

Morgantown Hockey Association
Amateur Travel Tryouts
Policies and Procedures
Revised January 2017

1. General

- 1.1. These policies and procedures will be followed for selecting participants for each Morgantown Hockey Association (M.H.A.) amateur travel team that will be competing in the Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League (P.A.H.L.) during the upcoming hockey season. The tryout sessions will be held in the Spring, at or near the end of the hockey season.
- 1.2. The primary objective shall be focused on enabling each individual player to play at their appropriate skill level, giving them the best opportunity for improvement and enjoyment of the sport.

2. Process to Register for Tryouts

- 2.1. Registration for tryouts will begin the first week of February. The dates for tryouts will be set by the Ice Scheduler, and will be announced at this time.
- 2.2. Registration for tryouts will be performed online on the M.H.A. website. A Registration Deadline Date will be set by the Coaching Director, and will be no less than one week prior to the first tryout date. This deadline date will be specified on the Registration Form. If it is desirable to tryout at a higher age-level during the upcoming season, the required Play-up Request Form must also be submitted at this time.
- 2.3. The amount of the Commitment Fee shall be determined by the M.H.A. Board of Directors. This Commitment Fee will be applied to the participant's fees for the upcoming year. This fee will be returned if the participant declines an offer to join a team by the Commitment Deadline. The Commitment Fee will be forfeited if Fall Registration is not completed by the Registration Deadline as set by the M.H.A. Board of Directors.
- 2.4. A late fee will be assessed for those submitting the Registration Form after the Registration Deadline Date. This fee is not part of the aforementioned Commitment Fee, and is not refundable. The amount of the late fee will be determined by the M.H.A. Board of Directors.

3. Tryout Process

- 3.1. The number of teams at each level will be determined based upon the number of players registering to try out for that level and their ability. The goal will be to maximize the number of players able to participate competitively at each level while trying to keep within the recommended minimum and maximum numbers of players per team, as indicated in Table 1. (In special circumstances, the M.H.A. Board of Directors may allow for slight deviations from this recommendation, but in no event shall the number of players on a roster be less than 11 or more than 20 as directed by

the P.A.H.L).

Table 1: Recommended Minimums & Maximums per Team

	Skaters (Min – Max)	Goalies (Min – Max)
Mite ½ Ice	8 - 10	1 - 2
Squirt	12 - 15	1 - 2
Peewee	13 - 18	1 - 2
Bantam	13 - 18	1 - 2
Midget	13 - 18	1 - 2

- 3.2. The evaluators for each age-level will be chosen by the Player Development Committee, which is defined as a committee of coaches, or independent evaluators, from age classifications not involved with the age-level, or any age-level affected by a potential play-up. The committee is formed by the M.H.A. Coaching Director. The exact number of committee members is determined by the M.H.A. Coaching Director.
- 3.3. When there is only one team at a given age-level, the team selection will be made following review of the tryout session(s) by both the “projected” Head Coach and the assigned members of the Player Development Committee. While it will be primarily the duty of the “projected” Head Coach to select the team, the Player Development Committee will oversee the selection to ensure no gross injustice occurs (i.e. a player clearly capable of playing for a particular team is not offered a full-time position).
 - 3.3.1. Every effort will be made to properly place each registrant either as a full-time player, or as a developmental player, as appropriate.
 - 3.3.2. If the Player Development Committee feels that the “projected” Head Coach has made an egregious choice in the team selection, the M.H.A. Coaching Director can bring the concern to the M.H.A. Board of Directors, who can then act to overturn the Head Coach’s team selection.
 - 3.3.3. It is essential that all registrants attend the tryout to determine their status. All registrants will be placed on the roster and offered either full-time or developmental status.
- 3.4. When there is projected to be more than one team at a given age level, all players wishing to play at that age level will be required to try out. The “projected” Head Coaches of the teams at that particular age-level and the evaluators chosen by the Player Development Committee shall witness the tryouts.
 - 3.4.1. The number of tryout sessions for each age-level is dependent upon the projected number of teams at that age-level.
 - 3.4.2. Immediately following the final tryout of that age-level, the coaches and evaluators will meet to discuss the results.
 - 3.4.3. Any proposed “Developmental Players” will also be identified at this time.

- 3.4.4. The evaluators will rank all of the players trying out at a given level and the list will be given to the Coaching Director. Registrants will be designated, if they are appropriately skilled, as alternates for the “skill-level” team immediately above the team on which they have been placed as determined by the evaluators and Coaching Director.
- 3.4.5. Within a timely manner of the last tryout session, the M.H.A. Board of Directors will be given the team rosters.
- 3.4.6. In the event that additional potential play-ups need to be added to a roster, the Coaching Director, Head Coach, and Team Manager shall contact the player/family to determine if the player is interested in possibly playing-up in order to fill a roster at the higher age-level.

4. Playing at Older Age Classification

- 4.1. A player less than minimum age for an age classification may be permitted to move to an older age level if the Player Development Committee and the Head Coach of the older age-level team determine that the player is capable of competing at that level, and there is sufficient justification for the move. Justification shall be based on the following:
 - 4.1.1. Any player petitioning to play-up must try out at both age-levels.
 - 4.1.2. No player may move up more than 1 birth year (e.g. a first year squirt cannot move up to Peewee) per the Rules and Regulations of the Mid-American Hockey Association.
 - 4.1.3. The child’s parent must initiate the request by completing and submitting an M.H.A. Play-up Petition to the M.H.A. Board of Directors, when registering the player for tryouts. If tryouts have already concluded, both Head Coaches must agree that the player should move up. If they do not agree, the Player Development Committee will decide based on an on-ice evaluation.
 - 4.1.4. The team the player is leaving cannot be left below the recommended minimum number of players, and the team the player is moving to cannot exceed the recommended maximum number of players (see Table 1). If the coaches and/or evaluators feel that exceeding the recommended minimum or maximum numbers are justified, they can bring their argument to the M.H.A. Board of Directors for review. The M.H.A. Board of Directors will then determine whether the move-up should be allowed.
 - 4.1.5. Careful consideration must be given when a player is requesting to play-up from a non-checking age-level to a checking age-level. In addition to the player’s skill level, the player’s size and maturity level must be considered.
- 4.2. As per the Rules and Regulations of the Mid-American Hockey Association, and the USA Hockey Summary of Insurance Coverage for Members, the M.H.A. Board of

Directors must give its approval before the player can play in the higher age classification.

- 4.2.1. The decision shall be made based upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the M.H.A. Board of Directors, judging that the move is in the best interest of the players, both teams involved, and the organization.

5. Developmental Players

- 5.1. If a player is deemed not capable of competing at the same level of the rest of the players on the team, the coach has the option to offer a “developmental” roster position:
 - 5.1.1. As a developmental player, the skater will be entitled to participate in all practices of the travel team.
 - 5.1.2. A developmental player will pay a reduced fee, which is calculated to be one-half of the fee of the full-time players on the team. (The developmental player shall still pay all supplemental / fundraiser fees.) The developmental player will be expected to pay the normal share of the additional expenses of the travel team, such as tournament fees, according to his or her participation.
 - 5.1.3. The developmental player may participate in regularly scheduled P.A.H.L. games, P.A.H.L. playoff games, P.A.H.L. championship games or tournaments only at the Head Coach’s discretion. However, the player shall be given the opportunity to participate with the team in scrimmage games.

6. Method for Notifying Parents and Finalizing Rosters following Tryouts

- 6.1. Within 48 hours after completion of the team rosters, the Head Coach will offer a roster spot to all players who were deemed to have made the team, and will designate them as full time or developmental. This initial notification will be in the form of a phone call. As a follow-up to the initial notification by phone, an email will be sent to the player confirming their decision.
 - 6.1.1. If there are multiple teams at an age-level, the players on the top team will be notified first. Within 48 hours after notification of the top team players, the 2nd team will be notified, and so-on and so-forth.
- 6.2. Upon receiving the notification, the player will have 24 hours to respond by phone or e-mail as to whether they are accepting or rejecting the offer. The commitment fee will be returned if the player rejects the offer within the 24 hour requirement.
- 6.3. If a particular amateur travel team has not yet completed their season, are still preparing for end of season tournaments or the National Championships, or if the National Championships have not yet occurred for that particular age level (is only applicable for ages in which USA Hockey holds National Championships), the players will not be notified until the season, tournaments, and/or Nationals have completed. If this is the case, then the players should still be notified so they are aware that they will not be notified until after the completion of this post-season.

- 6.4. Once rosters are finalized, they will be submitted to the association Registrar by no later than June 1, for subsequent submission to the P.A.H.L.

7. Players Missing the Spring Tryout

- 7.1. Any player who misses the Spring tryouts will be given a separate tryout session in the Fall with the team at that particular age-level.
 - 7.1.1. If there are 2 or more teams at that age-level, the player will tryout with the team that most appropriately matches their skill level, based upon the level at which they played during the previous season. Ideally, this should simply be the player practicing with the appropriate team in front of the Player Development Committee to ensure that the player's talent level is appropriate for the team for which they are trying out.
 - 7.1.2. The Player Development Committee can suggest where this player should play if they do not feel that the player fits with this team, and can recommend that the player tryout/practice with another team within that age level.

These policies and procedures are effective by a majority vote of the M.H.A. Board of Directors at a duly convened meeting on January 29, 2017.