

Altoona Youth Hockey Association

Policy/Procedure: **TRYOUTS and TEAM ASSIGNMENTS**

The Altoona Youth Hockey Association (AYHA) is a member of the Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association (WAHA) and seeks to manage our programs according to WAHA guidelines as implemented by the AYHA Board of Directors and its committees.

1. Both boys and girls are invited to participate in the AYHA program.
2. Team registration is based on a child's age as of December 31.
 - Mites – 8 yrs and under on or before Dec 31
 - Squirts – 10 yrs and under on or before Dec 31
 - Peewee – 12 yrs and under on or before Dec 31
 - Bantam – 14 yrs and under on or before Dec 31
 - U8 Girls - 8 yrs and under on or before Dec 31
 - U10 Girls – 10 yrs and under on or before Dec 31
 - U12 Girls – 12 yrs and under on or before Dec 31
 - U14 Girls – 14 yrs and under on or before Dec 31
 - U16 Girls – 16 yrs and under on or before Dec 31
 - U19 Girls – 19 yrs and under on or before Dec 31
 - High School – Enrolled in high school (Varsity program is governed by the athletic code of the WIAA).
3. Our Mini-Mite program(s) are designed to offer instruction to the youngest skaters and to all skaters up to age 10 if they have not participated in organized hockey previously. We encourage families to make use of Open Skate time for these younger skaters.

Tryouts/Team Assignments

The WAHA assigns local member hockey organizations to a level based on organization size and competitive history. Generally, organizations begin at the lowest Division and then move up to higher divisions when reviewed periodically. These designations control state tournament play and may be used as guidelines for other tournaments.

Each local hockey organization must register a team at its highest level before it can register another team at a lower level. AYHA is in Division 3. Generally, we seek to have two teams at each age level – a “3A” team and a “3B” team. These teams are selected through a tryout process. Players are ranked by a panel of judges during the tryouts to form an A team and a B team at each level.

AYHA currently uses the services of **at least** three local, or out of town individuals, who are experienced hockey players as its tryout panel of judges as approved by the Board.

Jerseys, with **numbers** only, will be provided for tryouts. NO parent of any skater shall be involved in his/her child's process. No parent will be a judge or be an on-ice leader of his/her child. A parent can participate in the tryout process of other age group tryouts. IE: A parent of a Mite will NOT have anything to do with the tryout process at the Mite level. However, if this parent is qualified to help in the tryout process for the Bantam level, he/she is able to do so. Spectators are allowed; however, spectators are restricted to the bleachers or concession area.

1. Prior to tryouts, the AYHA Board will meet in open session to review the number of skaters registered at each level to discuss team size for the upcoming season. **Coaches and parents are invited to this meeting to provide suggestions and observations concerning issues which may affect the relative size of teams at each level.** This will include a discussion of the number of goalies available at each level. Considerations for team size may be both quantitative and qualitative.
2. Following the open meeting, the Board will set target numbers for team size at each level. The committee shall base its considerations on the number of skaters who are fully registered. As mentioned previously, we generally seek to have two teams at each age level. Additional considerations may include skaters waived for emergency reasons or goalies who may wish to try out as skaters as well.
3. Evaluation forms and drills to be used at tryouts will be available in hard-copy, or on-line, for review by skaters and parents, prior to tryouts.
4. Tryout activities may take place during, in conjunction with, or after, the first of the year "in-house" practices. If possible, or if necessary, goalie tryouts should include some observation of goalies during scrimmage activities away from official tryouts. This is to assure that goalies are not selected solely on the basis of drills. When necessary, in order to give goalies an opportunity to try out as skaters during the rest of the weekend, we'll seek to conclude goalie tryouts and inform goalies of their rankings before the team tryouts.
5. Due to the special role and preparation of goalies, the Association periodically may make exceptions to its team assignment rules in order to assure that each team is provided with a goalie. Goalies may be allowed to "play up" at a higher age level with the approval of their parents/guardians and the AYHA Board, if the Board believes it is in the best interest of the Association to permit this movement.

6. Any skater unable to attend tryouts due to extraordinary emergency reasons must contact the Board prior to the beginning of the tryouts. The Board will decide when attendance may be waived. During the tryouts, the Board will review the excused skater's past performance and previous team assignments. If these factors overwhelmingly indicate placement on the A team, the Board may assign the excused skater accordingly. No assignment to the B team may be made at this time unless requested by the family, and no automatic "opening" if left on the A team. If no assignment is made at this time, the decision will be postponed until the skater can return to the ice. At that time, the Board will meet with the A & B coaches at that level. They will review the skater's progress and abilities and make a decision as to placement on the A team or on the B team. In the event a skater is not able to return to the ice by the time State rosters are due, the skater will be placed on the B team roster for state tournament play.
7. All high school players attending a school within the WIAA district may try out for the HS Varsity team. However, if they are not selected for the varsity team and have remaining Bantam level eligibility, they may play at the Bantam level.
8. Some skaters prefer to be assigned to the B team at their level. All registered skaters are welcome to participate in the tryouts, **even if they do not want to be considered for the A team**. In that event, however, families must notify the Board before team assignments are made or the skater will be considered for the A team placement.
9. Immediately following the conclusion of each team level tryout, the panel will present its rankings and team assignments to the association President and team Coaches. Results of the tryouts will be given to the Coaches who will then contact players on their roster. Results of the tryouts will be posted after everyone has been notified of their team assignment.
10. AYHA understands that there can be controversy when children are required to tryout for any team. It is possible that you may be dissatisfied with the outcome of tryouts; tryouts are honestly and fairly done with great care and supervision. After the evaluations are done and teams are determined, the evaluation forms can **ONLY** be viewed by the skaters' parents. Parents are **NOT** allowed to see other skaters' evals. Anyone has the right to disagree with the results; however, as long as the evaluations are done in good faith, they will be final.
11. The AYHA Board will review items not covered in this tryout process.