



"Respect All, Fear None"

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Competitive/REP Tryout Policy & Procedure

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Orillia Girls Hockey Association (OGHA) Competitive ("Rep") Teams shall be categorized with the intention of maximizing player and program development. Rep team rosters are to be selected by the head coach with the objective of choosing the most skilled players available with the greatest amount of fairness. There may be circumstances when final decisions regarding player selection will be determined by other factors including but not limited to player attitude or commitment.

Players are encouraged to tryout for the highest level applicable to their age division. Upon attending a tryout, if a player feels uncomfortable with the level at which they are trying out for they must notify the Head Coach and asked to be released to the lower applicable team prior to selections being made after the 2nd tryout. Any players accepting an invitation to return for a 3rd and/or final tryout will be expected to accept a position with that team if one is offered to them. Declining an offer to play after the 3rd tryout will release the player to a House League team in that age division and they will not be permitted to attend any other Rep tryouts for the OGHA in that division without first meeting with the Rep Director/Executive to explain their refusal to commit.

It is solely the Head Coach's responsibility to ensure the selection of the most appropriate and skilled players. This can be a difficult task and the expectation is that the utmost fairness is to be maintained during this process. Any discrepancy in selection will be reviewed by the Rep Director with the Executive. The intent of maintaining fairness in player selection is to create the best-possible team for each division while discouraging practices such as cohort accommodation.

All tryouts, U9 through U18 will be held in the spring which allows Head Coaches the opportunity to evaluate and select players based on their optimum level of ability and skill development after a full season of competition. As per OWHHA regulations pre-tryouts clinics will run prior to tryout selection to meet the requirements for U9 and U11 programming pathways.

All tryouts will be booked, scheduled, and advertised by the OGHA. There will be a tryout fee collected by the OGHA prior to tryouts and **all participants must be registered and paid in full before participating in any on-ice activity. Current OGHA registered players with outstanding registration/team fees will not be permitted to attend tryouts until outstanding balances paid in full.** Players attending from another OWHHA Association must present a valid **Permission to Skate** form prior to participating in any tryout.

Tryout Process

1. Each player will receive, upon attending the initial tryout, a numbered jersey for identification and evaluation purposes. This number/jersey will be with the player for the duration of the tryout.
2. Head Coaches are required to prepare a handout for Players/Parents to be distributed with the jersey; the handout should include such things as coaching philosophy, proposed plans for the season (i.e. proposed team categorization, league play, tournament participation, team fees and proposed budget, fundraising ideas, general team over view and commitment etc.), and Head Coaches must be available to answer any questions from Players/Parents at initial sign-in prior to first tryout. The Director of Rep/Executive will also be on hand at the initial tryout.
3. Head Coaches will provide on-ice instructors to co-ordinate the drills and on-ice skill sets used for evaluation purposes. Any on-ice instructors must be competent and able to provide adequate instruction and demonstration as required.
4. Head Coaches will provide a minimum of 3 off-ice evaluators to aid in player assessment. Evaluators should have prior evaluation and assessment experience, knowledge of player and team skill sets and not be a parent/family member of a player trying out for that particular team/division.
5. Head Coaches will provide one evaluation form to be filled out for each participant by the evaluators. The evaluations forms are not to be shared publicly or with anyone outside the team and its evaluators but will be kept on hand in the event the executive are asked to review decisions made during the selection process.
6. The OGHA will assist, as required, with the providing of forms, supplying off-ice evaluators and supplying of on-ice instructors at the request of the Head Coach.
7. Tryout Sessions
 - a. During a 3-session tryout all players will be required to attend the first 2 sessions and no selection will be permitted until the conclusion of the 2nd tryout.
 - b. The Head Coach may make cuts after the 2nd session by means of listing returning players, sending out individual emails or having in-person meetings with each player.
 - c. Upon final selection after the 3rd tryout the Head Coach will meet with each player in person to notify them if they were successful or unsuccessful.
 - d. During a 2-session tryout no cuts will be made until the conclusion of the 2nd/final sessions and those will occur during in person meetings with each player.
 - e. It is a good practice to provide age-appropriate constructive evaluation and positive feedback to players while being sensitive to their possible disappointment.
8. All Coaches must operate in accordance with the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules, Regulations, Policies and Procedures of the OWHA and the OGHA. Failure to do so will result in a review of your Coaching status by the Executive and possible termination of your Head Coach position.