

Overview

WCYHA holds tryouts and team placement in the spring for several reasons. First, it allows families to focus on enjoying summer vacations and getting their kids back to school without the added complexity of hockey tryouts. It also makes it easier and more efficient for the WCYHA Board to manage the extensive administrative needs of the program. Having an understanding as to the number of teams aids in purchasing ice time, selection of coaches, scheduling of practices, declaration of tier designations, etc. Lastly, this is more consistent with the direction of Connecticut Hockey Conference and other programs.

With the adaptation and the introduction of the Major / Minor and Split Squad format at all levels the idea is to put the athlete in the best position to compete and succeed. The purpose of tryouts is to evaluate a player's skills, instinctive feel for the game, commitment and teamwork in order to place him or her on a team that will provide the best environment to maximize player development, improve self-confidence, allow for enjoyment of the game of ice hockey and for WCYHA to form competitive teams.

WCYHA has developed a tryout process that intends to place players on teams matching their individual skills and competitive level. We recognize that players develop at different times and intervals. Some players will develop the most from being one of the top players and driving the team flow. Some players will develop the most from being one of the lower players and having to step up their level of play. In evaluating players and making team selections, we attempt to account for these factors. The goal is to build teams that consist of players with similar abilities and drive, in a competitive atmosphere, while fostering skills development.

Parents' support of both their child and the program are critical components in a child's understanding of tryouts and ultimate motivation for enjoying hockey. It is important for parents and players to understand that the highest level team is not always the best fit for a player. Parents should not assume that if their child was on a higher level team the previous year that they will automatically be placed on a higher level team the following year. WCYHA will continue to work very hard to ensure that every player is set up for success and is in a position to have fun competing in the great sport of hockey.

Tryout / Registration

All participants must be registered and paid through the WCYHA website prior to tryouts. Try out fees are \$100.00 for Goalies at all levels, \$125.00 for Mites and Squirts, and \$150.00 for all Pee Wees and Bantams and are not refundable. All participants must check in at the registration table on all night of

tryouts. WCYHA pinnies will be handed out to each participant and will be collected directly following the final tryout. They must be worn at all times. Tryouts will take place at the Danbury Arena. PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY.

Parents are welcome to attend tryout but must be seated in the stands only and may not cheer, shout encouragement etc. Anyone in violation of the above may be asked to leave the rink area.

Attendance Requirements

All players are expected to attend all tryouts. At minimum, a player must attend at least one tryout (Mites) and two tryouts (Squirt-Bantam) to be placed on a team. Failure to attend all tryouts will be weighed in the selection process. If a returning player cannot attend spring try-outs but does plan to return and play for the Jr. Colonials in the fall, they must communicate this to the board prior to tryouts and request a "Special Case" placement (as described below) or be placed via the Missed Try-Out process. A team placement / registration fee of \$150 will be charged.

Tryout Process

Every effort will be made to provide a fair and consistent approach to the tryout process. There will be a group of qualified external evaluators grading each level. The evaluators will have a list that will have an assigned number with no names. There will also be one or more on-ice coaching instructors who will not be doing any evaluations. Their function is only to assist with the various on-ice drills and scrimmages.

Players will be evaluated on the following selection criteria skill areas and weighting on individual skills will be dependent on individual division groups as defined by the USA Hockey Division Skill Level guidelines for Mite, Squirt, PeeWee and Bantam. Players must meet a minimum criteria to be placed on a team.

Skating, passing and receiving, stick handling, shooting, play making, along with game situations to determine positional play, competitiveness and stamina will be evaluated. In addition Goaltenders will also be evaluated based on their skill in making saves and controlling rebounds. Goaltenders (Squirts-Bantams) will be evaluated on ice by Pro Crease Goaltending.

Team Placement

After tryouts are completed, the evaluators will discuss the results with a subcommittee of the WCYHA Board consisting of the President, Coaching Director and Vice President of Hockey Skills Development. The committee will analyze all pieces of data including: try-out results, previous season evaluations, input from the previous year's coaches and head coaches for the upcoming season, to make determinations on player placement. In the event of similar results preference will be given to returning WCYHA players.

On occasion there may be an excessive amount of player registration in a particular age or team bracket. Every effort will be made to place all players up to the maximum number allowed by CHC team registration rules. Teams will consist of no more than twenty (20) players (including two (2) goalkeepers). The Board will determine the minimum amount of players for each team based on organization needs.

Committing to a Roster Spot

You will be notified with your team placement within 72 hours of the last day of tryouts. A signed commitment letter and a non-refundable commitment fee of \$750.00 for any Major/Minor or Split Squad team will be required within 48 hours of notification in order to secure a spot on any Major / Minor or Split Squad team. A signed commitment letter and non-refundable commitment fee of \$500.00 for any Mite team will be required within 48 hours of notification in order to secure a spot on the Mite team. While WCYHA will send reminders out before and after tryouts regarding the commitment fee due date, WCYHA will not be following up with individual families to collect monies. If commitment fee payment is not received within 48 hours WCYHA will assign your position on the team to another player. In the event that spots remain open and you do not secure a spot within 48 hours a late commitment fee of \$100.00 will be assessed.

2018-2019 Fees

Mite Development NO travel or game play \$1,000, Mite Major/ Minor \$1,500, Squirt Major / Minor \$2,550, Pee Wee Major / Minor \$2,650, All Bantams \$2,750, All Split Squads \$2,300.00. Squirt-Bantam goalies will receive a \$500.00 discount to the above tuitions. Tuition must be paid in full by the start of practice subject to the final computer generated payment date. No one will be allowed to take the ice if they have an outstanding balance.

Fees include two (2) practices per week, games and team tournament fees, yearend banquet for players, IPH Training Sessions, and practice jersey and socks. Squirt, Pee Wee, and Bantam will receive weekly goaltender training by Pro Crease Goaltending. Game jerseys, pant shells and socks are an additional

fee. "Western Wear" will also be offered for your purchase via our online store throughout the season. Tournament travel and accommodations will be at your own expense.

Player Commitment

All players are expected to make every practice, game, and tournament unless sick, injured, or a significant family commitment. Limited attendance at practice may affect playing time in games and tournaments and will be taken into consideration for placement the following season.

Special Cases

In situations where players miss all try-out sessions because of injury, medical condition, family emergency or other unforeseen last-minute circumstance special case status can be granted by the Board and is available only to returning players. After a player receives Special Case Status the Board will place the player on the appropriate team at their discretion. It is incumbent on the player and his family to communicate with the board in a timely fashion regarding circumstances that occur around planned participation in try-outs. To receive "Special Case Status" the player must have been registered for try-outs, (unless the injury or medical condition was communicated to the Association beforehand).

Missed Try-out

This policy applies to players that do not participate in try-outs but are looking for a spot on the roster after try-outs. There are four situations where this can occur: 1) a player moves to our area; 2) a local player seeks to move to a new organization; 3) a local player seeks to play travel hockey for the first time; and 4) a returning player misses try-outs but does not have "special case" status.

Players who miss try outs will be evaluated by coaches and placed on the respective Major / Minor team providing they meet the minimum criteria and there is availability. If a roster spot is not available, players will be added to our wait list. Movement to a higher level team is not guaranteed and will only be considered as described in the team placement section of this document.

All "special case" and missed tryout players are responsible for payment of the applicable try-out fee plus a \$50 Late Fee.

Communications

The WCYHA Board fully understands that questions may arise after tryouts and will address any questions or concerns in a timely manner. Please be reminded that in terms of Board Members and Committees this is an all-volunteer organization. All communications should be directed to president@jrcolonialshockey.org. At no time should anyone be contacted by phone unless otherwise directed to do so.