



## 2026 Tryout & Tuneup FAQ

**Q: Does my player need to attend all the tryouts, or should we just pick one?**

A: You should plan to have your player at all scheduled tryouts because the more the coaches see a player, the more accurate their evaluations will be. However, we do reserve the right to adjust the tryout schedule as needed and we may offer contracts at any time. No player is guaranteed any amount of ice time during tryouts, or the right to participate in any specified number of tryout sessions. While it is not our preference, we reserve the right to cut players at any time, including at the first tryout, in order to create the best possible evaluation environment.

**Q: What is the difference between Tier 1 and Tier 2?**

A: Tier 1 teams are highly competitive birth year-specific AAA teams that skate in the Atlantic Youth Hockey League (AYHL). Tier 2 teams can be mixed-age teams at either the AA, A or B levels that skate in the New Jersey Youth Hockey League (NJYHL) or Mid-Atlantic Women's Hockey League (MAWHA). All teams will supplement their league game schedules with competitive non-league games.

**Q: When putting together a Tier 2 team, do you try to keep players together by birth year or do you mix the teams up?**

A: We find that keeping players grouped by birth year helps to create some social and developmental continuity for players and their families, which results in a more positive youth hockey experience for them overall. However, this is not always possible, and we will have some mixed-age teams in addition to our single- birth-year teams.

**Q: I don't think my player will make a Tier 1 team. Should he or she still attend the Tier 1 tryouts?**

A: Players who are able to keep up and compete are invited to attend Tier 1 tryouts; players who will have difficulty keeping up, or who only have intentions of playing Tier 2, are encouraged to skip Tier 1 tryouts and only attend Tier 2 sessions. No player who wants to participate in Tier 1 tryouts will be turned away. With that said, the purpose of Tier 1 tryouts must be to evaluate players for our Tier 1 teams. These tryouts should not be viewed as "extra ice." We will make cuts after each tryout - including the first one - as necessary, and no player is entitled to any amount of ice during tryouts. If you are unsure whether your player should attend Tier 1 tryouts or not, please speak with your child's coach.

**Q: If my player attends Tier 1 tryouts and is not selected for a team, do we have to pay a second tryout fee to return for Tier 2 tryouts?**

A: Players who are not selected for a Tier 1 team are invited to return for Tier 2 tryouts at no additional charge.

**Q: How will I know if my player has been selected for a team?**

A: After every tryout session, an email detailing each player's next steps is sent to each family before the staff leaves the rink. If a player has been selected for a team, his family will receive an email containing team information and link to the player contract registration. If a player has not been selected for a team, they will receive an email inviting them to return for the next tryout or informing them that no further teams will be selected.

**Q: My player cannot attend all the tryout sessions because of a conflict with school or religious obligations. What should we do?**

A: We recognize that some absences are unavoidable, including illnesses and injuries, but we ask each family to make every reasonable effort to have their players at tryouts. If you are unable to attend a tryout session, you must still register for tryouts and include this information on your tryout application in the NOTES section. We will do our best to fairly assign missing players, but we cannot make any guarantees as to where or whether a player will be placed. Team selection requires coaches to make relative evaluations, which is obviously very difficult when players are missing. Additionally, we want to be fair to the families who choose to forego vacation or other activities in favor of attending tryouts.

On occasion, families claim to have a conflict but are actually attending other tryouts. We are sensitive to the fact that everyone holds their tryouts at the same time and families are forced to put all their eggs in one basket, but we ask families to be honest about their intentions so that we can make the best decisions for the players who are here. We know that the vast majority of families approach tryouts in the spirit of honesty and fairness, but we do reserve the right to require a good faith deposit from absent players before finalizing team rosters.

**Q: How many teams do you plan to have at each level?**

A: We would love to be able to have a team for every player who wants to be part of our organization, and we will field as many teams as we have players to fill them assuming we have the resources available to do so. However, the numbers rarely work out perfectly and we usually do have to make a small number of cuts at Squirt and above. We offer a spot in the organization to every Mite player who tries out.

**Q: Who will the coaches be?**

A: We will release the Tier 1 coaching roster as soon as possible and certainly in advance of tryouts. We will also release the Tier 2 coaches we expect to assign at each level; however, we often cannot assign coaches to specific Tier 2 teams until the teams are selected. The reason for this is that we have a number of parent coaches at Tier 2, and we need to complete the evaluations and placements for their children before we can definitively name the coaching staff. We do make every effort to include coach assignments when we send out our contract emails.

**Q: What will my schedule be for the coming season?**

A: Each year we create the schedule from scratch and we can't predict a particular team's practice or game slots until we work through the scheduling process. We invite parents to look at our current season's schedule at [www.devilsyouth.com](http://www.devilsyouth.com) to get a general idea of how our schedule is structured. Once we select our teams and assign our staff, we lay out the ice for the season and start slotting teams in. We put the youngest teams in the earliest slots, the next youngest teams in the next earliest slots, and so forth while taking staffing needs into consideration. Practices are held at Codey Arena and RWJBarnabas Health Hockey House.

**Q: Which week will my team have Summer Hockey School?**

A: We create the Summer Hockey School schedule once the teams are selected. If a player cannot attend the week assigned to his or her team, we will make every effort to accommodate them during a different week.

**Q: Which tournaments will my team do?**

A: This varies from year to year because each team's staff selects their tournaments based on several factors including schedule, availability, location, and level of play.

**Q: Do you offer a multi-player discount?**

A: We give a 10% discount on the second and subsequent player tuitions within the same family. The first (highest) tuition must be paid in full. The discount is applied based on the tuition and not the player's level or the order in which the contracts are signed. Multi-player discounts will be applied to your last payment or refunded via credit card or check and no later than 2/1/2027.

**Q: Do you offer payment plans?**

A: There are two options for payment: you can pay in full when the contract is signed, or you can pay in ten monthly installments.

**Q: Do you offer financial aid?**

A: We have limited funds available for financial aid, which is granted based on demonstrated need. Applicants must complete a financial aid application, offer a statement of need, and provide their most recent tax returns to the Award Committee. Applicants must make a 10% good faith tuition deposit, all or part of which will be refunded if applicable.

**Q: When I sign a contract, what exactly am I committing to?**

A: When we offer a player contract it represents our commitment to field a specific team, to roster your player on that team, and to provide you with the best hockey experience we can offer. When you sign the contract, you promise to pay your tuition in full, you acknowledge that you can only play with our organization for the 2026 – 2027 season, and you make a commitment to your teammates that you will come to every game and practice ready to give your best effort. **We have a no refund policy and encourage the purchase insurance to cover injuries or other issues that may come up during the season.**