

TRYOUT FORMAT

A Tryout Committee of Raters will evaluate each player. The internal raters will consist of Travel Director, coaches, and anyone the Travel Director determines is capable of objectively evaluating hockey skills of the players trying out at that level. In addition, STAHA will hire one external rater to rate players independently. The External Rater may be one of our Skills providers or anyone else that the Board determines is capable of independently evaluating the hockey skills of those participating in tryouts.

Any board member or volunteer involved with team selection, tryout evaluation, and/or tryout coordination must not have a player participating in that given level. If this situation does occur, the board member or volunteer must abstain from providing an evaluation of their child in the tryout process. In addition, that individual's rankings may be subject to review by the Travel Director for any abnormalities in evaluation of others.

Prior to the first tryout sessions, all players will be assigned a random number. Players will keep their tryout number with them and only return them at the conclusion of the tryout. It is the responsibility of the player/parent/guardian to ensure that they wear the same number for all tryout sessions. Numbers will be collected only at the conclusion of the tryout sessions.

MITES and SQUIRTS - Team selection will be determined by the player's numerical rating system. If the Board believes that "egregious errors" are made, they may vote to move a player.

PEEWEE and BANTAM - Team selection will be determined by a combination of the player ratings and by the subjectivity of the Head Coach. Subjectivity of the Head Coach will be used when two players are rated similarly. Head Coaches may use subjective choices to "fine-tune" his/her roster in the following manner: Coaches will only be allowed to make subjective choices from any of the bottom 5 rated players on a potential roster with any of the top 5 rated players on the roster below.

HIGH SCHOOL -Tryouts will be conducted by the team coaches. Depending on the number of players registered, team placement and position will be determined by the coach's evaluations. Midget Tryouts will be held in March & at the end of summer. Exact dates and times are TBD.

RATING / SCORES

All players at each level will receive a numerical grade for each skill which will then be tabulated. (i.e., 1 – 5). Raters will do their best to evenly distribute players among the five possible scores for each category: the bottom 20% of the player pool will receive a 1 rating, the top 20% of the player pool will receive a 5 rating, etc. At the conclusion of tryouts, each Rater should have a near even distribution of all possible scores (1-5) with roughly 20% of the player pool rated at each score.

Players will be rated on the following: Forward Start, Acceleration, Forward Skating, Backward Skating, Balance, Crossovers, Stopping, Turns, Shooting, Stick Handling, and Situational Play.

Note: The number of goals a player gets during scrimmage play does not necessarily mean he/she will receive a higher score for Situational Play. A player's Situational Play rating is based on his/her overall demonstrated knowledge of the game during the scrimmage portion of tryouts. Factors such as puck control, passing, shooting, back-checking, aggressiveness to the puck, ability to anticipate the play, and ability to be in position all contribute to the overall Situational Play Score.

SCORES AND TEAM PLACEMENT

At the conclusion of tryouts, scores will be tabulated by the Board and verified for accuracy. A numerical ranking will be established from highest rated player to the lowest rated player. The Board will determine the cutoff point and establish the appropriate number of teams and the team rosters, taking into consideration an equitable (not necessarily equal) number of players per roster.

Second year players will be given priority over first year players in the event that scores and evaluations are similar.

TEAM CREATION

The minimum number of kids per team will be no less than 10 players (number includes up to 2 goalies), with a maximum of no more than 18 (18 skaters, 2 goalies). This all depends on the number of players per level. The Board will review the maximum numbers based on number of players registered prior to tryouts. This number may be decreased based on numbers of skaters registered and number of team trying to be formed.

The numbers of teams per level and the number of players per roster will not be determined until after registration and tryouts. It is important that all players planning to play on a STAHA team attend tryouts. This helps us see the entire pool of players and create the most advantageous number of teams and team size. Final Teams will be posted on the Tahoe Grizzlies website as soon as possible but no later than one week after the final schedule tryout session.

SIBLINGS

Parent/Guardian of siblings that make different teams may request to have both siblings play together on the lower of the two teams. Parents may elect to leave siblings on two different teams. The Board will make every attempt to accommodate these requests however there may be some circumstances where this does not make practical sense. For example, if the skill difference is so great that dropping a sibling to a lower team would adversely affect all other players on the lower team, the Board may choose to deny the request.

ABSENT FROM TRYOUTS

Any player who is absent from tryouts will automatically be placed on the lowest team. Depending upon Availability, Coaches Input, Number of Players on a Team, and approval by the STAHA Board of Directors, a player may be moved up to a higher level. Skill level is considered only in situations where team placement would disrupt the overall make-up of the team. Special circumstance will be given special consideration. If a player cannot attend tryouts due to unavoidable circumstances, please notify in writing, the STAHA Board of Directors as soon as you become aware that they would miss tryouts. Your written communication should detail the specific reason(s) why he/she will miss tryouts along with any supporting documentation, including a doctor's note, travel itinerary, and/or other supporting evidence. The Board will evaluate the circumstances of each player's absence independently and make a determination on the best placement for him/her, taking into consideration all affected teams and players. If a goalie decides that they do not want to be goalie anymore, the absent from tryout rules apply.

Valid reasons for missing tryouts may include:

- Injury, illness, or other Medical Reason
- Planned vacations
- Important school events

Invalid reasons for missing tryouts may include:

- Trying out for Select Teams, Club Teams, and/or any other team.
- Last minute vacation plans.
- Participation in other sports activities – baseball, soccer, basketball, etc.
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DISCIPLINE

It should be noted that inappropriate behavior by a skater or parent on or off ice during the tryouts will not be tolerated and could eliminate a player for consideration on a STAHA Travel team. Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to penalty situations such as illegal checking, elbowing, tripping, and harassment of other skaters on or off the ice and use of foul language. All players must read and sign Players Code of Conduct found on the STAHA web site. This will be submitted as part of the registration process at tryouts for the upcoming season.

ALTERNATES

In years where team size allows, the Board *may allow* for Alternate Players and Goalies on the Squirt, Pee Wee, and Bantam levels. STAHA is under no obligation to offer alternate player spots on any team in any year and will only do so when it is in the best interest of the organization. The Board will review the need for alternate positions in late September prior to the start of the upcoming season.

GRIEVANCES

Any parent who has a concern with the selection process and/or a player's placement should contact the Travel Director. The STAHA Executive Board will then be consulted by the Travel Director.

We hope that this summary of the tryout and team selection process has been informative. We understand the frustrations that come up every year, as this process unfolds - it is not an exact science, and different people have different opinions about the relative talent of a group of players. **Please keep in mind that we are doing our best to evaluate your player and place them on the correct team that will allow them to improve as hockey players but more importantly to have fun.** Experience has shown that an individual player will achieve the most success and make the most developmental progress over the course of the season if that player is competing at the proper level for his or her ability.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact a STAHA Executive Board Member. **Do not contact the Head Coach.**