



# EDINA Squirt Hockey Tryouts

## 2025-2026

To All Squirt Players and Parents:

**Welcome to the 2025-2026 Squirt Try-Outs.** This is a short note to explain to you what the tryouts will involve, and what we are looking for in the players.

The following outlines what we expect from you as players and parents, as well as what you can expect from the tryout process. Please make sure both players and parents take a few minutes to read this letter.

### ***Players:***

First of all, this tryout is for you. Be yourself. Play your game and do your best.

Falling down, missing a pass or making a mistake is not going to be the end of the world, or cost you a spot on the team. We are evaluating your performance over all the sessions, not just one shift.

The purpose of tryouts is for the coaches to evaluate the eligible players over a number of sessions, and then group them with players of similar skills and abilities for the upcoming season (A, B1, B2, & C teams). This will allow you to develop into the best player you can over the next 5 months.

Some of the attributes we are looking for in players include the following:

1. Your understanding of the game
2. Your desire, discipline and work ethic
3. Your ability to play at both ends of the rink
4. Your skating ability
5. Your passing, stickhandling and shooting skills
6. Goaltender's total skill level not just save percentage

### **Here are a few important reminders for the tryouts:**

- NO jerseys, helmet stickers, or socks from AAA teams are to be worn during tryouts.
- All returning squirt players should bring BOTH their Green and White Edina team jersey from last season. Incoming squirts should bring their reversable Edina Mite jersey from last season with name and number on the back. **Please bring these jerseys to ALL grading and tryout sessions.**

- If you are new to Edina or no longer have the Edina jersey(s) from last year we suggest: (i) borrowing green and white jerseys from another Edina player that may have one from previous years or (ii) buying green and white practice jerseys from a local sports store. You should then use white hockey tape and a black marker to put your player's last name on the back of the jersey. EHA does not have a lot of supply of smaller jerseys.

Remember, no player has made any team at this point. This is a new season, and everyone comes to the grading with a fresh start. Additionally, no one will make a team based on what they did, or where they played, last year or this past summer. This is your chance to show the coaches what you can do today, and we will make our decisions based on how you play during these tryouts, not something you did last year. If you do not make the team you think you should have, while you may be disappointed, don't be discouraged. Keep working hard and you may accomplish your goal next year.

### ***Parents:***

Please take a minute to review this letter with your player(s). You can help all of us have a good tryout experience. Here are a few items of note. Try to avoid discussions about specific kids in the stands and lobby. Everyone on the ice is doing their best. Be supportive and help your player feel good. Stress yields stress and calm yields calm. Your player will perform their best knowing that they have the support of family regardless of the outcome.

### ***Tryout Process:***

- **Please arrive at the rink for check-in 30 minutes prior to the session time** so that your player is at the rink in time to check in, get dressed, and be ready 10 minutes before your session is scheduled to begin.

**NOTE:** at Squirts, moms are no longer allowed in the locker rooms. If your son needs help with skates, please do so outside the locker rooms.

- Please notify the Squirt Liaison as early as possible if your child is sick or injured, so we can plan accordingly for the upcoming sessions.
- Grading for skaters will consist of several stations. Each station will have independent non-parent evaluators and Squirt A Head Coaches. Goalie grading is handled separately.
- After grading, players will be divided into 4 tryout groups.
- Your player's session and associated time will be posted on the EHA website. See "IMPORTANT NOTE" below.
- There will be 4 tryout sessions for each group, and a fifth to determine the draft for the "C" level teams.
- Players may be asked to try playing a position they are not used to playing. If they are asked, players should simply try their best and not overthink the coach's reasoning.

- There will be some movement of players from group to group. Movement of players is both common, and important, during tryouts. It will happen, so don't be surprised or caught off guard. It is important for coaches to see how players react in different situations, with different players. Up or down, attitude is extremely important in these situations. Movement from one session to another does not mean a player has made, or not made, any particular team.
- Any player unable to participate in tryouts due to injury or illness will be evaluated based on their prior year performance and coaches' recommendations to determine team placement.

### **Volunteers:**

We are looking for parents (4-6 per session) to help make tryouts and grading run smoothly by filling jobs like check in table and managing bench doors. Link to the volunteer schedule is on the Squirt team page. Remember that parents managing bench doors should refrain from any "coaching" and limit themselves to words of encouragement. The only requirement for working a bench is that you be on the opposite bench from your player.

### ***Commitment Level:***

In fairness to the other players, families and coaches, players are expected to attend at least 80% or more of team activities for B level teams and 90% or more team activities for A level teams. Coaches at these levels will communicate further regarding expectations and consequences for any attendance issues during the season.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** During the grading and try-out process, the EHA website will be the key source of changes to groups. Please check it periodically and if you notice that your player is not listed, call the liaison. REMEMBER, **group assignment is not guarantee of selection to any specific team.** Depending on final player numbers, projected teams will be 2 A, 2 B1, 4 B2 and 4C. Note that this is subject to change.

During the grading and tryout process, the Edina Hockey Association website >Teams>Squirts will be the sole communication tool for updates, changes to group assignments and Team Postings. The coaches will make every attempt to have the new groups posted within 12 hours of the final session. If you do not have access to the internet, please let one of the liaisons know when you check in your player for grading.

**If you have questions during tryouts, please feel free to contact your Squirt Liaisons - Lead Liaison Greg Hoffmann [greg.hoffmann@edinahockey.org](mailto:greg.hoffmann@edinahockey.org) or 612-772-0921 or Asst Greg Roth [greg.roth@edinahockey.org](mailto:greg.roth@edinahockey.org) 612-889-7407.**

Have a great season and go Hornets!