



***Casco Bay Mariners  
Travel Teams  
Tryout Procedure  
U10-U14***

**Schedule/Format:**

- There will be a total of three rounds of tryouts. The format will be as follows:
  - Round 1 – Skill Drills
  - Round 2 – Scrimmage
  - Round 3 – Scrimmage
- All players are guaranteed participation in Rounds 1 and 2. Invitations will be sent by email to those requested back for Round 3.
- There will be two one-hour ice sessions for each round. Each player will skate one of the two hours. Players will be grouped for the sessions in various ways throughout the week to give the evaluators the best opportunity to evaluate and place the players properly.
- You will receive notice by email of the hour for which your player has been assigned the day before Round 1, and as soon as possible for Rounds 2 and 3 following the completion of the preceding round.

**Identification:**

- All players will be given colored pinnies with numbers. Evaluators will be given evaluation sheets with corresponding pinnie colors and numbers. It is crucial that players wear the pinnie they were assigned. Pinnies will be collected after each round and redistributed before each subsequent round.

**Evaluation:**

- 4-6 evaluators will observe each tryout session. Evaluators will be a mix of Casco Bay coaches and board members who know the players' background, and some non-Casco Bay hockey "experts" who have no significant prior

knowledge of the players. There will be at least one evaluator specifically assigned to evaluating goalies. Evaluators will be given standard evaluation sheets on which to provide scores and comments on all players.

- Each evaluator will score each player in a number of different categories over the course of the three rounds of tryouts. Evaluators scores will be averaged to get a cumulative score for each player. These numerical scores are one part of the overall evaluation and selection criteria.
- Players' history and input from past coaches forms another part of the selection criteria.
- Players' commitment to the game, the team, and the organization are also considered. Attitude, work ethic, and behavior are other factors considered by the evaluation/selection team.
- Board members who are part of the evaluation team that have children trying out will not score their own child.

### **Positions:**

- Players will be asked their preferred position prior to Round 1. Players will be placed in those positions for the majority of the tryout scrimmages. Players may play multiple positions (F/D) if they desire, and players may be asked to skate a portion of a scrimmage in a position that is not their preferred/normal position.
- Positions and lines will be set for the scrimmages by the evaluation/selection team. Lines and positions will be changed at the half way point of each scrimmage. The goal is to give each player an opportunity to skate with and against a variety of competitors and in different positions.
- Goalies must skate as goalies for the entire tryout, and if selected for a team must play as a goalie the entire season, barring a player injury or other special circumstance.

### **Selection and Notification:**

- Team selection will be made by the evaluation/selection team shortly following Round 3. Individual players will be notified by phone and/or email, usually within 48-72 hours. The player will then have 24 hours to respond with a written acceptance of the roster spot, and must pay a \$350 deposit via our website within 7 days.
- Once offers have been made and all roster spots have been filled, an announcement will be made to all tryout registrants with the final team rosters.

- We know that tryouts can be a stressful time for players and parents. We politely ask for your patience and understanding as the evaluation/selection team works through the process. Lots of information will be gathered and it takes time to fully review and digest everything before making final decisions. The Casco Bay Board of Directors (BOD) and the travel team tryout evaluation/selection team takes this process very seriously and will do everything they can to give the players the best chance to earn a spot by designing a tryout that give players a variety of opportunities to demonstrate their abilities. The process includes evaluators both with and without prior knowledge of the players, as there is value in both. The process is very thorough evaluating a number of aspects of each player's game. Every evaluator's assessment is included a plays a role in final team selection. Additional information is sought from beyond the evaluation team when appropriate. The goal is to put the best product on the ice and give the players the greatest opportunity for success as a team.

### **Coaches:**

- Selection of Travel Team coaches can be difficult. As a non-profit volunteer run organization, Casco Bay Mariner coaches are typically parents of players on the teams. Therefore, final selection of coaches is made AFTER teams are selected.
- The goal is to provide travel teams with high caliber coaching. Coaches are sought who have playing and/or coaching experience, as well as the time and dedication to commit the necessary level of effort/involvement required.
- With the "open border" policy currently in the state of Maine, it is often advantageous to announce coaches before travel tryouts in order to give regional hockey players information that may be important in their process of deciding which organization to play for. The Casco Bay BOD reserves the right to announce travel team coaches before tryouts and/or make changes in coaching staff after final team selection.

### **Exceptions:**

- The Casco Bay Board of Directors can place players on travel teams who miss tryouts, due to a SERIOUS illness or injury, school activities or family vacation at an appropriate level. Advanced written notice is needed and must be approved by the Travel Director. The Board of Directors will reserve the right to use its discretion to place players at the lowest level if there is an unexcused absence at the tryouts. The Board of Directors will do its best to give ample advance notice to parents regarding the timing of tryouts.