



West Hants Minor Hockey Association
Tryout & Team Selection Policy

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West Hants Minor Hockey Association Tryout & Team Selection Policy

Purpose:

The following outlines the West Hants Minor Hockey Association (WHMHA) Competitive Tryout Process. WHMHA recognizes that tryouts can be a challenging and demanding experience for players and their families, and our goal is to ensure the process is as transparent and fair as possible.

Objectives of Player Evaluation:

- To provide fair and impartial assessment of all players.
- Ensure players have a fair opportunity to be selected to a team appropriate to their skill level as determined during the on-ice evaluations of the current year.
- To ensure evaluators are objective, unbiased, and have a thorough understanding of the Association's objectives with the tryout process.
- The process allows for necessary and beneficial input from the coaches.

General Policies:

- The Tryouts process is overseen by the WHMHA Tryout Committee which is chaired by the Director of Hockey and consists of members of the WHMHA Board of Directors.
 - The committee will define the tryout schedule for the season and oversee the entire tryout process, which includes the selection of evaluators, communication of tryout times, posting of tryout groups, review of player absenteeism requests, and any other information deemed necessary.
- Tryouts will be held in a local arena commencing on the dates set by Hockey Nova Scotia for the current year.
- Fee structure for Tryouts will be decided annually by the WHMHA Board prior to Registration. This fee, along with any other outstanding fees owing on the Players' account from the year prior (if applicable), must be paid in full prior to the beginning of the tryout process. The fee is based on projected budget to administer process (ice costs, registration numbers, and other administrative items).
- Players must be registered to attend tryouts.
- Players must be in good standing with Hockey Nova Scotia with no long-term suspensions that will impact their ability to play during the regular season.



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- Players should be attentive, focused and respectful during the process.
- Players who register or transfer after Tryouts are completed are subject to review and placement by the Tryout Committee.
- Only Primary Caregivers (e.g. parents, caregivers) are eligible to attend Tryouts and they must be respectful and not interfere during the tryouts. This includes no yelling at or cheering for Players during Tryouts. Caregivers are encouraged to support Players in a positive manner. Failure to adhere to this will be referred to the WHMHA Disciplinary Committee.
- No person shall confer, interfere, or contact the Assessors regarding the Player process at any time during Tryouts.
- Since the coach confers with the team all year, it is in the best interest of the Association to ensure that the coaching staff are in agreement with the final team selection.
- The tryout process should provide maximum benefit to majority of members.
- Parents are welcome to attend tryouts; however, viewing is restricted to the bleacher sections. Ice-level access is not permitted.

Absences and Injuries:

The Tryout and Evaluation process provides an opportunity to evaluate players in a common forum to ensure proper placement at the most appropriate level. It is our expectation that all players will attend all tryout sessions.

There is recognition that there may be circumstances which preclude a player from attending sessions due to injury, illness, bereavement, or other emergency circumstances.

Players who miss all or part of the tryout process will be handled based on the reason for their absence / the nature of their injury.

- a. At the assessment and discretion of the Tryout Committee, the missing player MAY be linked to a player in the tryout process who is deemed to be the closest in terms of ability/skill/score.
- b. The Tryout Committee, along with the incoming Coach, will decide on a case-by-case basis how absenteeism is handled. Prior year's coach's feedback may be utilized and consulted.



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- c. All injured/absent player decisions will be documented by the Tryout Committee with rationale provided to the Executive for approval in advance.

For this policy to apply, parents need to notify the Director of Hockey at doh@westhantswarriors.com in advance of tryouts for any pre-existing injuries or expected absences. All such instances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Evaluators:

The Evaluation team will primarily consist of paid independent evaluators. Additionally, WHMHA may involve former volunteer coaches to assist during the evaluation process. If a non-parent coach is assigned to a team, or a Parent Coach is assigned as head coach to the highest-level team, those coaches may evaluate for the age group they will be coaching. All evaluator scores will be equally weighted, and at least three evaluators must be present at each session.

In general Evaluators should:

- Be free of conflict of interest for the group being evaluated (e.g. dependant, niece or nephew) unless the evaluator is a coach named to highest level team as described above.
- Review all drills and skills beforehand to fully understand the on-ice process.
- Familiarize themselves with the evaluation criteria before the process begins.
- Maintain a clear separation from spectators during the on-ice evaluation.
- Ensure they have the correct group and jersey numbers for evaluation.
- Not share comments or opinions with parents / players or other interested observers.
- Direct any questions, comments, or complaints to the WHMHA Executive without offering personal commentary.



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Player & Goalie Evaluation Score / Criteria:

Players will be given an overall score ranging from 1 to 5 with increments of 0.5 for each session. The score will include consideration of the following attributes:

- Skating
- Passing
- Shooting
- Puck Control
- Use of Hockey Skills
- Hockey Sense
- Compete Level
- Attitude / Coach-ability

Goalie scores will include consideration of the following attributes:

- Skating
- Position-Specific movement skills
- Positional/Save movement skills
- Rebound – Control/Recovery/Tactical
- Transitional Play
- Advanced Positioning

Sessions:

There will be one set of Tryouts per division of U11, U13, U15 and U18.

Number of ice sessions for Tryouts will be 3 for each division.

- U11 will have 1 Practice Session, 1 Mini Game (3 vs 3 or 4 vs 4 depending on numbers) and 1 Intersquad Game.
- U13 will have 1 Practice Session and 2 Intersquad Games.
- U15 and U18 will have 3 Intersquad Games.
- Goalies will have an additional Goalie Session.



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Player Evaluation Weighing:

Group	Session 1 Tactics	Session 2 Mini Game	Session 3 Intersquad
U11	0.32	0.32	0.36

Group	Session 1 Tactics	Session 2 Intersquad	Session 3 Intersquad
U13	0.25	0.35	0.40

Group	Session 1 Intersquad	Session 2 Intersquad	Session 3 Intersquad
U15	0.30	0.30	0.40

Group	Session 1 Intersquad	Session 2 Intersquad	Session 3 Intersquad
U18	0.30	0.30	0.40

Player Groupings:

- Should the number of players per division be considered large or exceed 30, players shall be divided into separate groups
- Groups will be balanced as follows for U11:
 - o Alphabetically ensuring an even balance of players from each skill level based on previous years level of hockey (e.g. first alphabetical player from U11A, followed by U11B, U11C, U9Adv, U9Int and U9Dev, and repeated until players are divided into 2 equal groups).
 - o The teams for the intersquad games will be decided by Tryout Committee based on the player evaluation scores from the first 2 sessions.
- Groups for the U13 and U15 will be balanced as follows:
 - o Alphabetically ensuring a balance of players from each skill level based on previous year's level of hockey and additionally balancing for position (equal number of Defence / Forwards in each group from each skill level)



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- o The teams for the intersquad games will be decided by Tryout Committee based on the player evaluation scores from the previous sessions.
- Groups for the U18 will be balanced as follows:
 - o Teams for the first intersquad game will be determined based on level of play from previous year and previous year coach's input.
 - o The teams for the follow on intersquad games will be decided by Tryout Committee based on the player evaluation scores from the previous sessions.

Team Selection Process:

The team selection will begin after the final Tryout session for each age group. The Tryout Committee is responsible for ensuring players are appropriately placed on the respective teams.

- Coaches who have been assigned to a team will be permitted to have input into the team selection by choosing from a larger group than just the 15 top scoring players but will not have complete control.
- Players who scored the highest in the tryouts (Top 6F, Top 4D, Top G) will be assigned to the highest-level team and coaches will have the ability to choose the remaining players from the next top 6F, next top 4D and next top 2G.
- The ideal final team roster will consist of 15 Skaters (9F and 6D) and 2G however the selection committee may select additional players that tried out for one position versus the other (e.g. 10F and 5D, or vice versa 8F and 7D) if the scoring reveals they are more suitable for the team make up.
- In addition, under certain circumstances a team roster may be reduced below 15 skaters and 2 goalies by approval of the Tryout Committee.
- The process would then repeat for teams at lower levels.
- As many players in U11 aren't aware of which position suits them best, the team selection will be focused on overall scores versus scores by position selected for tryouts (e.g. the highest-level team could be compiled of 13 skaters who advised they were trying out for forward and 2 skaters who advised they were trying out for defense). Position selected for tryout will only be taken into consideration if final players to be named to a team are



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close in scores and they have signed up trying out for different positions, the one who selected a position that will best suit the remainder of the team would be given first consideration.

The goal is to announce team selection within 24 hours of the final tryout session, however, WHMHA reserves the right to extend this timeline at its discretion to accommodate any unforeseen circumstances.

U9 Placement Process:

- Follows recommendations and guidelines as per HNS-Minor Council Rules and Regulations.
- U9 players will attend 3 placement sessions, 1 skill based, 1 tactics based and 1 intersquad game.
- Players will be evaluated on their skating, stick handling and playing ability.
- Groups for the skill and tactics sessions will be organized alphabetically and according to the level of hockey played in the previous year (e.g. first alphabetically U9Adv, followed by U9Int, U9Dev, U7)
- After the 3 evaluation sessions, players will be assigned to either Advancing, Intermediate or Development.

Appeal Process:

If a Primary Caregiver wishes to appeal the level at which their child has been placed, the appeal can be made only on procedural grounds (e.g. the child was wearing #10 but was mistakenly marked as #15 on score sheet). Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Director of Hockey within 48 hours of the team selection being posted.

If an appeal is accepted, the Tryout Committee, led by the Director of Hockey, will review and resolve the issue. The committee's decision will be final.

Appeals questioning whether one player is better than another WILL NOT be considered by the WHMHA Board. Evaluation scores will remain confidential and will not be disclosed under any circumstances.



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Reminder to Parents:

WHMHA is committed to the best interests of all children and will maintain a zero-tolerance policy toward any aggressive behavior resulting from the tryout outcomes. We ask parents to always demonstrate respect throughout this challenging and demanding experience. Your cooperation is essential to creating a positive environment for everyone involved.