



CIHA Bluejackets

2025-2026 Tryout Policies, Procedures, & Team Selection Process

CambridgelsantiHockey.org

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WELCOME

Welcome to the 2025-2026 tryouts! This packet outlines the procedures used to determine where each skater will play 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 this packet carefully and review it with your child, so they have an idea of what to expect when they get to the rink.

Tryouts are a stressful time for the kids and for the parents. It is also a stressful time for the volunteers who organize the tryouts to make the process as fair and efficient as possible. There are a few things that each parent and skater can do that will help the tryouts run more smoothly.

- **TRYOUTS WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL, EXCEPT TRYOUT PERSONNEL AND BOARD MEMBERS, PLUS SELECTED HIGH SCHOOL COACHES.**
- We understand that tryouts may be an especially nervous time for new Squirt skaters. Please ensure that any assistance is done quickly and that parents then exit the arena, so the tryout can proceed on schedule. Tryout staff will be monitoring all locker rooms.
- Ensure you know what time to be at the rink. It is especially important that the kids be at the rink and dressed; **ready to skate 30 minutes before their scheduled ice time**. This will give us time to make any necessary last-minute changes. If the session before your scheduled time ends early, we will have the opportunity to begin the next session.

Below are some tips for both parents and skaters:

SKATERS:

- Show up for the tryout 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 and open skating.
- Inspect your hockey equipment and repair anything that needs to be in game condition.
- Give 100% each time you skate a drill or skate in a scrimmage; try not to be nervous, relax, remain calm, focus on what you are doing and have FUN!
- Pay close attention and follow directions.
- BELIEVE IN YOURSELF!

PARENTS:

- Be realistic of your child's ability; do not put any extra pressure on your child. They know why they are here and what is at stake.
- Any issues or concerns you may have will be discussed in an adult and orderly fashion.

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Any person(s) disrupting the tryout process will be asked to leave the arena area and not be allowed to return until the tryouts are complete.

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TRYOUT PROCESS

The process for team selections for all teams in tryouts will include both an evaluation conducted by independent outside evaluators, held during tryout weekend, **AND** a head coach evaluation to confirm the team selection. Please refer to team selection portion for specifics.

When numbers only support one team at a level (squirt, peewee, bantam, on ice evaluation may not take place.

EVALUATORS:

The Tryout judges are unbiased evaluators that have a strong hockey background and understanding of the game. There will be a minimum of 4 tryout judges to evaluate players and Goalies. They will evaluate each skater on the following:

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

CIHA will provide a light and dark tryout jersey to each player. It is the responsibility of the player to bring both jerseys to all tryout dates. Both jerseys must be promptly returned after the last ice session of coach's tryouts/pool play.

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SCRIMMAGE FORMAT (All Levels):

Each level will be randomly divided into 2 or more groups. Each group will then be randomly divided into lines of skaters by the tryout software. The tryout format will include two sessions of full ice scrimmages (4-on-4 or 5-on-5 depending on numbers), and one session of cross ice scrimmage (3-on-3 or 4-on-4 depending on numbers). The determination of the scrimmage format will be dictated by the size of the groups. The tryout software will randomize each shift to allow all skaters to skate with everyone on their bench and against everyone on the opposite bench. Each shift will be 1 minute and will follow with a minimum of a 1 minute break. Each skater will skate approximately 9 shifts for each scrimmage session. Skaters will be scored for each shift they skate. Scores will be based on the following criteria:

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

SCORES:

At the conclusion of the final scrimmage session, the scores for each skater will be totaled and listed in order. This will determine which pool they will be placed in for the coach's tryouts.

Flagrant penalties and inappropriate behavior could negatively affect your tryout score. Please conduct yourselves appropriately at all times.

Scores will not be posted at the rink, nor will they be given or shown to anyone other than the tryout officials and CIHA board members during the tryout process.

ATTENDANCE / TARDY POLICY:

While CIHA does its best to avoid as many conflicts as possible during tryout weekend for our players, it is impossible to avoid everything. All players 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 Tryout Director, Hockey Director, Coed Director, or the CIHA President. Players who are late or absent without prior approval from one of these will receive no scores for the ice time they miss. Players 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 life changing events and verification will be required.

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D10 High Performance POLICY:

If any player has been selected and represents CIHA for a D10 High Performance team and has team commitments during the tryouts, as players are required to have played on a top (A/AA) level team in the year prior to selection, that player shall be placed on the top-level team for the new year and have their placement confirmed during the top-level coach's evaluation to finalize team rosters.

INJURY/ ILLNESS POLICY:

For injuries or illness during the tryout process:

- If a player is injured or suffers from an illness during a session and has completed at least half of the scoring for the session, their score will be averaged out for the remainder of that session.
- If a player is injured or suffers from illness during a session, and has completed less than half of the scrimmage, the session will be considered an excused absence and the scores will not be used.
- A player must complete more than half of the total scoring for all sessions within the tryout, or the following injury policy will be followed for placement once they can return to play.

For injury or illness that does not allow a player to participate in tryouts:

Players who are not able to tryout due to illness or injury must notify the Tryout Director, Hockey Director, Coed Director, or the CIHA President. A note from a doctor will be requested to release your child to participate in the tryouts. CIHA will hold an open spot for 21 days after the final tryout date, for any player who cannot participate in the tryouts due to injury or illness and have met the requirements of this policy. The Head Coach has the right to appeal for an extension of the 21-day policy if needed. After 21 days the player will skate on the lowest level team, however, could be moved up based upon further evaluation and CIHA Board approval. If it is the players first year at a new level, they will follow the schedule below. If there are only two teams at a particular level, then the 2nd team is considered the bottom (Third Level) team. If it is the players second year at a particular level, they will get a tryout with the top-level team.

FIRST YEAR SKATERS

<u>Last Year's Team</u>	<u>Will Tryout At</u>
Top Level	Top Level
Second Level	Top Level
Third Level	Second Level

FIRST YEAR SKATER EXAMPLE 1

<u>Last Year's Team</u>	<u>Will Tryout At</u>
Squirt B1	Peewee B1
Squirt B2	Peewee C
Squirt C	

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FIRST YEAR SKATER EXAMPLE 2

<u>Last Year's Team</u>	<u>Will Tryout At</u>
Squirt B1▼	Peewee A
Squirt C▼	Peewee B1
	Peewee C

On the player's recovery and release from the player's doctor, they will have up to 2 hours of ice time with the Head Coach at the level in which the spot was held to determine if the player will play at that level or play at the next level down. Former coaches may be consulted to determine the proper placement for that player. All team selection decisions must be approved by the CIHA Board. If not selected, the player will tryout with the next level coach and so on until the appropriate level is selected. The top-level coach may fill the held spot with any player from the 2nd level team, pending CIHA Board approval.

TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

The process for 2025-2026 player selections for all multi-level teams in tryouts will include:

- **Tryout evaluations will be conducted on September 27-28**
- Coaches tryouts will be conducted the following week, September 29 – October 3

At the conclusion of the tryout evaluation, the scores for each skater at each level will be totaled and listed from the highest score to the lowest score. Based upon the total number of players registered for each level, team sizes will be determined, and a pool selection will be selected for the top level. Within the pool, at least 50% of the roster size will be locked for that team. Once the top-level coach has made his/her final selections and the Board has approved the selection, the players not selected for the top-level team will be placed on the next highest-level team. This procedure will continue until all teams are formed.

For instance, 17 players are selected to move on to the "A" team coach's tryout after the initial tryout weekend. It is determined that the "A" team will have 13 skaters. After the two hours of coach tryouts, the coach presents his team of 13 players to the Board for approval. The 4 players not selected would be guaranteed to make the next highest team.

The coach's tryout will be conducted using a practice and/or scrimmage format and will include up to 2 hours of evaluation. Scrimmages may be held against outside teams if the association is able to schedule them. After the coach has made his/her final roster recommendation, the roster will be approved by the CIHA Board.

Final team selections will be made, and players will be notified following the coach's tryouts.

Should any one level have more than one team at a specific designation (i.e. 2 Squirt C teams), the teams are to be evenly divided based on the player scores with each team receiving every other player.

The Board must review and approve all final rosters. Upon approval, the final rosters will be posted on the CIHA website.

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If there are any circumstances or unforeseen situations that occur during the tryout process that are not covered in this packet, it will require the board to meet to resolve the issue. The CIHA Board 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.

GOALTENDERS

Only players at the **Squirt** level may tryout as both a skater AND a goalie. You must notify the Tryout, Coed, or Hockey Director before tryouts if this is your intent. Both the goalie and skater tryout scores will be evaluated separately. If the player makes the same team as both a goalie and skater, they can play both positions. If they make different teams for each position, they are only allowed to play the position that made the higher-level team, or both positions for the lower-level team. For example, a player made the A team as a skater and the B1 team as a goalie. They can only play as a skater on the A team. They can play both positions on the B1 team.

GOALTENDER TRYOUT PROCESS:

All goaltenders at all levels will participate in a skill drill session with the goalie judge, separate from the skaters. **They will also participate in each scrimmage at their respective levels.** The judges will give each goalie a score of 1-10 points for each drill demonstrated. Drills to be demonstrated are:

↪ Stance ↪ Movement ↪ Recovery ↪ Angles ↪ Net Awareness

Goalies will also receive scores of 1-10 points for each shift they play in the scrimmages. Scoring during the scrimmages will be based on the drill sessions skills as well as the following skills:

↪ 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 after a determined number of shifts from net to net to the penalty box. Scores from the drill session and the scrimmage sessions will be combined to create a final score.

TEAM SELECTION PROCESS:

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If the top two goalies scores are within 10%, both goalies will go to the top team tryout, and the 3rd will go to the 2nd level team tryout. If more than two goalies have scores within 10%, the top three goalies will go to the top team, and the top-level coach will select one or two goalies. If the top two goalie scores are greater than 10% apart, the top goalie will go to the top team and the next two goalies will be placed on the next level team.

Until we are certain of how many goalies we have, and how many 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.

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