



Approved – April 18, 2024

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/C.

3.2 The Director of Coaches and 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 For all levels, players are required to attend tryouts for one level higher than they played in their last season hockey (e.g., if you played A, you must attend tryouts for AA, if you played C, you must attend tryouts for A). Any previous AAA players must attend tryouts starting at the AA level. NRP players are only eligible to attend tryouts at the AA level as per OMHA Regulations. Players interested in non-contract (BB) can choose to start at that level.

- 3.7 U8 players entering their U9 year must begin try outs at U9 MD Tier 1.
- 3.8 Players who were registered with House League during the previous season can register to tryout at any level, with the exception of U10 where players must start at the AA level. All players must register and purchase their tryout passport by the first night of the “AA” tryouts.
- 3.9 Players who are registering in 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.
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 The Head Coach can release players after the 1st tryout and after every subsequent tryout. U11, U10 and U9 must adhere to HC Player Pathway and offer 3 evaluation skates.
- 3.12 If a player is not able to tryout, he or she must obtain an exemption from the Head Coach **who will obtain** approval from the Representative Committee. If the player is required to tryout and refuses to do so, the player may be deemed ineligible to be rostered to another NDMHA Representative team.
- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 All Representative team players must try-out with their own age group. At the “AA” and “A” levels, players may also try out for a rep team in the Next higher division as per OMHA Regulation 3.6. Category “C” does not qualify.
- 3.15 Players from other centers must complete the online registration form and have an NRP passport from their home center with them prior to skating at their first tryout.

Selection Process

- 3.16 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.
- 3.17 The coach is required to have non-parent evaluators, both on and off the ice. A minimum of three (3) evaluators are needed.
- 3.18 Players/goaltenders will be notified whether they have been selected to attend the next skate via the NDMHA website.
- 3.19 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.

3.20 Players accepted as Non-Resident Players (NRP) must be considered impact players and validated by the Representative Committee. The minimum requirement is to be in the top 10 of evaluated skaters as justified by the Head Coach.

Maximum number of rostered "Non-Resident Players" (NRP) is three (3) per eligible team.

3.21 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.

3.22 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.

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

3.24 If a player attends "AA" or "A" tryouts and is selected for any of these teams they cannot decline and accept an offer from another NDMHA rep team. Offers of commitment must be returned to NDMHA within four (4) days.

3.25 All player releases require the permission of the representative committee. No Offers of Commitment can be handed out until after the final team has been posted to the website.

3.26 Players who have been selected and have accepted, through a signed offer of commitment to play given to the coach or manager of a rep 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.

Eligibility to Play in a Higher Division

3.27 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 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. If still eligible, the player must commit to one team before the third (3rd) tryout

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

3.29 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