



## **MOUND WESTONKA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUT INFORMATION 2019-2020**

**TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUT GOVERNANCE:** Tryouts are closed to parents or any other outside spectators that have players trying out at that time, except for other parents from teams we scrimmage. The ultimate governing body for the tryout process and the teams selected is the MWA Board of Directors. The tryout process will be conducted by the MWA HOC under the direct supervision of the MWA Board member in charge. It is the sole purpose of this process to assign players to teams based on their overall skill level. It must be noted that the tryout process is a subjective medium that relies on the best judgment of its evaluators and coaches, whose sole objective is to place kids at a level where they will be provided the best opportunity for growth in their hockey abilities. Players are only allowed to tryout as a goalie or skater; not both.

**TRYOUT PROCESS:** The basic tryout process is comprised of a series of on-ice sessions. The duration, format, and number of sessions is developed for the level being assessed and have been approved by the MWA Board. These sessions have been formatted to highlight a player's individual skills, competitive instincts, team play, and knowledge of the game. Hard work and sportsmanship is always under review. A player's overall skill level will be derived from the evaluators' assessments of these attributes. At the end of each session, evaluators' tryout binders will be given to the Board member in charge and returned to evaluators prior to the next tryout session.

**TRYOUT AND TEAM SELECTION:** The MWA has an established process for conducting team tryouts. The objective of the tryout process is to ensure that each player is given a fair evaluation and placed at the most appropriate level for their abilities. The tryouts consist of several sessions usually over a course of one to two weeks. When it applies, MWA aims to keep teams within a range of 11 (10 skaters and 1 goalie) to 18 players (including goalies). If an age level has capacity at the lowest level team, rosters will be populated from the lower level team to the next higher-level team.

**ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:** We require all players skating in the tryouts to wear standard MWA colors. That is a solid color jersey of white, black, or red and MWA socks. First year Squirt level players are exempt from this rule because they have not been outfitted in a standard MWA uniform. Any helmet stickers denoting AAA teams or similar must be removed prior to tryouts. Upon entry into the arena, the players will proceed to the check-in table where they will be given a practice vest. The vest is kept for the entire tryout process and must be returned on the last day of tryouts. It is the player's responsibility to make sure they bring the vest to each session, wear it, and return it. Players will initially be assigned tryout dates/times based on their last name (alphabetically). This will be posted on the [westonkahockey.org](http://westonkahockey.org) website after the close of registration. After a few sessions, players are placed into an A/B1, B1/B2, or B2/C pool. At any time and at the discretion of the evaluators, players originally placed in the B1/B2 or B2/C pool may move into the A/B1 or B1/B2 pool respectively for further evaluation. Please consult the website before you come to the rink to find the player's placement in the player pool.



**TRYOUT OFFICIALS:** Tryout officials will consist of outside evaluators (non-parent), coaches, and the Board member in charge. There will be a minimum of three evaluators (non-parent) scoring the tryout process. All evaluation staff will be recommended by the HOC and approved by the MWA Board. The tryouts will be conducted by an on-ice moderator. The moderator's sole responsibility is to run the on-ice operations of the tryout process. The moderator will have a script that has been formulated prior to the start of tryouts. Variance from the prescribed script will be at the sole discretion of the Board member in charge. The moderator should do his/her best of maintaining a business-like but light-hearted atmosphere. During the competitive games phase of tryouts, a bench coordinator(s) may also be deployed. The bench coordinator(s) will communicate player line-ups according to a prescribed script formulated prior to the start of tryouts. Moderators and bench coordinators have no input into the evaluation process.

**TEAM SELECTION:** Team selection will occur at the conclusion of the tryout process. If evaluators or coaches have questions about a player's capacities (yet unanswered via tryouts), input can be solicited from the previous year's coaches. After evaluation, if there are two players in a virtual tie for a position on a team, second year players will receive preference over first year players. Medically restricted players at the time of tryouts will be considered on a one-off basis. We encourage and expect early communication regarding any medical situation that would affect a player's ability to tryout. The selection of a team will be based on the tryout markings (except under a medical necessity) and input from the involved evaluators and coaches. The Board member assigned to a given level will facilitate the team selection discussions. It is the intention of the MWA to post team selections within 48 hours of the last tryout session; however, the posting of team selections will not be rushed. Our goal is to have proper team selection. Team selections will not be posted during the school day.

**TRYOUT PERSONNEL DETAILS:** It is expected that all persons in an administrative capacity arrive at the arena at least 30 minutes prior to the first session. Off-ice evaluators and coaches should limit their attention to the players on the ice. It is recommended that they place themselves independent of other evaluators; however, some communication may be warranted and is acceptable. After each session, evaluators will convene in a debriefing session that will be facilitated by the Board member in charge and will include coaches, evaluators, and may include the on-ice moderator.

**TRYOUT STRESS:** Tryouts are a stressful activity for all parties involved. As adults, please do your best to minimize additional stress during this time. It is important for parents to provide support and be enthusiastic. The best advice we can give you is to tell your child how proud you are of them, to go out and do the best they can, have fun, and whatever happens, you love them. As a parent, you need to make sure that you step back and understand that the words you choose and feelings you reflect to your child will have an impact on them going forward. Positively reinforcing your child's play rather than critiquing the tryout process or criticizing other players can only assist the player's development. As we all know, once the new teams are formed and the first practices begin, the optimism of having a successful season becomes the focal point.