



NSWC 2025-2026 Minor Hockey Tryout Process

Divisions that require a try-out due to the number of players registered will follow the below tryout process.

General:

- In Phase 1 of the tryout process, the tryout groups will be sorted alphabetically by last name and based on position; goalies will likely be asked to move around to ensure there is at least one per team. Players will not be allowed to change groups throughout Phase 1.
- All games will have a 2-minute shift buzzer to ensure all players get equal ice time
 - Benches will have supervisors to ensure no kids are cutting lines.
- Scores & Ranking System
 - Per the Hockey Canada Guidelines set out for tryouts, players will be given a score out of 5 per skate from each evaluator. An average will be reached given these numbers, and working groups will be decided based off of these numbers.
- Teams going straight to working group based on player registration numbers will have various ice times allocated in the first 2 weeks of September, and in most cases, sessions will be run by that team's coaching staff.
- Players registered for Hawks (C level) will have access to a couple of optional ice times the first two weeks of September, and may be combined with another division (ie. U11 Hawks and U13 Hawks). Sessions will be run by a parent coach or NSWC development coach.
- U7 & U9 players will have access to one "Free Skate" prior to their division's evaluation sessions. This session will be run by a parent coach or NSWC development coach.
- There will be no Female specific skates on Saturday September 6th and Sunday September 7th due to the Female Camp Latona event.
- The regular season ice schedule for teams will begin the week of Monday September 15th with many teams still in working groups.
- The Hockey Department will strive to have final team selections on or before Monday September 29th

Evaluators

Evaluators are selected annually by the Hockey Department and Minor Hockey Committee to assess and score each player. Player scores are then used to form Working Groups for U11 above and used to form major/minor teams for the Initiation divisions.

- Evaluators are formally reviewed by the Hockey Department and the MHC to ensure that no conflict of interest exists.
 - E.g. relatives participating in the division being assessed.
- Evaluators 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 Hockey Department for data entry.
- Each division will have a minimum of 3 evaluators.
- *The Upper Viewing Area will be closed to all parents, and will be for EVALUATORS ONLY.*
- Evaluators may include the head coaches of that division's rep teams and may also include assistant coaches.
- A lead evaluator will be assigned to each division to ensure each player received a proper evaluation and that all evaluation criteria are considered.

- Goalie evaluation skates will be managed and graded by a NSW Hockey coach, selected by our Head of Goalkeeping development and the Hockey Department.
- This same goalie coach will be responsible for evaluating the goalies during the scrimmage games.

Communication Guidelines

- Parents may not contact NSW Hockey coaches, evaluators, or employees until the final selections for each team have been made. Requests for additional feedback or to dispute a selection must be submitted via email to the Hockey Department and must contain an outline of reasoning for the request/dispute.
- Following the tryout, based on the discretion of the Hockey Director, parents can be provided the rankings of where their child fit in the overall evaluation process.
- Please do not contact the hockey department unless an urgent matter arises.
- **If absolutely necessary, please knock on the door of the hockey office before entering.**
- **Please do not enter the hockey office during the tryout process unannounced or uninvited.**
- Any parent who does not follow these communication guidelines, or is disruptive within their assigned team will be subject to a potential suspension from hockey related activities at the NSW Hockey.

Parent Responsibilities

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

- Evaluators / coaches are not to be approached or communicated with directly about the tryouts or players' score / performance.
- Remain in designated viewing areas during the tryout process (evaluators at upper viewing or ice-level, parents in designated viewing areas).
- Issues must be resolved through the *Conflict Resolution Process*, to the "24-hr no contact" rule.
- Review online and printed material related to the tryout process – be educated before your player participates.

Player Evaluation Scores

- Per Hockey Canada guidelines, each player will receive a 1 to 5 score as an overall hockey player
- Each evaluator will record their score out of 5, for each ice time, and scores will be averaged between all evaluators scores
- These reports will create an automated, overall average score for each player.
- A ranking against all players based on their overall average score following evaluation will be given.
- Goalies will be evaluated by Goalie Coaches during the skills sessions, scrimmage games, and goalie skates.

Failure to report

Any player that participates in the fall tryout process for REP hockey at the NSW Hockey and does not report to the team that such player is assigned to during all stages of the tryout process (including after completion of the fall tryout process), without approval by the Hockey Director, will not be eligible to play REP hockey at the NSW Hockey for the next season that such player registers to play hockey at the NSW Hockey.