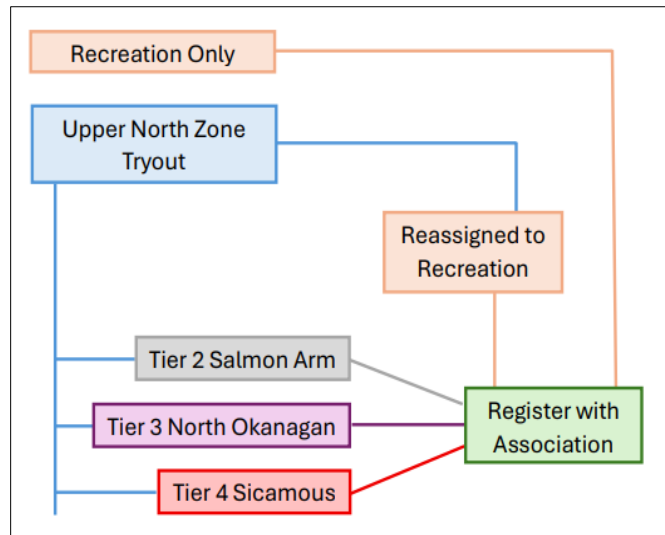


## Upper North Zone – Program Information

### Registration

By registering your player for the Upper North Zone tryout and paying the fee, you are reserving your player's spot for the upcoming season. You will not need to register with your home association if you have registered for Upper North Zone tryouts.

Once tryouts are completed, players will either be rostered to an Upper North Zone team or reassigned to Recreation. At that time, you will be asked to formally register your player for rostering purposes by the Association with which they will be playing.



The date your player is registered for Upper North Zone tryouts will be the effective date for their registration for recreation with the home association.

Ex./ If you register your player on June 25<sup>th</sup> for Upper North Zone tryouts, and they are ultimately reassigned to recreation in September, for waitlist purposes, your “Registration Date” would be June 25<sup>th</sup>. **Upper North Zone registrations are time and date-stamped for this purpose.**

[CLICK HERE to register your player for UNZ tryouts](#)

**Important Note:** If your player is trying out for Tier 1, you will also need to register them for Upper North Zone tryouts. If your player makes the Tier 1 team, you will be refunded the tryout fee for Upper North Zone.

**Tryout fees are non-refundable; however, refunds will be provided in any instance where a player does not attend any tryout sessions for the following reasons:**

The player makes a higher-level team,

The player is injured before tryouts and is unable to participate,

The player or family has decided to opt for Recreation instead, before tryouts.

---

### Pre-Tryout Skates

Contact your home association for information regarding available pre-tryout camps/ ice times.

---

## **Tryout Information**

Being a pilot project, we rely heavily on the feedback of those involved in the program to better understand where improvements can be made. As a committee, last season, we came to understand during the process that tryouts were drawn out far too long and that a much more streamlined process was required. That was in line with the feedback we received through the surveys. Thank you for that continued feedback.

In working as a committee, and with our regional partners in the Lower North Zone, we have developed a new tryout process that will be implemented by both the Upper and Lower North Zone programs. This alignment among the Sub-regions and the tryout process improvements to follow as a result are important for reassignment timelines and aligning the pre-season for teams in all tiers. This format will allow final reassignments to be completed in a timely fashion in all tiers and allow for a proper exhibition schedule to be built for all teams, tiers 2-4.

---

## **Tryout Format**

Following Hockey Canada Guidelines, each player and goalie will be offered a minimum of 3 evaluated ice times.

### **Phase 1: Evaluated Tryout (August 28 – September 4)**

Players are guaranteed a minimum of 3 evaluated games. Based on their rankings after the first round of evaluated games, players will be sorted into 3 groups:

- 1) Top 30 + 4
- 2) Next 30 +4
- 3) Recreation Reassignments

**\*Players who are ranked outside of the top 60 after the first three tryout games will be reassigned to Recreation.**

At that time, those families reassigned will receive a registration link for recreation with their home association, along with information regarding upcoming ice times.

### **Top 30 +4 Game:**

Players who rank in the top 30 +4 after the first three games will be divided into two equal teams for an additional game. Their scores from this game will be added to their scores from the first three games, and each player will have a cumulative total for their tryout. Following this game, players will be assigned to oversized rosters for either Tier 2 or Tier 3 based on their ranking.

*Players will enter Phase 2 of tryouts at this time.*

### **Next 30 +4 Game:**

Like the Top 30 +4 game, the Next 30 + 4 game will feature players who are ranked 31- 60 (goalies 5-8) after the first three evaluated games. Their scores from this game will be added to their scores from the first three games, and each player will have a cumulative total for their tryout. Following

this game, players will be assigned to oversized rosters for either Tier 3 or Tier 4, or, based on their ranking, reassigned to recreation.

**\*Following this game, some players will be reassigned to recreation with their home association.**

Those families will receive a registration link along with information regarding upcoming ice times.

*Continuing Players will enter Phase 2 of tryouts at this time.*

## **Phase 2: Oversized Rosters (September 8 – 13)**

Players have been assigned to oversized rosters or reassigned to recreation. Oversized roster sizes:

### **U13**

**Tier 2:** 20 skaters + 3 goalies (5 skaters and 1 goalie to reassign to Tier 3)

**Tier 3:** 15 skaters + 2 goalies (5 skaters and 1 goalie to reassign to Tier 4)

**Tier 4:** 15 skaters + 2 goalies (5 skaters and 1 goalie to reassign to Recreation)

-

### **U15**

**Tier 2:** 21 skaters + 3 goalies (5 skaters and 1 goalie to reassign to Tier 3)

**Tier 3:** 16 skaters + 2 goalies (5 skaters and 1 goalie to reassign to Tier 4)

**Tier 4:** 16 skaters + 2 goalies (5 skaters and 1 goalie to reassign to Recreation)

-

### **U18**

**Tier 2:** 22 skaters + 3 goalies (5 skaters and 1 goalie to reassign to Tier 3)

**Tier 3:** 17 skaters + 2 goalies (5 skaters and 1 goalie to reassign to Recreation)

When Phase 2 begins, teams will have two practices the week following Labour Day (September 8-11), and two exhibition games on the weekend of September 12 & 13.

Coaches in all tiers will be expected to have final reassignments completed by September 13.

Following final reassignments for all teams on September 13<sup>th</sup>, all families will be sent a welcome letter from their team, including a link to register for the season.

-----

## **Tryout Schedule**

**Phase 1** of the tryout will take place in Salmon Arm, August 28 – September 4, 2026

**Phase 2** of the tryout will take place in the home arena for each team, September 8-13, 2026

Exact dates and times will be released as soon as possible\*

---

## **Coaches**

We are accepting applications for coaching positions within the Upper North Zone. Applicants will be interviewed, and information will be provided to them regarding the selection process.

Interested in coaching a team in the Upper North Zone? [Click Here to apply!](#)

### **Interim Head Coaches**

We will be hiring Independent Interim Head Coaches to assist with tryouts and team selections for teams that will have a parent Head Coach. Those positions will be temporarily paid, and responsibilities will run from August 15 to September 15, 2026.

If you would like to assist the Upper North Zone as an Interim Head Coach, please email [uppernorthzone@gmail.com](mailto:uppernorthzone@gmail.com) and let us know, or complete the coaching application and indicate that you are interested in an interim position.

Interim coaches may have a player in the Upper North Zone program, provided their player is not in the age category of the position they occupy.

---

## **Evaluators**

We will be hiring paid evaluators for all age categories. If you are interested in assisting with Evaluations, please email [uppernorthzone@gmail.com](mailto:uppernorthzone@gmail.com) and let us know which division you would like to evaluate.

Evaluators will be required to be independent of all players in the category they will be evaluating. Parents with players in the program will be considered as evaluators for divisions in which they do not have an affiliation with any player trying out.

Evaluators will be asked to commit to the entire tryout process for their age category. Accurate evaluations need to have consistency among the evaluators. (15 – 20 hours total)

---