

HAYHA Tryout Policy

Approved at March 11, 2019 Board Meeting

As determined by the Helena Area Youth Hockey Association Board, it may be necessary to roster age-specific divisions of play based upon hockey ability. Henceforth, tryouts may be held for the selection of A Teams, B Teams and House Teams at age levels determined by the Board. Tryouts are not held for the U8 (8U) division. In order to develop a fair and impartial selection process for A and B players, HAYHA first convened a tryout committee during the 2014-15 hockey season and implemented the following policy recommendations for the 2015-16 season. The tryout committee felt that having an A and B team was beneficial to player development and participation. While any parent or guardian may choose to have their player rostered on a lower team than he/she is placed during the tryout process, HAYHA welcomes all players to tryout regardless of ability. The Board assigned a committee to revise this policy in January 2019 based on feedback from 2018 – 19 season tryouts.

Evaluation Coordinator

At no later than the August board meeting, the HAYHA Board will appoint an Evaluation Coordinator to lead the tryout process and communication regarding the tryout process, while working closely with the Coach-in-Chief. The Evaluation Coordinator may not be the Coach-in-Chief and may not have a player involved in tryouts. He/she may or may not be a member of the board. The Evaluation Coordinator can appoint assistant coordinators to help coordinate the handing out of jerseys, assigning numbers or other pieces of the process. Assistants may not have a player involved in a specific age division to which they are providing help. Any coordinators will need to keep a sheet with player numbers and names and ensure that players receive the same jersey number for each throughout session. Coordinators will need to pass out assigned numbered jerseys prior to the players going on the ice. The sheet with numbers and names is not to be shared with any parent, player or evaluator.

Coach-in-Chief

The Coach-in-Chief will complete the following by the September board meeting:

1. Recruit 3-5 qualified evaluators who are 25 years or older, impartial, unbiased and who do not have a relative trying out. The following persons cannot be evaluators:
 - a. Coach-in-Chief.
 - b. Any coach who has served, within the past two years, as a HAYHA coach for the children trying out. Evaluator names shall be presented and reviewed by the Board.

2. Develop the evaluation sheet to include scoring criteria, numbering system and a summary. The Board needs to approve the evaluator sheets each year. They should remain consistent from year to year unless improvements are deemed necessary.
3. Recommend a Head Coach Representative for A and B team to lead tryout sessions. The board needs to approve recommended Head A and Head B Coach Representatives.
4. Create a tryout plan for each division.

Tryout Dates

Two to three tryout sessions will be held, for determined divisions, prior to the start of the season. The Evaluation Coordinator and Coach-in-Chief will set the tryout schedule and it will be approved by the Board. If coaches deem necessary, they will invite certain players back for a third session in order to see them perform in a small group session.

Jerseys

Each player is assigned a random numbered jersey to wear during the tryout sessions.

Evaluators

There will be between 3 to 5 evaluators for each age division. The evaluators may have no family connection within the age division being evaluated. They must be 25 years or older, impartial and unbiased. The following persons cannot be evaluators: Coach-in-Chief or any coach who has served, within the past two years, as a HAYHA coach for the children trying out. The evaluators may not have access to player identities during the evaluation scoring process. They will use evaluation sheets provided by the Coach-in-Chief. They will sit separately from the parents, and separately from each other.

Evaluation Process and Team Selection

An evaluation sheet, created by the Coach-in-Chief, and approved by the board, will be used by the evaluators and should remain consistent from year to year unless improvements are deemed necessary. Following the 2nd session, the evaluation sheets will be collected by the Coach-in-Chief. Evaluators will remain available to answer questions or provide input via phone or in person. If coaches deem necessary, they will invite certain players back for a third session. Evaluators will not be present during the third session, only the coaches. Finally, the Coach-in-Chief, Head A Coach Representative, Head B Coach Representative and the Evaluation Coordinator (4 people) will meet to review and discuss evaluations, for each age division. Many factors will go into the decision of team selection including:

- Evaluation sheets. Players are encouraged to give 100% effort during tryouts.

- Age and maturity.
- Coaches' past experiences with a player. If the two Head Coach Reps are unfamiliar with a player, they are encouraged to speak with a player's past coaches any time during the process.
- Commitment to team and commitment to travel.
- Attitude and work ethic.
- Interest and ability in playing goalie.

In the event of a disagreement among the three people (2 Head Coach Reps and 1 CIC), the Head Coach Representative of the team being selected will have the final decision. The Evaluation Coordinator's role is making sure the Tryout Policy is being followed. The Division Rep will remain available, so they can assist with communication to parents regarding the posting of team lists and any calls about siblings, but they are not directly providing input to team selection.

Siblings

If there are siblings within the same age division, and they are selected for different teams, the parents will be contacted and given the opportunity for both players to be rostered on the lower skill level team. The Division Rep is encouraged to discuss these potential options with parents prior to tryouts and should the players be selected for different teams; the Division Rep will make a phone call to obtain decision from parents after tryouts have concluded. If parents choose to have both players rostered on the lower skill level team, the Division Rep will then meet with Evaluation Coordinator and Head Coach Reps to make any necessary roster adjustments. Note: This must be done prior to the rosters being posted.

Notification of Team Selection

Once team selection is finalized, the division reps will post team rosters in the Helena Ice Arena lobby and send an email informing parents that team lists have been posted. Within 7 days of the results being posted, Head Coach Representatives will set aside 2 hours to talk to players and/or parents about the results and player's performance. The Division Rep will notify parents of the set aside time.

Complaints and Feedback

Rosters are final once posted. Any complaints must be addressed to the Division Representative and may then be addressed by the full HAYHA Board.