



Approved-April 11, 2025

# Blades Tryout Policy

## **1.0 Introduction**

North Durham Minor Hockey Association (NDMHA) will schedule ice time for tryouts for each Representative team. The schedule will be posted in advance on the NDMHA website with dates, times, teams, locations, and number of tryouts. Tryouts may be conducted in the spring and/or fall and are subject to OWHA/OHF Regulations and Seasonal Calendar

## **2.0 Purpose**

This Policy outlines the processes used to administer the NDMHA tryouts.

## **3.0 Tryout Guidelines**

### **Application**

- 3.1 NDMHA tryouts will follow OWHA Guidelines and the OHF Seasonal Calendar.
- 3.2 The Director of Coaches and Director of Representative Hockey and the Director of Women's Hockey will meet with the Coaches prior to the commencement of the tryouts to establish the NDMHA standard tryout procedures.
- 3.3 NDMHA will schedule tryouts ensuring OWHA/OHF minimum guidelines are met. NDMHA will collect the tryout fees for all tryouts. Tryout fees will be established and communicated each season.
- 3.4 NDMHA will be responsible for ensuring eligibility to attend tryouts and that registration for the tryouts is completed.
- 3.5 All players trying out for a Representative team must follow the NDMHA Registration process posted on the NDMHA website.
- 3.6 Players who previously played in another OWHA centre must provide a Permission to Skate (OWHA) Form from their Home or Previous Centre prior to skating at their first tryout.
- 3.7 Head Coaches are encouraged to provide a letter outlining their plan for the season including team goals and estimated team budget/costs for the year.
- 3.8 The Head Coach can release players after the 1st tryout and after every subsequent tryout.
- 3.9 If a player is not able to attend tryouts, he or she must obtain an exemption from the Head Coach and approval from the Representative Committee.

3.10 All Representative team players must try-out with their own age group. Players may also try out in the Next higher division as per OWSA Regulation.

### **Selection Process**

3.11 NDMHA will establish a Representative Committee. There will be one member of the committee at all tryouts. If a Head Coach has not been selected, the committee will choose the team and then the Coach Selection Committee will recommend a Head Coach.

3.12 The coach is required to have non-parent evaluators, both on and off the ice. A minimum of three (3) evaluators are needed.

3.13 All player offers and releases require the permission of the representative committee.

3.14 Players/goaltenders will be notified whether they have been selected to attend the next skate via the NDMHA website.

3.16 All players/goaltenders trying out for any team must remain on the ice for the entire tryout except in the case of illness or injury.

3.17 All players must attend and skate at least one tryout before an Offer of Commitment can be given, unless provided an exception as outlined in 3.17.

3.18 A Head Coach may select a player/goaltender that is not able to attend tryouts, if the Head Coach and the Representative Committee are satisfied that if the player/goaltender were able to attend the tryouts the player/goalie would be one of the players/goaltenders chosen to the team. The player must contact the Head Coach prior to tryouts to advise their absence. The coach must advise the Representative Committee of intent to select prior to final roster approval. Such as in the case of a player being injured and unable to skate.

3.19 Tryout performance is the key component of player selection. Past performance, specifically in regards to game play and commitment, can be used in the evaluation process if exhibition games are not part of the tryout. A full explanation is required in the player evaluations.

3.20 There should be no advantage or disadvantage to player selection as a result of; a) players and / or parents with whom the Coach has a personal relationship; or b) players and / or parents that have had issues with the Coach in the past. If there have been any past issues, and there are concerns, the Representative Committee should be advised prior to the tryout process.

3.21 To ensure a consistent level of development and in order to be economically feasible, a recommended team composition of 17 players, including goalies, is to be adopted. Coaches wishing to form a team outside of this number must advise and receive approval from the Representative Committee.

3.22 Players who have been selected and have accepted, through a signed offer of commitment and have registered in RAMP, who subsequently decides to quit the team for reasons other than injury or illness, are financially responsible for their individual share of all team costs (depending on the number of players on the team). Should a replacement player accept, in writing, on Offer of Commitment, the player who has left the team may be eligible to request a refund for their portion of Team fees from that date.

## **Residency**

- 3.23 The Geographic boundaries of the North Durham Blades (NDB) shall consist of the municipal boundaries of the Township of Uxbridge, the Township of Scugog and the Township of Brock and all players residing within these boundaries will be considered a NDB resident.
- 3.24 All players must register through RAMP and pay the registration fees as per NDMHA dates.
- 3.25 Grandfathered residents are residents who live outside the NDB boundaries but have completed the previous season as a player in the NDB.
- 3.26 Each Representative team may roster up to four non-residents, import players, at the Coaches discretion. If a team wishes to roster more than four import players they will require approval from the Representative Committee.
- 3.27 Any import player that is released from the NDB and rosters with another OWHHA Association shall immediately lose any grandfathered residency status previously held by that player within the NDB.
- 3.28 Any import player that leaves the NDB, and is not released and does not play hockey in the season(s) that they are not with the NDB shall not lose any grandfathered residency status previously held by that player within the NDB.
- 3.29 Any import player that leaves NDB and is not released and then plays hockey in the OHF, the FTHL or the OMHA for the season(s) that they are not with the NDB shall immediately lose any grandfathered residency status previously held by that player within the NDB.

## **Eligibility to Play in a Higher Division**

- 3.30 In exceptional circumstances, an underage player may be signed if they are assessed in the top three (3) players or top goalie on the older aged team. Whether the player is among the top players on the older aged team is to be determined by the Representative Committee and communicated to the Head Coach and player after the first tryout. The Head coach will only be advised if the player is eligible or not eligible. The Head Coach retains the right to player selection. If still eligible, the player must commit to one team before the third (2nd) tryout
- 3.31 Eligible Players may try out in one age group higher than their current age group and must be in their Major age division. All players must try out in their own age division as well in order to qualify for the higher age group tryouts and pay tryout fees for both age groups.
- 3.32 If player numbers will not justify the formation of a team at their own age level, players may try out for the next higher rep age division. The OWHHA policy is an "Under" policy whereby U9 is designated as 8 and under, U11 is 10 and under, U13 is 12 and under, U15 is 14 and under and U18 is 17 and under, there is no minimum age. Any underage player wishing to play on an older aged team for a second or subsequent year must meet the same criteria each year
- 3.33 The NDMHA Board reserves the right to oversee the tryout process.

## **4.0 Non-compliance Implications**

Non-compliance with this policy could result in, but not limited to;

- Failure of an eligible person to play on a NDMHA team.

- Removal of a selected player from his/her team within NDMHA
- Any Head Coach who does not follow any of the tryout selection process rules may face disciplinary action in the form of suspension or removal as the Head Coach.

#### **5.0 Questions about this Policy**

If anyone has questions/concerns about the policy, or the purpose of the policy they can be directed to the Director of Representative Hockey or the Director of Coaches for clarification.

**APPROVED BY THE NORTH DURHAM MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**