



Blades Tryout Policy

APPROVED: September 7, 2021

1.0 Introduction

North Durham Minor Hockey Association will provide ice time for tryouts to each Representative and Development Stream team. The schedule will be posted in advance on the NDMHA website with teams, locations and number of tryouts. Tryouts may be conducted in the spring and/or fall and are subject to NDMHA programming and availability as per the OWHA.

2.0 Purpose

This policy is intended to outline the processes used to administer the tryout process leading to ultimate selection for those NDMHA players wishing to play on a Representative team.

3.0 Policy Statements

Application

3.1 At the first tryout the Association will provide a letter that outlines the tryout process. A letter from the Head Coach will also be included with team goals and expected costs for the year.

3.2 Fees for tryouts will be set by the NDMHA and posted on the NDMHA website prior to tryouts.

3.3 Players will be provided with a tryout jersey from the association to wear for the duration of the tryouts.

3.4 Players from other centers must provide a Permission to Skate (OWHA) Form from their home or previous center prior to skating their first tryout.

Selection Process

3.5 The Board of Directors will approve a North Durham Blades Committee (further referred to as the Blades Committee). There will be one member of the committee at all tryouts. The Coach will have only non-parent volunteers assisting with tryouts, both on and off the ice. Minimum of 3 non-parent evaluators are needed.

The Head Coach is responsible for picking all players. Final rosters are to be approved by the Blades Committee prior to release.

3.6 No players / goalies can be released until the end of the second tryout. No incumbent players / goalies may be released until the third try out. The Head Coach will notify players / goalies whether they have been selected or released from the team via the NDMHA website.

3.7 Any Head Coach who anticipates releasing more than 3 rostered players from the previous season's team must advise the Blades Committee at least 24 hours before doing so.

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

3.9 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.

3.10 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 Blades Committee should be advised during the tryout process.

3.11 A Head Coach may select a player / goalie who is not able to attend tryouts if the Head Coach is satisfied that if the player / goalie was able to attend the tryouts the player / goalie would be one of the players / goalies chosen to the team. The player must contact the Coach prior to tryouts to advise that he/she will be absent. The Coach must notify the Blades Committee of any intent to do so as soon as possible.

3.12 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 OWSHA roster deadline of December 31st with another player who may or may not have attended tryouts.

3.13 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 Blades Committee.

Residency

3.15 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.

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

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

3.18 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 Blades Committee.

3.19 Players accepted as import players are accepted at the Coaches discretion up to the maximum of four. Additional player can be considered if necessary, but are subject to approval by the tryout committee.

3.20 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.

3.21 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.

3.22 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.

3.23 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.

Underage Players

3.24 Underage players will be eligible to tryout one age group higher than their current age group and they must be a Major in their current age group. The Head Coach and the evaluation committee will assess the underage player.

The underage player must be assessed as an Impact Player in the top 5 players overall or top goalie in the higher age group and must be approved by the Blades Committee.

3.25 All Rep team players must tryout with their own age group. Players may also tryout for a rep team for the division that is one age division higher without prior Blades Committee approval.

3.26 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 17 and under, there is no minimum age. Any underage player wishing to play on an older aged team for a second or subsequent years must meet the same criteria each year.

General

3.27 With the exception of the approved coach only non-parent volunteers will assist with tryouts, both with on ice drills and off ice evaluations. Minimums of 3 evaluators are required.

3.29 The entire selection process will be subject to Blades Committee oversight. At any point a Coach may be asked by the Blades Committee to back up their decision process to ensure that the tryouts are run fairly and objectively.

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

3.31 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.

3.32 Under special circumstances any of the above noted rules may be waived or changed by a ruling of the Board of Directors.

4.0 Non-Compliance Implications

The Blades Committee will review non-compliance with this policy and appropriate action will be taken with Board approval. See policy statement 3.14.

5.0 Questions about this Policy

Questions or concerns about this Policy or its purpose can be directed to the Director of Women's Hockey or the Director of Representative for clarification.