



Approved – April 11, 2025

Warriors Tryout Policy

1.0 Introduction

North Durham Minor Hockey Association (NDMHA) will schedule ice time for tryouts for each Representative, MD and Select 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 OMHA/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 OMHA Guidelines and the OHF Seasonal Calendar. Following the completion of AA tryouts, NDMHA will determine through participation and registration if there will be further tryouts at A/BB/B.

3.2 The Director of Coaches and/or Director of Representative 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 OHF/OMHA 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 can register for and begin at any level of tryouts that they choose.

3.7 Players who are registered for the Recreational program for the upcoming season are eligible to attend Select tryouts. Select players must register and purchase their tryout passport prior to attending tryouts.

3.8 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.

3.9 The Head Coach can release players after the 1st tryout and after every subsequent tryout.

3.10 If a player is not able to attend tryouts, they must obtain an exemption from the Head Coach and approval from the Representative Committee.

3.11 If a player does not attend the first tryout they should contact NDMHA before attending any future tryouts

3.12 All Representative team players must try-out with their own age group. At the "AA" level, players may also try out for a rep team in the Next higher division as per OMHA Regulation 3.6.

Selection Process

3.13 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.

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

3.15 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 Non-Resident Players may attend any North Durham tryouts according to the OHF Freedom of Movement and Open Border Policy. The number of NRPs will be limited to 4 at the AA level, and 2 at A, BB and MD, max 1 NRP goalie included in the total number. Coaches can make a request to the Board to increase the number of NRPs rostered to their team. Requests for additional NRP's must be made to the Representative Committee to be brought to the board. Requests must include input from the independent evaluators.

3.18 In all cases where 2 or more players are considered equal, coaches should select the local player over an NRP.

3.19 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 3.20.

3.20 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.

3.21 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.

3.22 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.

3.20 To ensure a consistent level of development and in order to be economically feasible, a team composition of 17 players will be adopted. Head Coaches wishing to form a team outside the 17 targets must seek prior Representative Committee approval.

3.21 U14 will follow the OMHA U14 tryout guidelines in regards to Body Contact.

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

3.23 Players who have been selected and have accepted by registering for the season in HCR; who subsequently decide to quit the team for reasons other than injury or illness, or making a higher level team (U18), 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.

Eligibility to Play in a Higher Division

3.24 NDMHA discourages the signing of underage players. In exceptional circumstances, an underage player may be signed if he or she is assessed in the top three (3) players or top goalie on the older aged AA team only. Underage players are not eligible for A or BB. 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 second tryout

3.25 Any underage player wishing to play on an older aged team for a second or subsequent year must meet the same criteria each year.

3.26 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

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