

Date: 9/2025

Revised:

PAHA Closed Tryout Policy

The Proctor Amateur Hockey Association (PAHA) is committed to evaluating players and placing them on the team that best matches their current skill level. Our goal is to foster individual growth, development, and enjoy the game in a competitive but supportive environment.

Closed Tryout Process

Tryouts will be conducted as a **closed process**, meaning **parents, family members, and spectators are not permitted to observe** tryouts, **except for the scrimmage night**, which will be open to viewing.

Parent Guidelines

- Only the **scrimmage night** of tryouts will be open for public viewing. All other sessions are closed.
- Parents/spectators must sit **away from the evaluators** and may not engage with coaches or staff during the scrimmage.
- Communication with coaching staff during tryouts is limited to reporting absences or acceptable reasons for missed sessions.

Acceptable Absences

Players may make up missed sessions for the following reasons:

- In-season high school sports activity
- Illness or injury
- Major family functions (e.g., wedding, funeral)
- Religious observances
- Education-related events (e.g., concerts, plays, driver's education)

Make-up sessions must be coordinated in advance with the **Level Coordinator** and the **Player/Coach Development Director**.

Tryout Scheduling

- Tryouts will be held in **October** at the **Squirt, PeeWee, and Bantam levels**, when more than one team exists at a level.
 - The number of tryout days will vary based on player registration numbers.
 - Tryouts will include a **contest/scrimmage against an outside association** whenever possible.
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Evaluation Process

- Evaluations will focus on:
 - Skating
 - Puck handling
 - Passing
 - Small area play
 - Internal scrimmages
 - Scrimmage/contest vs. an outside association
 - Players will receive tryout jerseys with numbers only; evaluators will not have access to player names.
 - Evaluators will be **independent** (not parents, siblings, or family members of players).
 - At least one evaluator will specialize in **goaltending**.
 - Non-parent/family coaches may participate in the final selection process.
 - Once tryouts (including make-ups) are complete, families will be notified of team placements.
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Team Selection & Feedback

- Families will receive placement notifications via Crossbar once evaluations are finalized.
- After notification, families have **48 hours** to request an individual evaluation summary from the **Player/Coach Development Director**.
- Evaluation summaries will be provided within **7 days** of the request.
- No evaluation feedback requests will be honored after this period.

Note: Team splits may not be an even 50/50. Our goal is to create rosters where all players can develop and compete safely and appropriately.

Opting Out of A-Level Consideration

If a player **does not wish to be considered** for the highest-level team, parents must inform the **Player Development Coordinator** and **Level Coordinator** at least **24 hours** before tryouts begin.

Notification During Tryouts

- The Player Development Director and evaluators reserve the right to **narrow the group of players** at any stage in the process.
- Not all players may participate in the final evaluation scrimmage.
- Players whose evaluation is complete will be notified via Crossbar within **24 hours** of that determination.
- Remaining players will continue in the process and be notified of next steps accordingly.

Once all teams are finalized, families will be notified through Crossbar. At that time, **team managers** will be appointed, and further communication will come from them.

Long-Term Injury or Illness

Players unable to attend regular tryouts due to injury, illness, or a legitimate conflict must:

1. Notify the **Level Coordinator** and **Player Development Coordinator** at least **24 hours prior** to tryouts.
2. Participate in a **3-day evaluation period**, practicing at the A level.
3. Participate in a game-like contest following that evaluation period.

Failure to provide proper notice will result in the player being ineligible for A-level consideration.

If a player is injured or falls ill **during tryouts** and is considered "in the mix" for a top team, they will also receive the same 3-day post-recovery evaluation opportunity.

All families will be informed if this situation arises.

Policy Oversight

This policy is overseen by the **Player Development Coordinator**, with final approval and adjustments subject to a vote by the **PAHA Board**. It is designed to ensure fairness, transparency, and a player-focused approach to development at all levels of competition.