



NSWC Minor Hockey Rep Tryout Process

The NSWC Rep Tryout process is designed to build the strongest minor hockey teams to represent NSWC in the PCAHA winter hockey season, throughout all Divisions. The evaluation process is a two-pronged approach that assesses a player on their skills, game play and team fit:

1. **Player Evaluation:** players are scored by independent evaluators through a skill assessment session and scrimmages to determine their placement in a Working Group. Working Group placement = average of skill score & scrimmage scores.
2. **Team Formation:** Coaches / Working Group Coaches assess a player's skills and game play, coachability and overall team fit through multiple practice drills, scrimmages and exhibition games.

Rep tryouts are held in late August / early September and last approximately four to six weeks.

An Evaluation Committee is responsible for the annual planning and execution of the tryout process, and comprises:

NSWC Hockey Director: process owner

NSWC General Manager: Executive Sponsor

MHC Chair and Division Coordinator: provides execution support

Board Liaison: updates the Board

Tryout Process Guiding Principles

- NSWC's Hockey Faculty owns and manages the process; members provide support, as directed by the Hockey Director.
- The tryout process' steps will be transparent and defensible: pre, during and post tryouts.
- Player tryout experiences will be consistent, regardless of division or year.
- Player placement decisions are made in the best interest of the team.
- Player feedback focuses on supporting and improving the individual player, over the long-term.

Evaluators

Independent evaluators are retained annually by the Evaluation Committee to assess and score each player. Player scores are then used to form Working Groups.

- Evaluators are formally reviewed and approved by the Hockey Faculty, General Manager and the MHC Chair and Division Coordinator to ensure no conflicts of interest exists.
 - E.g. relatives participating in the division being assessed.
- They possess a high-level of hockey knowledge and experience.
- Evaluators are not provided player names. Scoring is done against tryout jersey numbers, which is then provided to the Division Coordinator for data entry.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents are reminded to adhere to the NSW Code of Conduct as well as the following:

- Evaluators are not to be approached or communicated with directly about the tryouts or a players' score / performance.
- Remain in designated viewing areas during the tryout process (evaluators at ice-level, parents in designated viewing areas).
- Issues must be resolved through the *Issue Resolution Process*, adhering to the "24-hr no contact" rule.
- Parents must attend the *Rep Prep Talk* associated with their division tryout in order to receive a tryout jersey.
- H4 parents are encouraged to attend a rep tryout prep discussion held prior to the conclusion of the H4 winter season.
- Review online and printed material related to the tryout process – be educated before your player participates.

Player Participation

Players are reminded to adhere to the NSW code of Conduct.

- Players must attend the skill assessment and team scrimmages in order to be assigned to a Rep-level team.
 - Acceptable absence includes family emergency, player injury or new to the club / new to the PCAHA/NSW geographic zone.
 - Notification must be provided in writing to the Hockey Director for review.
 - Legitimate absences: the player will be placed on team best suited for the player based on the opinion of the Hockey Faculty. The player will then be given a fair evaluation from that team. If necessary the player will then be moved up or down to the appropriate team.
 - Non-legitimate absences (vacation, other organization tryout, etc): player automatically placed on Hawks team, excluding Midget.
- Players must only skate with their designated tryout team, unless directed otherwise.
- Players must wear the provided tryout jersey, matching NSW red or white socks and regular season play helmet. No spring or elite team helmets or socks / pants allowed.
- During Player Evaluations, a player may be removed (from A1 tryout to rep tryout or rep tryout to Hawks team / player age level) for safety reasons.

Player Assignment

Players are assigned to their Working Groups or Hawk team based primarily on their evaluation score, within 48 hours of the final tryout skate. In some cases (e.g. multiple players have same score / limited spots), input may be sought from non-parent division coaches and skill / scrimmage coaches. Once in their Working Group, players participate in skill and game play assessments executed by the Coach or Working Group Coach¹.

- There are multiple rounds of player reassignment, at the discretion of the Coach or Working Group Coach.
- After each round, the Working Group list of retained players will be emailed to all players.
 - Reassigned players will be invited to contact the Coach or Working Group Coach after 24-hrs of reassignment notification for feedback and discussion of decision.

¹ Paid non-parent coaches (outside the division) are assigned as Working Group Coaches for A3 / A4.

- Reassigned players will be contacted by the Coach or Working Group Coach of their new Working Group regarding practice and game schedules.
- If a player is reassigned more than one level, NSWC's Hockey Director reviews and manages player notification.
- NSWC's Hockey Director reviews and approves all player assignments, prior to player notification.
- Issues related to player placement should follow the *Issue Resolution Process*.

Player Evaluation Scores

Evaluation scores are kept confidential at all times and are destroyed at the conclusion of the PCAHA season. Scores are used to form Working Groups only, and play no role in a player's final assignment. An individual player evaluation score and Working Group context score will be provided to that player only as part of the resolution of a legitimate issue, as activated by the *Issue Resolution Process*. Scores will not be provided for information purposes.

Movement of a player to a higher age level

The NSWC seeks to provide unlimited development options for all young players. In some cases, the skill set of a player may dictate that a move to a higher age division would better facilitate their development.

The parent of any player wishing to move to a higher age division must submit a written request to the HD and MHC no later than August 1st. The HD will review and evaluate each request based on the following criteria: physical size, skill, strength, maturity and commitment. The MHC will ensure registration numbers allow for additional players.

The MHC will notify parents of the decision no later than one week before the start of the tryout process. Players participating in a higher age division tryout process must succeed in being rated within the first working group in order to remain in the higher division (excluding Atom, see note 2). If the player does not rank within the top working group, the player must return to their natural age.

Notes:

1. In Atom, underage players may only be placed on any Rep teams to a limit of three players per team, as per PCAHA guidelines.
2. Players placed on the second placement group (A2), may be called up to the A1 team in Pee Wee and above.
3. If an initiation player is assigned to a rep Working Group after the Player Evaluation step, they cannot be returned to initiation level during the Team Formation step.