

SYHA Travel Team Families,

Here we go! Tryouts for the Mite through Bantam travel divisions are right around the corner! On behalf of the entire board, I would like to welcome back all of our returning families and extend a warm welcome to our new players, families, and coaches. We look forward to a very successful 2017-18 season.

Tryouts tend to be one of the most stressful times during the hockey season – *especially for parents!* The purpose of this email is to walk through the philosophy, goals, and procedures associated with the SYHA tryout process.

Our tryouts are designed to ensure that each player is placed on the team that will allow them to best develop their hockey skills at an appropriate pace while having a positive playing experience.

While there is no such thing as a “perfect” tryout, Simsbury Youth Hockey is confident that our time-tested process is well structured, objective, and fair. Our Coaches – Mites to Midget, travel and house – possess the finest qualities of sportsmanship and player development. Our Head Coaches are selected by a committee comprised of the Director of Coaches, the Vice President of On-Ice Operations, and the appropriate Division Director.

PRESEASON

Over the past few months it has been great to see so many of our SYHA families taking advantage of our Spring Open Hockey and Summer Skills Clinics.

In a continued effort to “get the rust off the skates”, we will once again offer free and voluntary **Preseason Skating Sessions** and **Robby Glantz Power Skating Clinics**. Pre-Season Skating Sessions will be run by an SYHA Coach and players can once again enjoy the expertise of Robby Glantz, Power Skating Coach and Consultant to the NHL. Players are not evaluated at Preseason Skating or Robby Glantz Sessions.

Click on [2017-18 Preseason, Robby Glantz, and Tryout Schedule](#) to view the upcoming schedule.

TEAM PLACEMENT

The Evaluation Team consists of the A Team Coach and 2 – 4 evaluators who have no association to the division. The President, Vice President of Operations, Director of Coaching, and Division Director provide organization and oversight throughout the entire team placement process.

To further ensure objectivity, evaluators are provided with a scoresheet including ONLY the pinney colors and numbers that are assigned to players each night. On the first night of tryouts, skaters will be evaluated against other players in their birth year, with goalies participating in both sessions. On nights two and three, skaters and goalies will be assigned to sessions based on their evaluation scores. Session assignments will be posted on the website.

Again, we aim to place each child in the most beneficial situation – where it will be most enjoyable and where their confidence as hockey players continues to grow. Players who are not assigned to a travel team will be placed in the house program. We make every effort to communicate final team placements as quickly as possible after tryouts are over, however, we’ll take the time needed to ensure we achieve that goal and that process may take several days.

For more information to help kick off the season, please review the SYHA [Tryout Policy](#), which also includes general evaluation criteria, the [SYHA Division Policy](#) for insight on the composition of teams, and our [Playing Time Policy](#) for skaters and goalies. All policies can be found on our website.

When the season begins, each travel division will have two team practices per week. For players looking to further develop their skills, we look forward to offering optional **Skating Skills Clinics** and **Goalie Skills Clinics** throughout the season. More information and the Skills Clinics schedule will be provided soon.

Last, please be reminded that the second installment registration fee for all travel players is due by September 15th, with final season payment due on November 1st. Click on [2017-18 Fee Schedule](#) for more information.

We wish you and your player a rewarding and fun filled season! I hope this information helps to prepare your family for tryouts and proactively answers some questions you might have.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any Board Member for more information.

Sincerely,

Paul Melanson, SYHA President