



MYHA Try-out and Team Selection Guidelines

One of the most difficult and stressful times during the hockey season is the Tryout process...especially for parents! Research has shown that kids in many cases actually handle the pressure of tryouts better than parents do, making this time of the season a particularly nerve racking and potentially upsetting experience for all! This letter attempts to explain the tryout process for the Mentor Youth Hockey Committee and provide answers to questions especially for those parents who have not been through this process before.

Tryouts and team selection will be conducted in a fair and impartial manner under the direction of the Mentor Hockey Director. **An outside evaluating team will be scoring the players during tryouts.** MYHC will hold 3 try-out sessions.

The Mentor Youth Hockey Evaluations /Tryouts will take place on the following dates;

April 26, 2015	8:00am - 9:00am	Squirts A-K
	9:15am -10:15am	Squirts L-Z
	10:30am -11:30am	Peewees A-K
	11:45am-12:45pm	Peewees L-Z
May 4, 2015	6:00-7:30pm	Squirt Group 2
May 5, 2015	6:00-7:30pm	Peewee Group 2
May 6, 2015	6:00-7:30pm	Squirt Group 1
May 7, 2015	6:00-7:30pm	Peewee Group 1
	7:30pm-8:15pm	All Bantams
May 9, 2015	10:15am-11:15am	Squirt Group 2
	3:30-4:30pm	Peewee Group 2
May 10, 2015	12:00-1:00pm	Squirt Group 1
	1:15-2:15pm	Peewee Group 1
	3:15-5:15pm	All Bantams

All tryout fees must be paid prior to the player participating in the try-out process. Only players in good financial standing with MYHA, the City of Mentor and other youth hockey organizations affiliated with USA hockey and the Cleveland Suburban Hockey League will be permitted to try-out.

Each age group will perform 6 skill drills; 5 of the 6 drills are timed. Bantams will perform a total of 6 skill drills and one conditioning drill (all drills timed). In addition to the timed drills there will also be some additional skills drills to further evaluate skill level. All data from the skills evaluations will be calculated. This is when the split of groups will happen. Each Division will be split into 2 Groups.

Following the skills split, players will be scrimmage in their respective splits. The coaches, hockey director and independent evaluators will access the scrimmages and try to get as much data on each player as possible.

There will be two scrimmages. Players may move from one group to another and some players may be asked to scrimmage with both groups.

Same age groups will not scrimmage on consecutive nights

Scrimmages will be evaluated on a point system. Coaches' comments from the tryouts as well as coaches' comments from the previous year will be a factor when making a decision on teams. Coach's comments and evaluations will not be made public.

Teams and Team Composition

Teams will be comprised of no less than 10 skaters and 1 goalie. The final number of players will be determined by the Mentor Hockey Director and the coaching committee.

The number of teams will be determined based on number of players trying out, available ice time and talent level. Coaches may roster the allowable number of players per USA Hockey regulations (20). Coaches also have the option to 'double' roster players and/or designate substitute players.

Evaluators

Evaluators will rate player skills and ability as well as make suggestions to the head coach for final team selections. Independent evaluators will be used. Evaluators will use a standardized scoring system that will assess skating ability and hockey skills at each level during scheduled tryout sessions. The Hockey Director will select evaluators for a given level who do not have children trying out at that level. If an evaluator happens to have a child skating at that level, the evaluator is not allowed to score his own child. All skaters are given colored pinnies with numbers. Evaluation sheets are issued to the evaluators with pinnie colors and numbers only

Coaches, players or parents should not attempt to have any communication relative to the tryout process with evaluators during or after any tryout process or activity. Confirmed parent/player violations will result in the disqualification of said player from the selection at that level of hockey. A disqualified player will be eligible for the next lower level of play.

Player selection will consider the following factors and player traits

Aptitude Factor

Self control and Energy level
Individual skill
Foreword/Backward Skating
Transitional Skating
Stick-handling
Shooting
Passing
Game awareness
Team play
Positional play
Communication skills
Listening skills
Coach-ability
Creativity

Attitude Factor

Team focus
Sportsmanship
Maturity level
Ability to handle adverse situations
Enjoyment of the game
Response to positive reinforcement
Competitive intensity
Results oriented
Confidence
Positive
Motivation and dedication to the sport

Skating Up

“Skating up” is rarely good for the player and the association. It depletes the lower age teams and rarely makes the older team more competitive. Sometime it causes an older player to be displaced from a team. Parents and players who wish to skate up must clearly be at the top of their respective age group. Then a written request must be presented to the MYHC. The move must be from the highest level in one age group to the highest level in the next age group. Mentor Hockey Director has final say on players moving up.

Parents

Please avoid comments to the players or reactions to the players on ice. Remember the tryout process is a very small part of the hockey season. Take your time during tryouts to get to know the other parents and hopefully get involved with our booster club,

Selection

Players will be selected based on several intangible traits versus just stronger individual hockey skills. Hockey is a team sport and individuals with stronger skills but who are selfish can often be counterproductive to achieving team goals and upset team chemistry. Hockey is a long season and the right team chemistry (on and off the ice) is crucial to a successful program. Coaches will keep this in of mind when making team selections.

Parents

As we have said, tryouts are a very stressful time for both players and parents. Since your child will be busy working on the ice during this time, we ask that you to follow these simple “**stay**” rules during tryouts:

Rules for parents during tryouts:

1. **Stay** positive with your child at all times.
2. **Stay** away from the glass during tryouts. Parents and bystanders will be relegated to one section of the bleachers during the tryouts.
3. **Stay** focused on the big picture and trust that our goal is to put every child into the best opportunity for them to succeed, and have a fun season.
4. **Stay** away from talking about other players and parents comparing your child to other children. This can only cause negative or hurt feelings.
5. **Stay** with the program and help your child have a great season!
6. **Stay** away from the sentence, “my kid played on the A team last season”, players change a lot in terms of size, speed, desire, and strength during the Peewee and Bantam years. A lot can change from year to year and NO One’s position is guaranteed! Just because they made an A team or a B team one season does not guarantee they will the following year. Last season is last season!

Player Commitment

A Player’s Commitment assessment, as specified by his or hers previous seasons’ coaches, will also be used as a critical factor in final player placement. A player’s commitment to the program, and, more specifically, their team, is oftentimes over-looked or taken for granted.

The head coaches will work together with the Mentor Hockey Director on team composition.

The head coach will utilize a mix of evaluator recommendations, and coaches' insights to make team selections.

Only the Mentor Hockey Director has the right to suspend or remove a player from the roster whose actions are deemed abusive, violate team policies or are detrimental in any way.

Commitment to Program

Once tryouts are concluded, Parents' and Players' have 1 week to make their commitment to their teams. This is done by filling out the Player Commitment Form and returning it with payment. Deadline is June 3, 2015.

In the event a player is not selected for a team, the Mentor Hockey Director and Coaching Committee will make an effort to explain as to why a child did not make a team. Parents may file an appeal.

Appeal Process

Appeals will be handled by the Mentor Youth Hockey Committee. All appeals must follow a 24 hour waiting period after the team selection. After the 24 hour waiting period appeals will be accepted in writing only and may be emailed or dropped off to the Mentor Hockey Director, wyse@cityofmentor.com. Deadline is May 26, 2015.

Any appeal before the 24 hours after team selection will result in that appeal being automatically denied. Parents must then set an appointment to meet with the Mentor Hockey Director.

Decisions on appeals will not be made until the next Mentor Youth Hockey Committee meeting. Parents who allow their child to tryout for other teams during Mentor Youth Hockey tryouts or during their appeal process will have their appeal immediately denied. Mentor Hockey Director has the final say on all decisions.