



## GUELPH MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION– TRYOUT POLICY

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### ELIGIBILITY

There shall be a player tryout fee set annually by the Board of Directors. The mandatory, and non-refundable, try-out fee is to be paid in full to the Guelph Minor Hockey Association prior to the beginning of the first try-out. Tryouts are open to all registered Zone Players (AAA), Guelph Residents and qualified Non-Resident Players (NRP's). Player residency and eligibility rules will apply as set forth by the OMHA guidelines, policies, and rules. Proof of residency is required at the first tryout. Acceptable forms of proof of residency are a valid driver's license, property tax assessment or home residence utility bill. NRP's are required to provide an OMHA NRP Passport approved by their home centre.

### TRYOUT PROCESS

1. Tryouts will be held in the Fall (September) for AAA, AA, A, and AE/MD teams U8 to U18.
2. The tryout schedule will be posted to the GMHA website prior to the beginning of tryouts. Players are required to register for tryouts through the GMHA website. For the tryout process to run successfully it is highly recommended that all players are registered one week prior to the start of AAA tryouts.
3. All tryouts will be held individually, beginning with AAA and finishing with the AE/MD (as applicable). On or before the last date of each level of tryout, the players selected will be offered a letter of commitment.
4. For AAA teams, Offers of Commitment must be made to any player that the team wishes to protect by end of Day Four (4). If a AAA team does not offer a position with the team by the end of Day Four (4), the team cannot refuse to issue the player an OHF Waiver if one is requested. The player has the option to continue with the team's tryouts, and/or, request the OHF Waiver.
5. All AAA-AE/MD teams U10 to U16 will only be given 7 days to complete their tryouts and make Offers of Commitment to their players.
6. ADP tryouts will be held in the fall of 2021.

### PLAYER SELECTION

1. GMHA shall provide try-outs to allow Head Coaches to evaluate and select players.
2. All players wishing to participate in the rep hockey program must try-out.
  - a. Player declarations must be received by the coach and the Director of Rep in writing via email no later than the first try-out for the AA team.
  - b. **At the discretion of the coach**, the coach may choose to meet with the player, parents and Director of Rep Hockey to discuss the declaration and request the player try-out, otherwise the player will be released to the next level.



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- c. **The final decision** to approve a declaration shall be made by the Director of Rep Hockey.
  - d. Players unable to try-out must present to the head coach and Director of Rep Hockey, a doctor's note specifying that the player is physically unable to participate during try-outs. Under these conditions, the player may be selected to a team without attending try-outs.
  - e. Any player wishing to try out for a team above his/her proper age group is eligible to try out for the first entry team only. If he/she fails to make that team, he/she must return to his/her proper age grouping.
  - f. Where a player is seeking to play at a division higher than his age division, the player must be evaluated by independent evaluators and the Director of Rep, to be in the top five (5) players for the higher division, based on skill and ability and not solely on player game statistics.
3. Efforts should be made to ensure that returning players and new players are not clearly separated by pinnie/jersey colour. When using more than one dressing room, all coaches are to ensure that returning players and new players are not divided into separate dressing rooms. The players should be mixed.
  4. It is highly recommended that the Head Coach(s) does not participate in the on-ice portion of the tryouts.
  5. There will be no parents from within the age group assisting during the tryout process. Every effort will be made to use the following for running the on-ice portion of the tryout; 1) your tryout buddy, 2) independent helpers, and 3) another head coach from within the age group.

### **OFFERS OF POSITIONS**

Players will be offered positions on the team via an OMHA Letter of Commitment

A GMHA player that is offered a position on an GMHA Representative Team is required to sign an OMHA Letter of Commitment within 14 days to accept the offer. If the Letter of Commitment is not signed, the Head Coach, at his/her discretion, may release the player from the team and offer the position to another player previously released.

If a player is offered a position with an AA team and refuses that position, the player is released directly to House League and is not eligible to try out for the A or AE team at that age level. If a player is offered a position with an AE/MD team and refuses that position, that player is not eligible for Select hockey.

### **RELEASES**

1. All releases are to be done via the team page on the website.



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2. Meeting with players and parents: Head Coaches should make themselves available to players after tryouts for anyone to discuss areas of opportunities and any other information on why they were not selected. The 24-hour rule applies. If meeting with parents/players in person, always have two Team Officials in the room.
3. The GMHA has the first right of refusal on Players who reside in Guelph from U9 to U16 at the AE to AA level. Any Guelph player in these age groups will require a release from the GMHA before they are eligible to tryout with another team. No releases for these age groups will be given prior to spring tryouts. A player who is provided an Offer of Commitment from a team and does not accept it will not be provided a release for that Category.

**Please note** that at no time is a Head Coach allowed to recruit players from other associations to play in Guelph. If you are contacted by a player or parent about trying out for your team, please refer them to their own association, so they can determine eligibility.

### **INDEPENDENT EVALUATORS**

As part of the tryout process, the Head Coach must have a minimum of two (2) independent, non-parent evaluators to assist with on-ice evaluations. An independent evaluator is defined as an individual (a non-parent and not related to a player in the tryout process (except for the Head Coach's child)) who has adequate hockey knowledge, experience, and expertise. Independent evaluators will work with the head coach in the selection of players who will be offered positions on the team. Non-parent assistants who are not related to any player in the tryout process can work in conjunction with the Head Coach during the tryout process.

### **SELECTION OF BENCH STAFF**

The Head Coach shall select his/her bench staff (assistant coaches, trainer and manager) only after the final roster has been determined.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

During the tryout process all players, parents and Head Coaches are expected to adhere to the OMHA and GMHA Codes of Conduct as well as the City of Guelph R-Zone Policy. Any behaviour contrary to the codes will result in immediate expulsion from the tryout process.