



Boys Traveling
Tryout Guide
2021-22

Updated 6/30/2021

New This Year

There are a few changes to the boys traveling tryout process for the 2021-22 season:

- The Bantam and PeeWee AA/A separate tryout sessions have been eliminated
- There will be four outside evaluators (one goalie evaluator, three skater evaluators) and four RAHA coach evaluators at each level
 - Evaluator scores are evenly weighted 50% outside evaluators and 50% RAHA coach evaluators
- All possible age level coaches will attend Day 4 of tryouts
- Assuming no COVID restrictions, pools will be shuffled after each tryout session

General Notes

Players should arrive 30-45 minutes prior to their session and must be ready to get on the ice 15 minutes prior to start time.

Players must check-in before every session or risk being marked absent.

No evaluator/coach scores or comments will be given to the parents after the tryout process is complete.

It is your responsibility to monitor the RAHA website and understand which pool session you must attend each day during tryouts.

Tryout Jerseys, Socks and Equipment

Tryout jerseys will be handed out prior to the start of tryouts. Each player will receive a reversible tryout jersey to be used for all four tryout sessions. Jerseys are to be placed in bag/box at RCC after the last tryout session. Parents may be charged if the tryout jersey is not returned.

A pair of Rosemount socks will also be handed out; these will become your team socks for the season but are also the socks players are required to wear for all tryout sessions.

Players must wear a navy-colored helmet with NO IDENTIFYING TEAM MARKINGS or STICKERS (AAA, team names, etc.).

Wear all standard hockey equipment including mouth guards.

Goalies

Goalies will attend a separate goaltender's skill session for grading. This will most likely take place before the rest of the skaters try out. Goalies will then be assigned to pools (like the skaters) for the remaining tryout sessions.

Tryout Pools

All skaters are placed in random pools for the first tryout session. Pool assignments are posted to the RAHA website a couple days prior to the first session.

Scores from sessions are used for subsequent pool assignments at each level. The tryout facilitator re-pools the players after Sessions 1, 2 and 3.

In addition, each player has the opportunity to move up/down within tiers based on each day's session play – therefore each and every session matters.

Updated pools will be posted to the website as soon as they become available. It is your responsibility to monitor the RAHA website and understand which pool you are assigned.

What if I have questions about tryouts?

Questions/concerns about the tryout process must go through the RAHA Tryout Facilitator. Do not bring these questions directly to the traveling coaches/coordinators or tryout committee.

Squirt Tryouts

The tryout process is based on registration numbers; therefore, this process may change if the actual number of players change.

- **Day 1: Skills (25% of total evaluation score)**
 - Session consists of 2 drills designed to grade a player's skating & puck skills
- **Day 2: 5x5 Scrimmage (37.5% of total evaluation score)**
 - Skaters are systematically rotated through all positions
- **Day 3: 5x5 Scrimmage (37.5% of total evaluation score)**
 - Skaters are systematically rotated through all positions
- **Day 4: Coach Led 5x5 Scrimmage or Skills (not evaluated)**
 - Coaches determine if skills, scrimmage or both will be completed on Day 4

At the end of each session, players may stay in the same tier, move up or move down, based on the most recent session's performance.

Subsequent session assignments will be posted to the RAHA website the night before the scheduled session.

It is your responsibility to monitor the RAHA website and understand which pool session you must attend each day during tryouts.

PeeWee Tryouts

The tryout process is based on registration numbers; therefore, this process may change if the actual number of players change.

- **Day 1: Skills & Scrimmage (33.33% of total evaluation score)**
 - Session consists of 1 drill designed to grade a player's skating & puck skills
 - Skaters are systematically rotated through all positions during scrimmage
- **Day 2: 5x5 Scrimmage (33.33% of total evaluation score)**
 - Skaters are systematically rotated through all positions
- **Day 3: 5x5 Scrimmage (33.33% of total evaluation score)**
 - Skaters are systematically rotated through all positions
- **Day 4: Coach Led 5x5 Scrimmage or Skills (not evaluated)**
 - Coaches determine if skills, scrimmage or both will be completed on Day 4

At the end of each session, players may stay in the same tier, move up or move down, based on the most recent session's performance.

Subsequent session assignments will be posted to the RAHA website the night before the scheduled session.

It is your responsibility to monitor the RAHA website and understand which pool session you must attend each day during tryouts.

Bantam Tryouts

The tryout process is based on registration numbers; therefore, this process may change if the actual number of players change.

- **Day 1: Skills and Scrimmage (33.33% of total evaluation score)**
 - Session may consist of 1 drill designed to grade a player's skating & puck skills
 - Skaters are systematically rotated through all positions
 - Checking *not* allowed
- **Day 2: 5x5 Scrimmage (33.33% of total evaluation score)**
 - Skaters are systematically rotated through all positions
 - Checking *not* allowed
- **Day 3: 5x5 Scrimmage (33.33% of total evaluation score)**
 - Skaters are systematically rotated through all positions
 - Checking may or may not be allowed; further direction will be provided at tryout check-in
- **Day 4: 5x5 Scrimmage or Skills (not evaluated)**
 - Coaches determine if skills, scrimmage or both will be completed on Day 4
 - Checking allowed

At the end of each session, players may stay in the same tier, move up or move down, based on the most recent session's performance.

Subsequent session assignments will be posted to the RAHA website the night before the scheduled session.

It is your responsibility to monitor the RAHA website and understand which pool session you must attend each day during tryouts.

How are players evaluated?

Note: Any sessions missed by a player/goalie will receive the lowest score possible (1) for that session.

During each tryout session, 4 outside evaluators and 4 RAHA coaches will score based on a preset scale, following a common scoring structure.

Evaluators/coaches look for complete players, with strengths balanced across:

- Skills
- Hockey sense, and
- Positive contribution to team play

Scores from each evaluator/coach are recorded and used for subsequent tier assignments and final team selection.

Players are evaluated for negative contributions to play. Inappropriate conduct or penalty situations will result in a decrease in score. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Penalties
- Use of foul language on or off the ice
- **Play intended to injure, illegal checks**

Coach evaluators are prohibited from scoring his/her own player and from accessing their player's scores.

How are teams selected?

After the third tryout session is complete, the RAHA Board of Directors meets to determine pick pools which are based on team sizes and finding a natural break/gap in the total evaluation scores. A player must be in the predetermined pick pool on day 4 to be placed on that team.

Day 4 tryout pools are determined by the pick pools approved by the Board of Directors. Once pick pool sizes are determined, the potential head coaches are identified. All potential head coaches for the teams within the pick pools attend Day 4 sessions and are given the list of tryout jersey numbers within their pick pool **AT THE START OF THE SESSION** to observe and assist in their team selection process.

Once a coach is officially selected and notified of their position on a team, he/she goes into a room with the tryout facilitator, registrar and at least two board members, none of which

are parents of any skater in the affected age group. The coach will identify tryout jersey numbers that are within the pick pool.

In the event there are two teams at any given level (i.e. two Squirt B1 teams), District 8 requires the teams be equally balanced. In this case, both head coaches are in the room at the same time and choose their players by snake draft. This starts by the committee choosing a group of players that are clustered together and the coaches taking turns selecting jersey numbers. This repeats until the teams are filled. After the teams are made, the committee analyzes to ensure they are even based on total accumulative evaluation scores.

How are head coaches selected?

The Coaches Committee evaluates all coaching candidates at each level on experience, reputation and past performance/survey results. The committee brings their coaches ranking to the board for final vote before tryouts start.

A coach's player must fall within the pick pool in order for that parent to be chosen as head coach that team. The level's highest ranked coach gets first option to be head coach.

How will I know what team I'm on?

After team selections are complete, an email will be sent indicating team placements have been posted to the RAHA website. Team assignments are generally posted within 48 hours from the completion of tryouts.

Please be aware that your first practice can be the very next day following tryouts.

What if I believe a mistake took place?

We understand that the outcome of tryouts might not always be what you had hoped for; however, team selections are final. We are always interested in feedback and suggestions and are looking to continually improve our processes and programs. In the end, everyone will be on a team, will have a chance to develop and enjoy playing this great sport.

Grievances/complaints, related to tryouts, will not be discussed on the phone. All contact regarding grievances/complaints will not be accepted until one week (7 days) after the completion of your level's final tryout session. Every player/parent who wishes to file a grievance, will need to contact the RAHA Vice-President to get a copy of the form. A meeting will be set up, once the form is completed, as we value your feedback.

In any case, you should plan on attending your team practices as scheduled.