



Approved – April 18, 2024

Blades Tryout Policy

1.0 Introduction

North Durham Minor Hockey Association (NDMHA) will schedule ice time for tryouts for each Representative and Development Stream 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 NDMHA Registration process posted on the NDMHA website.
- 3.6 Players from other centres must provide Permission to Skate (OWHA) Form from their Home or Previous Centre prior to skating at their first tryout.
- 3.7 At the first tryout NDMHA will provide a letter that outlines the tryout process. A letter from the Head Coach will also be included with team goals and estimated team budget/costs for the year.
- 3.8 The Head Coach can release players after the 2nd tryout and after every subsequent tryout.
- 3.9 If a player is not able to tryout, he or she must obtain an exemption from the Head Coach and approval from the Representative Committee.

3.10 If a player who is required to tryout does not attend the first required tryout and the Head Coach is not prepared to grant an exemption, the Head Coach must attempt to contact the player's parents immediately following the first required tryout to advise them of the consequences of not trying out.

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

Selection Process

3.12 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.

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

3.14 The Head Coach is Responsible for player selection. Final Rosters are to be reviewed for approval by the Representative Committee prior to publication.

3.15 No players/goaltenders can be released until the end of the second tryout.

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

3.17 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.

3.18 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.

3.19 Tryout performance is the key component of player selection. Past performance, specifically in regards to game play, 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 If a Head Coach has offered 15 players rostered spots, exclusive of goalies, after the third tryout and a player subsequently declines a spot, the Head Coach, at their discretion, can fill that spot prior to the OWHA roster deadline of December 31st with another player who may or may not have attended tryouts.

3.22 If a Head Coach has not offered 15 players rostered spots, exclusive of goalies, and has spots available they may only offer a rostered spot to a player who did not attend tryouts after doing their own due diligence, including but not limited to viewing the player skate at another event or venue and with approval from the Representative Committee.

3.23 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.

3.24 Players who have been selected and have accepted, through a signed offer of commitment to play given to the coach or manager of a representative team, who subsequently decide 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

3.25 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.

3.26 All players and parents affiliated with the NDB must properly execute a NDB Registration Form and have registration fees paid per NDMHA dates.

3.27 Grandfathered residents are residents who live outside the NDB boundaries but have completed the previous season as a player in the NDB.

3.28 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.

3.29 Any import player that is released from the NDB and rosters with another OWHA Association shall immediately lose any grandfathered residency status previously held by that player within the NDB.

3.30 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.

3.31 Any import player that left 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.

3.32 Any import player who tries out for the NDB where that player's sibling has previously been granted residency status within the NDMHA shall be automatically Grandfathered for residency purposes.

Eligibility to Play in a Higher Division

3.33 In exceptional circumstances, an underage player may be signed if he or she is assessed in the top five (5) 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 second (2nd) skate. The Head coach will only be advised if the player is eligible or not eligible. The Head Coach retains the right to player selection.

3.34 Eligible Players may tryout in one age group higher than their current age group and must be in their Major age division. All players must tryout in their own age division to in order to qualify for the higher age group tryouts and pay tryout fees for both age groups.

3.35 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 OWHA 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

3.36 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