent B1 coaches may observe any parts of the tryout once their own child has:
  - a. Been mathematically eliminated from the AA/A pool or
  - b. Has locked in the AA/A pool but has not yet been selected for the AA/A team
  
- C. Teams with non-contingent named head coaches (i.e. hired by the association) will have the percentage of locks reduced progressively as they accrue more years of service with FLHA.
  - a. First year – 33% of roster is locked, coaches selection for the remaining 66%
  - b. Second year – 25% of the roster is locked, coaches selection for the remaining 75%
  - c. Third year – no portion of the roster is locked; coaches select 100% of the roster.