



2025-26 Season Tryout Plan Overview



Tryout Schedule

- **Bantams:**
 - Sep 28th - Oct 5th (AA)
 - Sep 29th - Oct 5th (2-3 groups)
- **Peewees:**
 - Sep 28th - Oct 5th (AA)
 - Sep 29th - Oct 5th (3 groups)
- **12U:** Oct 3rd - Oct 5th (2 groups)
- **Squirts:** Oct. 7th - 12th (3 groups)
- **10U:** Oct. 10th - 12th (2 groups)
- **15U:** Oct 10th - 12th (2 groups)
- **All STMA GOALIES** Sep 28th



Tryout Logistics

- Players check-in at front lobby desk to confirm registration and receive tryout jersey, which they will wear through the tryout process and return after the final session
- STMA/NWC colored socks must be worn with **NO outside association logos or stickers** visible on any player (includes helmet). Tier 1 or HP stickers will be allowed for players currently participating in those programs
- All tryout sessions and locker room areas closed to spectators (Squirt/10U parents can tie skates prior)...Blue Rink will be used for tryout evaluations – Live Barn is turned off during all tryout sessions.
- Each session will have at least 1 on-ice coach/ref and appropriate number of bench coaches for scrimmage days
- Only evaluators, core HOC members, Executive Board, HOC Admin and Girls/Boys Coordinators allowed in Tryout HQ Room



Tryout Format

- Day 1 of all tryout sessions will be skill drills for every level group
 - Drills will focus on forward/backward skating, crossovers, puck-handling and shooting
 - Goalies will perform goalie specific drills and participate in player shooting drills
- Days 2-4 will be scrimmages
 - Peewees and Bantams will scrimmage outside the association for Days 3 & 4 with top 2 groups, bottom group will be internal only
 - Squirts will scrimmage outside the association for top group on Day 4. Groups 2 and 3 will be internal only
- For the AA Tryout see the AA Tryout Guide



Tryout Evaluators

- Boys - 4 skater evaluators per session and a HOC coordinator on each bench during scrimmages.
- Girls – 4-5 evaluators per level depending on numbers and availability
- 1-2 goalie specific evaluators per session depending on level and number of goalies
- All evaluators will have high school, junior and/or college hockey coaching, scouting or playing experience and be well-versed in player evaluation



Tryout Evaluation Criteria

- Skating
- Stick Handling
- Passing
- Shooting
- Hockey Sense
- Physical Play (Bantams)
- Soft Skills
 - Attitude, penalties, body language, treatment of others

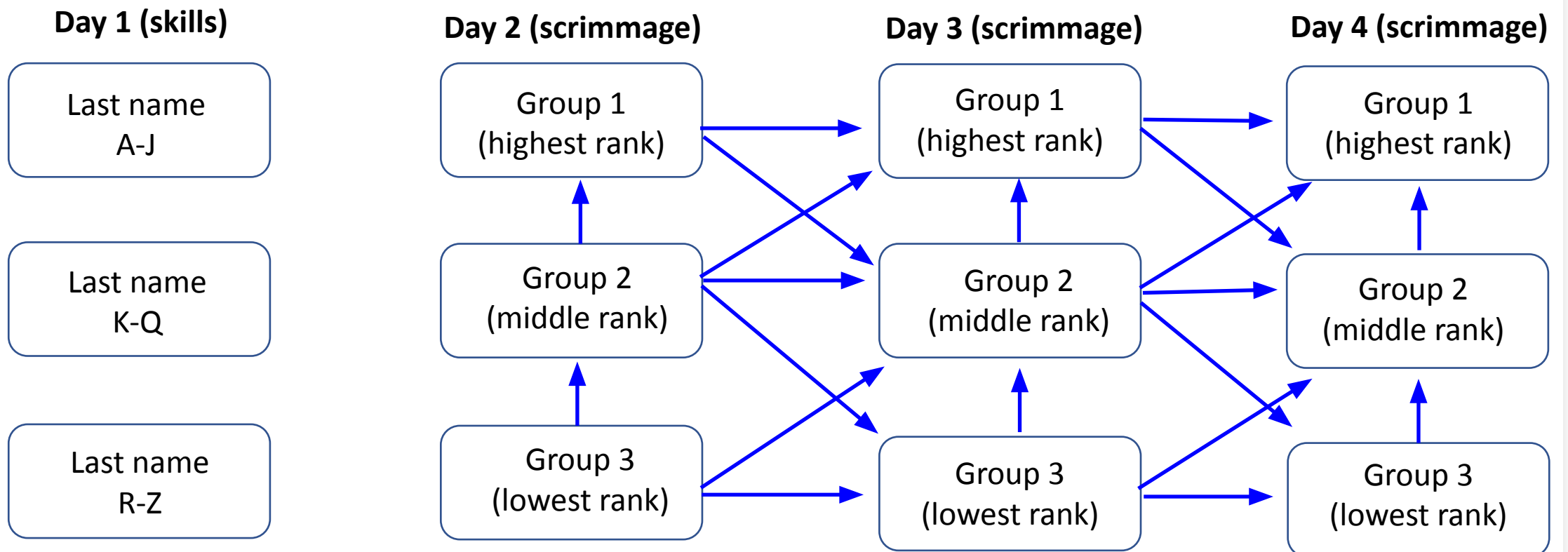


Boys Evaluation Process

- Day 1 skills groups will be created alphabetically
- After completion of Day 1 skills, player evaluation rankings will be used to tier each level by group for Day 2 scrimmages
- After each Day 2 & 3 scrimmages, players will be moved up or down between groups depending on evaluator rankings from that day and may be asked to stay over to the next group session
- After Day 4 team formation will start
- See slide 9 for example of possible player movement



Evaluation Process (Level example with 3 tryout groups)



Girls Evaluation Process

- Day 1 skills groups will be created alphabetically
- After completion of Day 1 skills, player evaluation rankings will be used to tier each level by group for Day 2 scrimmages
- After Day 2 scrimmage, players will be moved up or down between groups depending on evaluator rankings from that day and may be asked to stay over to the next group session
- After Day 3 team formation will start
- See slide 9 for example of possible player movement



Team Formation Process

- Non-parent head coaches for top Bantam and Pee wee teams can attend tryout days 2-4 (3-5 for AA Tryout)
 - Parent head coach if named prior, will be allowed to attend the final day of tryouts
- Following the final day of tryouts at each level; the HOC, HOC Admin, the top team head coach and the Executive Board will meet to review player rankings and finalize rosters
- At Squirts/10U that are playing at equal level (*ex. 2 "B2" teams*), the players for those teams will be selected every-other based on evaluator rankings
- Final teams will be posted to the association website no later than 72 hours after the final tryout session for that level (*exception of 15U which will be posted after High School team rosters are selected*)



“Locked” Players

- Locked players for the top team at each level are those who have been ranked by the evaluators in a position where they cannot be moved off of the top team as rosters are finalized
- Locked player positions range based on anticipated skater (not including goalies) roster size:
 - Roster size of 10-11 skaters = top 8 ranked skaters locked
 - 12-13 skaters = top 9 ranked skaters locked
 - 14+ skaters = top 10 skaters locked
- Only players who scrimmaged with the final group at that level on the last day of tryouts, may be selected to the top team
- “Locked” players may be asked not to come for the final scrimmage session because evaluators have determined they would be on top team; evaluators want to see other players getting puck touches



Injury or Illness

- Any player unable to participate in tryouts due to injury or illness will start with a group chosen by the HOC Director
- The HOC Director may collaborate with last year's coaches and the HOC for determining initial placement
- The HOC will make final team placement after further player evaluation
- Any related questions should be directed to Boys HOC Director, Derek McChesney, hocdirector@stmayha.org or Girls HOC Director, Brandon Mitchell, girlshocdirector@stmayh.org

