

Dear Players and Parents,

Welcome to the OGHA Competitive Tryouts for the 2026-27 season. These tryouts will comprise the AA, A, BB, B, and C teams that the OGHA will enter into OWHA Eastern Leagues.

Each team will have a roster of up to 16 skaters and two goaltenders. The selections for each team will be made by the Head Coach, in consultation with independent evaluators and members of the Board of Directors. The Head Coach will assemble their coaching staff following the final session of tryouts, along with the selection of a team trainer(s) and a team manager.

As either a new family to the OGHA, or a returning family who has played competitive hockey prior to this season, the Board of Directors is providing the following information as a resource to help you understand the rules and what to expect during tryouts. Attached to this document is the OWHA Code of Conduct, which must be signed by each player and both parents prior to being rostered on an OWHA competitive team.

WHAT TO EXPECT: PLAYING ON A COMPETITIVE TEAM

Playing competitive hockey is an excellent way for players to learn about teamwork, commitment and dedication, and what it means to compete against other top athletes. Depending on the age of the player and the level they're playing, the commitment will vary. However, it is expected that players who make a competitive roster will commit to making hockey their primary winter sport, to attend every team function and event throughout the season, and to taking seriously their fitness (both mental and physical) such that they are as prepared as possible for competition.

- Competitive players are required to purchase their jerseys and game socks. This is an extra cost above registration and team fees.
- Competitive players can expect anywhere from 3 to 4.5 hours a week at the rink at minimum. Some weeks will see more ice time than others.
- AA, A, and BB teams can expect 1.5 hour ice times, while B and C teams receive 1 hour ice times.
- Along with registration fees, which are the same for every competitive hockey player in the Association, Head Coaches will work with their team managers to develop an in-season budget that will require each player to pay team fees. Depending on the level and cohort, fees can range from \$4,000 per season at U18AA to \$1,000 or less at U9. These fees are extra to your registration and are generally used by the team to buy ice times that are not been covered by the registration fees, along with other things that the team requires (off ice clothing, trainer supplies, tournament entry fees, etc...).
- Competitive players can expect to travel 4 to 6 weekends per season, plus Provincials in April. This often requires the use of hotels, which are out of pocket costs.
- While not mandatory, competitive players will be made aware of extra skills development opportunities either through the Head Coach or the Director of Development. The Association encourages players to take advantage of these extra sessions, which cost extra to your team fees and registration.

- In the season's schedule, generally Christmas and March Break are blacked out for up to two weeks, but possibly shorter. This means there will be no team hockey during those periods.

TRYOUTS - GETTING STARTED

- OGHA Tryouts are centrally managed by a Tryout Committee. The Tryout Coordinator chairs the Tryout Committee.
- Each player invited to a tryout session at any level will have paid their full tryout fee. Any player who has not paid their fees will not be permitted to skate until their account is settled.
- Each player must register at the registration desk prior to their tryout session. If a player has not registered, they will not be evaluated.
- Each player MUST wear an OGHA-approved reversible tryout jersey. No exceptions will be made. Tryout jerseys are available for purchase during RAMP registration. If a player does not have a tryout jersey, please visit the registration desk at your tryout session. Each player will be assigned a color prior to taking the ice.
- Players will have the choice to start at their preferred competitive level. Players may begin at AA without having to re-register or pay at another level. Players may also choose to begin at A, or BB, without having to re-register or pay for another level.
- Each player will be eligible to skate in a minimum of two (2) tryout sessions at any given level before releases are made by the Head Coach. If a session is missed without permission from the Tryout Committee, the player will forfeit their eligibility for a minimum of two sessions.
- Exceptions will not be made for participation in other sporting or recreational activities during tryouts. This includes, but is not limited to, spring or summer hockey. "Pausing" or adjusting tryouts to accommodate external activities will absolutely not happen.
- Head Coaches may consult the Tryout Committee regarding a player's exceptional illness, injury, or unavoidable absence, but they do not have the authority to excuse a player from a tryout session.
- In the case of illness, injury, or unavoidable absence, documentation will be required for the Tryout Committee to consider an exception.

EVALUATIONS, SELECTIONS, AND RELEASES

- Every player who attends a tryout session as a participant will be evaluated for their ability and effort relative to the level being attended.
- By participating in any given tryout session, the player is deemed to have accepted an offer to play on that team, should they make the final roster at the end of tryouts.
- Each player will be evaluated by an independent evaluator at every session, at every level. Independent evaluators are selected for their hockey knowledge, experience, and their independence from the level being evaluated (ie, they do not have a player participating at the given level).

- Feedback will not be provided to players except for those released in the final tryout session for the level. Neither the Head Coach, the Tryout Coordinator, nor the Board of Directors can provide feedback through the tryout process.
- Players will be notified of releases on the OGHA website by 10am of the morning following the previous session. The website will list the number on a player's tryout jersey if they are invited to the next session. Players whose number does not appear on the list are deemed released from that tryout and will proceed to the next level.
- Should a player choose not to join a team for which they have a final position, they may advise the Head Coach in writing of their intent to vacate their place on the team. If they intend to remain with the OGHA, they will proceed to the next lower level of tryouts.
- If a vacancy exists due to a player choosing to leave the team they made, the Head Coach will consult the Director of Competitive Hockey in filling that vacancy. The Director of Competitive Hockey has the authority to approve another player to fill the vacancy. When possible, the vacancy will be filled prior to the next level of tryouts starting.
- Once announced on the OGHA website, the roster is considered final. No further changes will be made following the final announcement of the roster.
- Requests to rearrange rosters based on friendships or playing comfortability, or any other non-hockey reasons, will not be considered.

PARENT AND PLAYER BEHAVIOUR

The OGHA is a volunteer-run organization. No confrontational, abusive, or disrespectful parent or player behaviour will be tolerated, either at the rink or in communications with any volunteers. **Failure to respect our volunteers may result in removal from tryouts or removal from the Association.**

In tryout sessions with referees, note that OWSA hockey governance applies, meaning that if a player is given a major penalty with a suspension during the session, the suspension is upheld as it would normally be and the player may be required to miss tryout sessions, which could impact their standing in the evaluation.

The OGHA enforces the "24-hour Rule" as put in place by Hockey Canada. Attempts to contact a Head Coach, Tryout Committee member, or Board Member within 24 hours of the previous tryout ice time may be considered a violation of the 24-hour Rule and may result in disciplinary action against the parent or player, which may include removal from the team roster or from the Association. Tryout officials have no obligation to respond to any player or parent in the 24-hour period.

- The Board of Directors respects the competitive nature of tryouts and recognizes that it is an emotional time for some parents and players. The Board will take this into account when communicating with members.
- Neither the Board, nor the Tryout Committee, will undertake any consideration of the following: parent/player requests to place a player on a roster during or following tryouts; parent/player requests to discuss the evaluation of a player; parent/player accusations of unfairness or bias during a tryout; nor, anonymous or unverified allegations regarding the conduct of Board Members, Tryout Committee members, Head Coaches, or evaluators during tryouts.

- Individuals with evidence of wrongdoing or unethical conduct on the part of a member of the Board, Tryout Committee, Head Coaches, or evaluators, that targets an individual player, should make a formal complaint to the President of the OGHA. Should the President choose, the complaint may be sent to the OWHA for either guidance or investigation.

Questions regarding this document may be directed to the President at the linked email address. Please understand that this is a very busy time for all of our volunteers and that there may be an unintended delay in responding. If there is a time-sensitive tryout related issue, please advise the Head Coach as a first point of contact.

Best of luck during tryouts and we're thrilled you've chosen the OGHA to further your hockey career!

Tim Wilshaw
President
Ottawa Girls Hockey Association
President@ogha.org