

WMHA 2022-23 TRYOUT POLICIES

The Association will provide ice time for a reasonable number of tryouts to each team. The Association will collect the tryout fees for all tryouts.

WMHA expects all iced assigned for tryouts will be used for the assigned tryouts. A Head Coach should not plan an away exhibition game at the same time as ice provided by the Association. If a Head Coach is only able to schedule an away exhibition game during a time provided by WMHA they must speak with the Rep Director to discuss for approval

It will be the responsibility of the Association, not the team, to ensure that every player attending a tryout is registered with the Association.

At the first tryout, every Head Coach must provide a letter that outlines the tryout process, evaluation criteria and the anticipated costs for the season.

Players who played on an A team the previous season must try out for the AA team in their division to be eligible to play on the A team. Players who played on a AAA or AA team the previous season must tryout out for the AAA team in their division and, if released, the AA team to be eligible to play on the A team. If the Head Coach has a child playing in the Division and Category in which he/she will be coaching, the child must try out to be eligible to play on the team – unless approved by the Rep Committee with an accredited medical note to support they are unable to play.

If a player is looking for an exemption to tryout, he or she must obtain the Player Exemption Form, from the VP of Rep. The VP of Rep will communicate with the Head Coach. If the player is required to tryout and refuses to do so, the player cannot be rostered to any Rep team. If requested, the Executive Committee will review any decision of the Rep Committee not to grant an exemption.

If requested, any player who is unable to attend a WMHA tryout as a result of a faith-based holiday should notify the respective coach and appropriate Rep Director. WMHA will honour such requests for exemption for the recognition of faith-based holiday.

For all tryouts from U14 to U16, the 1st tryout would exclude the current level and one level below from the previous season. All other players wishing to try out for that level must attend the 1st tryout. After the 1st tryout the Head Coach will determine the players to invite to proceed to the 2nd tryout, but must invite a minimum of 5 players, excluding goalies. The current level and one level below players from the previous season will start at the 2nd tryout, along with the selected invitees from the 1st tryout. The Head Coach can release players after the 2nd tryout and after every subsequent tryout. For example – AAA and AA players are excluded from the 1st AAA tryout as they will start at the 2nd tryout

The tryouts for all U18 teams will proceed without any exclusion. For U18, the Head Coach can release players after each tryout.

The Rep Committee, along with the Coach Mentor(s), will meet with coaches prior to the commencement of tryouts to establish some standard procedures and reporting requirements.

All Head Coaches must maintain an individual "report card" for every player invited to attend the final tryout for any team. Head Coaches may, but are not required to, use the WMHA Player Evaluation Report.

Players may be released following exhibition games played both at home and outside of Whitby.

Following the final tryout, letters will no longer be used to notify players successful or unsuccessful in making the representative team they are trying out for. Final roster selections will be posted on the WMHA website using helmet sticker numbers.

The Head Coach must discuss with the appropriate Rep Director after the 2nd tryout the potential changes they are looking at. Any Head Coach who anticipates releasing more than 5 players from the previous season's team must receive approval from the applicable Rep Director at least 24 hours before doing so. The Rep Director will review with the Rep Committee for approval.

For the 2022/2023 season tryouts, if a Head Coach, at any Division (U10 – U16), plans to drop a current WMHA player more than one Category, the Head Coach must discuss with the Rep Director, for approval, in advance. The Rep Director will review with the Rep Committee for approval.

In the event a player is injured (prior to the commencement of, or during, the tryout process), a discussion between the Head Coach, VP of Rep, Player Development and appropriate Directors will take place to decide that players team placement.

The Rep Committee will identify teams for which a Player Selection Panel will be used to operate the tryout and select the players to roster for the upcoming season. The Rep Committee will establish a Player Selection Panel for each identified team, with an uneven number of members on each panel. The Rep Committee will identify someone to lead each panel. If a Head Coach has been selected for the team, the Head Coach would participate as a member of the panel and would have equal input into player choices along with every member of the panel. If a Head Coach has not been selected, the team will be chosen by the Player Selection Panel. In the absence of a Head Coach on the Player Selection Panel, the Panel Lead would perform the Head Coach functions during the tryout.

Anyone used to assist the Head Coach in the selection of a Rep team must be approved by the Rep Committee prior to the commencement of their respective tryouts. Any team using non-approved individuals will result in the individual being removed from the arena and the coach will then have the team selected for them by a selection panel appointed by the Rep Committee.

Players who have been selected and have accepted, through a signed offer of commitment to play given to the coach of a rep team, who subsequently decide to quit the team, are financially responsible for their individual share of all team costs (depending on the number of players on the team) from the time that they have accepted to be on the team to the time that a replacement player accepts, in writing, the offer of commitment to play. The team Manager/Treasurer will work with the WMHA Treasurer to determine this amount. Any income generated from fundraising activities either individual or through team events, while the player was part of the team, will be the

exclusive property of the team. Any donations or sponsorship money given to the team while the player is part of the team will be considered the property of the team. The exiting player will not be entitled to claim any part of that money, product, or service.

The Tryout Schedule and Process is managed on the WMHA Website. Players are required to register for Tryouts by purchasing a Tryout Passport through the WMHA website.

There are to be no parents assisting during the Tryout process, either on or off the ice.

It is highly recommended that Head Coaches do not participate in the on-ice portion of the Tryouts. The expectation is that the coaches within the division will support each other's tryouts. For instance, during the AAA tryouts, the AAA coach and ideally the AA head coach will be evaluating off-ice while the A coaches run the on-ice tryout. For AA, the AAA coach should be coordinating the on-ice tryout while the AA and A coaches evaluate off-ice, so on and so forth.

PLAYER EVALUATIONS

Coaches within their division are expected to work together in the evaluation and selection process. The Evaluation process of current players will begin once coaches for teams are announced, typically in January. Tryouts are one of several important evaluation components in selecting players. Other components include observing a player's development path throughout the prior season, including games and practices, as well as ongoing collaboration with other age group coaches.

The objectives of Player Evaluation during the Tryout process are to provide a fair and impartial assessment of a player's total hockey skills during individual technical skills demonstrations, as well as scrimmage sessions. We must ensure that all players have a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a team appropriate to their skill level as determined by the head coach.

Coaches are provided with the opportunity and flexibility to build a team based in part on their own coaching philosophy, and to form teams that will maintain balanced and competitive play, where the players can develop and participate equitably, while having fun playing hockey.

PERMISSION TO SKATE (PTS), WAIVERS, AND RELEASES

During Tryouts it is very important that Coaches understand what Permission to Skate (PTS) Forms, Waivers, and Releases are and how they impact their team. It is the responsibility of the Coach to ensure that any player attending their Tryouts who require additional paperwork to do so have obtained and presented the required forms. Any PTS Forms, Waivers, or Releases gathered at your Tryout are to be submitted to the WMHA Office, regardless of whether the player that provided it makes your team or not. Questions regarding a PTS, Waiver, and Release requirements should be directed to the VP of Rep or the WMHA GM.

Rosters

All Rep teams are directed to roster a minimum of 17 players, including two goalies. Any deviation from the required minimum must be approved by the Rep Committee.

All teams must submit their WMHA Player Roster within 24 hours of selecting the team.

No team, with the exception of U14 AAA, U15 AAA, U16 AAA and U18 AAA, will be permitted to sign a non-Whitby Resident without the approval of the VP of Rep.

U14 AAA, U15 AAA, U16 AAA and U18 AAA will be permitted to sign non-Whitby Resident players once approval from the Rep Committee is granted. Each case will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis.

AAA Waivers

In accordance with OHF Policy, AAA waivers may be granted to U10 to U13 WMHA players who have tried out at the AAA level and were not selected for the team. To receive a waiver, the player must attend AAA tryouts and be found not suitable for the team. The Association is under no obligation to grant waivers to players who do not attend the AAA tryouts.

Underage Players

Underage AAA Players/Goaltenders: Feedback will be sought, each season, from the following groups to support any decision to roster an underage player to a WMHA AAA team:

- Head Mentor
- Rep Directors for the underage age group and “of age” age group
- VP of Rep
- Current Rep Head Coach / Following Season’s Head Coach
- Development Director/Development Committee
- Try Out Evaluators

This panel will apply the following criteria to support any decision to roster an underage player to a WMHA AAA team during tryouts at any age group:

- Player must be ranked as a top 3 forward or a top 2 defence, in terms of overall skill, on the older team
- Goalie must be ranked as top 1 in terms of overall skill, on the older team

Due to the high demand for Representative Programming in the WMHA, no AAA team will be permitted to carry more than 1 (one) underage player.

U14 AND OLDER TEAMS

Tryouts for U14 and older will be held beginning the first Monday following the OHF Championships (typically mid-April), as per OHF Regulations. In order to retain a player, the team must present the player with an Offer of Commitment before the end of the 4th day of Tryouts.

APRIL TRYOUT CALENDAR						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Weekend 1: OHF Championships		
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Weekend 1: OHF Championships	AAA – Day 1	AAA – Day 2	AAA – Day 3	AAA – Day 4	AAA – Day 5	AAA – Day 6
				<i>In order to retain a Player, the team must present the Player an Offer of Commitment before the end of the fourth day.</i>		
Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13
AAA – Day 7	AA – Day 1	AA – Day 2	AA – Day 3	AA – Day 4	AA – Day 5	AA – Day 6
				<i>In order to retain a Player, the team must present the Player an Offer of Commitment before the end of the fourth day.</i>		
Day 14	Day 15	Day 16	Day 17	Day 18	Day 19	Day 20
AA – Day 7	A – Day 1	A – Day 2	A – Day 3	A – Day 4	A – Day 5	A – Day 6
				<i>In order to retain a Player, the team must present the Player an Offer of Commitment before the end of the fourth day.</i>		
Day 21	Day 22	Day 23	Day 24	Day 25	Day 26	Day 27
A – Day 7						

All Rep Players selected during Spring Tryouts must be registered for the season by no later than June 15th.

THERE CAN BE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY!

U13 and younger teams will not be selected until Fall Tryouts.

U13 AND YOUNGER TEAMS

Tryouts for U11 and younger will be held beginning the first Monday following the start of school in September. As per the Canadian Player Pathway, skills sessions will be offered prior to the formal Tryouts beginning—evaluations will not be completed at these skates.

Once Tryouts begin, a minimum of three (3) sessions will be required before any cuts can be made or any offers be presented. In order to retain a player, the team must present the player with an Offer of Commitment before the end of the 4th day of Tryouts.

Any players selected during Fall Tryouts *must first register and purchase a passport prior to tryouts. THERE CAN BE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY!*

SEPTEMBER – U11 and U13

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Labour Day	Prep Phase Start			AAA Prep Phase Ends	AAA Tryout Phase Start	AAA - Day 2
Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13
AAA - Day 3	AAA - Day 4 **In order to retain a Player the Team must offer a Player Registration by the end of the fourth day.	AAA - Day 5	AAA - Day 6	AAA – Day 7 Tryout Phase Ends	AAA – Development Phase Start	
				AA & Below Prep Phase End	AA Tryout Phase Start	AA - Day 2
Day 14	Day 15	Day 16	Day 17	Day 18	Day 19	Day 20
AA - Day 3	AA - Day 4	AA - Day 5	AA - Day 6	AA – Day 7	AA Development Phase Start	
					A & Below Tryout Phase	A & Below – Day 2
Day 21	Day 22	Day 23	Day 24	Day 25	Day 26	Day 27
				U11 and U13 AAA Tournaments may begin		
A - Day 3	A – Day 4	A – Day 5	A – Day 6	A – Day 7	A Development Phase Starts	
Day 28	Day 29	Day 30	Day 31	Day 32	Day 33	Day 34
				U11 and U13 AA and below Tournaments may begin		