



**MEDFIELD YOUTH HOCKEY
Tryout Policy**

1. Mission Statement

Medfield Youth Hockey Association (“MYH”) has developed this tryout policy with a goal of creating a tryout process to provide players an equal opportunity to participate in drills and game-simulated scenarios, to allow players to compete directly and to be fairly evaluated for team placements, and to result in the placement of players on teams consistent with their skill levels.

2. Registration

All players must be registered with MYH and have paid the registration fee before the player will be allowed on the ice to participate in tryouts. The registration fee is non-refundable and non-transferable, except at the discretion of the MYH Board. All outstanding fees owed by the player for the prior season must also be paid in full before a player will be allowed on the ice to participate in tryouts.

3. Tryout Process

Each player is assigned a colored pullover/pinny, with a number, to be worn throughout the tryout process. Each player is identified only by color and the number on the pullover/pinny. The numbers are assigned randomly and the colors have no meaning.

The number of on-ice sessions per level may vary by level, but in no event will there be less than two (2) fifty-minute sessions for each level, with the exception of Mites where based on registration numbers/age level of participating Mites the MYH Board may only require one session. All levels will have a skills session and a scrimmage (game-simulation) session, with age-level appropriate drills.

If a player misses a session during tryouts, the player’s score from the session he/she attended will be used for the missed session, and/or the Coach’s evaluation may be used as a guide to assess the player’s level for that missed session. A player who does not participate in tryouts at all will be placed at the discretion of the Director of Coaching, with input from the coaches then coaching at the player’s level.

All players, except for goaltenders, will primarily be judged based on:

- Skating Ability – speed, agility, etc.
- Hockey skills - puck control; shooting skills; stick-handling skills; passing skills, etc.
- Game Situational Skills – overall hockey sense, competitive edge, etc.

Goaltenders: Goaltenders will be evaluated by an objective, goaltending specific evaluator with knowledge of the position. Depending on the number of goaltenders attending tryouts, special goaltender-only sessions may be arranged. Goaltending evaluation may not occur at or below the squirt level, as determined by the MYH board.

Girls Specific Teams (U8, U10, U12, U14): The MYH Board will determine on a year by year basis the need and appropriate tryout process related to any girl specific teams.

4. End of Year Player Evaluations

At the end of each season, and prior to the start of tryouts, the Head Coach of each team is asked to submit a written evaluation of each of their then current players and team. All coaches for a team are invited to participate in the evaluation of the players, but each team only submits one form signed by the Head Coach to the MYH President.

The evaluation form provides for the same scoring system (1 to 10 with 10 being the highest) used in the tryout process to evaluate the player's overall skills and characteristics. Coaches are encouraged to be candid in their comments about the strengths and weaknesses of individual players during this evaluation process. The evaluations are not used to rank the individual players for team placement, but are used as a tool to assist in making final player placements when necessary.

5. Evaluators and Drills

For the past several years and at the direction of the MYH Board, an outside organization has been hired to evaluate players for team placement. Currently, employees of Pro Ambitions, the largest youth hockey training organization in North America, are used as independent evaluators during the MYH tryout process.

The goal is to have 3 Evaluators for each level, and have the same Evaluators present at the skills session and the scrimmage session for each level, where possible. The exception to this is at the Mite level where the MYH Board may decide to use parent evaluators. In this case, parent evaluators will not have Mite aged children.

Pro Ambitions provides the level specific, age appropriate drills to be used during the skills tryout session to the Director of Coaching. The drills are communicated just prior to the start of each of the skills tryout session.

Evaluators will be instructed to rate the players on the skills provided, and each evaluator

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will be provided a pre-printed scoring sheet with instructions on the ratings (1-10 with 10 being the highest), which, as indicated above, is also the same scale used by the current year coaches when completing the end of year player evaluation form. The scoring sheet lists only the players' pinny numbers.

- **Coordinators** – MYH Coaches will serve as on-ice Coordinators for each level (i.e. Mites, Squirts, etc.) during tryouts. They do not have any input into the scoring and are on the ice to simply organize the drills/scrimmage at the direction of Pro Ambitions. The MYH President will collect the Evaluators' completed scoring sheets and input the scores for each player into the spreadsheet which is used to keep and sort all of the players' scores for the tryouts for that level.
- After the Skills tryout session has been completed the scores from that session are input and sorted by the President, the players with the 5 highest scores will be identified by the President. After consulting with the Director of Coaching and head coaches at that level, up to 5 of the top scoring players at the Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee and Bantam levels, as determined by this group, will be informed that they do not need to attend the Scrimmage tryout session. As a general rule, the player must rank in the top of 5 from the tryout session and also be one of the top five players from the coaching evaluations based on birth year. The goal of this is to balance the competition during the scrimmage sessions such that all players will be able to participate equally and be properly evaluated.
- **Separate Goalie try out-** Depending on the number of goaltenders attending tryouts, Goalies will have their own separate tryout conducted by an Evaluator who is a subject matter expert. Players planning to play goalie full-time should participate in the goalie tryout. Those planning to play goalie for a significant amount of time for the next year should attend both the goalie and player try outs.
- **Team Placement Meeting** – As a final step in the tryout and team placement process after the Skills and Scrimmage tryout sessions have been completed and the players' scores tabulated by the MYH President, a meeting will be held by the Director of Coaching, the MYH President and the Head Coaches for each age level of the current players and also age level for the following season (i.e. mite coaches will stay for squirt team placement meeting as that is the age group that some mites will graduate to). The purpose of this meeting is to review the team placement as determined by the tryout process and have the opportunity to obtain input from coaches. This meeting provides the Head Coaches with an opportunity to participate in the process and provide input for team placement. The Director of Coaching facilitates the discussion. Final team placement is determined by consensus of the participants at each age level.
- **Posting of Rosters-** Rosters will be posted on or about the first week of May. Rosters are not posted until this time so that all current teams can complete their team specific activities (playoffs etc.) prior to announcing next year's teams.

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A player's overall ranking is based on the player's cumulative score (i.e. total points) awarded for all tryout sessions, and a review of the player evaluation form from the current season's head coach.

The highest ranking players (i.e. highest points achieved) shall be placed on the "A" team, with the actual number of teams and the number of players per team dependent upon the players enrolled at each level. The goal is to have players grouped according to skill based on each player's overall ranking during the tryout process and input from current head coaches. In the event cumulative scores are the same and consensus cannot be reached during the team placement meeting - second year players will be given priority over first year players at any age level.

Note: MYH is a "no cut" program and the number of players on each team (A, B, etc.) can and will vary, depending on the number of registered players at each level.

The MYH Board of Directors has developed a process to evaluate players for team placement as described above. There are numerous ways that teams can be determined and none are perfect. The tryout process is subjective and human nature dictates that there will be differences of opinions. However, it is MYH's goal to place players on a team that most closely matches their hockey skill and ability.