

Cambridge Isanti – St Francis 2025/26 Bantam Season



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

WELCOME

Welcome to the Cambridge Isanti – St Francis 2025/26 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 30 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:

- 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.
- Any name plates/stickers on jerseys or helmets must be removed or taped over before going on the ice.
- Please wear Cambridge/Isanti or St. Francis 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 30 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 are 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.

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 CI-SF 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 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.
-

SKATER TRYOUT PROCESS

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.

SCRIMMAGE FORMAT:

Bantams will be randomly divided into 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 & Effort
- 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.

TEAM SELECTION PROCESS:

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, 60% of the roster size will be locked for that team. Head coaches will not be selected until after the teams are formed, unless a non-parent coach is chosen. Additionally, one coach from each association will participate in making the final roster selections to help ensure fairness. Once the top-level roster is finalized and approved by the CI-SF Co-op Committee, the remaining players not selected 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 CI-SF Co-op Committee 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 CI-SF Co-op Committee.

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 Bantam B1 teams), the teams are to be evenly divided based on the player's scores with each team receiving every other player.

The CI-SF Co-op Committee must review and approve all final rosters. Upon approval, the final rosters will be posted on the CIHA & SFYHA websites.

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 CI-SF Co-op Committee to meet to resolve the issue. The CI-SF 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.

If a board member or tryout committee member is the parent or guardian of a skater that is in the 40% selection window or if the parent or guardian of a skater is not in the 40% 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 CI-SF 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.

GOALTENDER TRYOUT PROCESS

Goaltenders at all levels will participate in a skill session and 3 scrimmages with MEGA Goaltending evaluators. The evaluator will give each goalie a score of 1-10 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 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 CI-SF 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.

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 CI-SF Co-Op Committee.

Skaters who are late or absent without prior approval from the CI-SF 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, an 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 try out due to illness or injury must notify the CI-SF 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 CI-SF Co-op Committee will hold an open spot for 21 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 21-day extension, and the player has still not returned to the ice, there can be an appeal if needed to the Boys/Co-ed Director who will take the appeal to the CI-SF 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 CI-SF Co-op Committee.