



Policy Title: Tryout Policy

Original Effective Date: N/A

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Next Scheduled Review: January 2027

1. PLAYER TRYOUT POLICY

- 1.1. Coaches have up to 4 tryouts, based on ice availability and level, including designated STPGHA try out ice times and exhibition games to pick their teams.
- 1.2. Player selection will be based on each player's ability, knowledge of the game and attitude.
- 1.3. It is recommended that all players should be at all tryouts to have the best opportunity to make the team:
 - 1.3.1. A registered player must attend at least two tryout sessions in order to be eligible to make the team they are trying out for, unless permission is granted by the Hockey Operations Committee after a written request. (the player MUST attend one tryout skate to be eligible to continue on to tryout exhibition games or selection).
 - 1.3.2. If a player registers but fails to make tryouts she will be placed on the lowest team, if there is a spot available. She is NOT guaranteed a spot on a team.
 - 1.3.3. A registered player must attend at least two tryout sessions in order to be eligible to make the team they are trying out for, unless permission is granted by the Hockey Operations Committee after a written request. (the player MUST attend one tryout skate to be eligible to continue on to tryout exhibition games or selection)
- 1.4. All Representative Player decisions will be made and posted online.
- 1.5. Coaches are encouraged to provide parents/players with an explanation of skills development for improvement as requested.
- 1.6. Coaches are required to use a minimum of two (2) independent evaluators (with no conflict of interest with that team) that will be provided by the Director of Coach and Player Development. Coaches can appoint an additional evaluator (with no conflict of interest with that team) if they choose.
- 1.7. All Head Coaches are responsible for finding on-ice instructors for tryouts.



- 1.8. Evaluators will develop a list of 3 skaters and 1 goalie to be used in the case of player movement if numbers change during or after the tryout process:
 - 1.8.1. If teams are not filled at the end of the tryout period girls will be allowed to register until the teams are filled but NOT guaranteed a spot if registration is completed.
 - 1.8.2. The purpose of the development of a list of 3 skaters and 1 goalie is to avoid further evaluation at a later date and prepare the head coach of the lower tier team for potential player movement. The Director of Coach and Player development will revisit the list at a later date (if needed) to identify girls eligible for movement and contact the families to see if they are interested.
- 1.9. The goal is to roster seventeen (17) players (2 goalies and 15 skaters) on each team, unless the Hockey Operations Committee determines that a different number is more appropriate based on the number of girls registered in the division and/or the overall skill level demonstrated at tryouts.
- 1.10. All players must complete ONLINE tryout registration and pay the non-refundable fee 24 hours prior to the start of tryout. The fee will be determined and posted each year prior to tryouts.
- 1.11. The Hockey Operations Committee reserves the right to place players on teams for exceptional reasons.

2. PLAYER MOVEMENT POLICY

- 2.1. At the start of each season, a Player may be eligible to skate with the highest competitive category team at an older age level, depending on her ability, physical stature and maturity. Prior to the Player skating with the aforementioned team, the Player and her parent(s) or legal guardian will be required to request, in writing to the Hockey Operations Committee, that she be given permission to skate with the aforementioned team.
- 2.2. An Evaluation Committee consisting of the Director of Coach and Player Development, the coach of the team at the older age level, and a third person (TBD), will assess each player requesting permission. The Director of Coach and Player Development, with agreement from the Hockey Operations Committee, will nominate the third person, who is both knowledgeable and experienced in the evaluation of hockey players, to the committee. The Director of Coach and Player Development will chair the Evaluation Committee.
- 2.3. A player is eligible for movement if she is ranked in talent, ability and maturity as being among the top three (3) players in aforementioned division. Goaltenders will be at the discretion of the Hockey Operations Committee. If a Player is evaluated as



being eligible for movement, the Evaluation committee will recommend to the Hockey Operations Committee that the Player be elevated to the aforementioned team in the older category. The Hockey Operations Committee must approve the recommendation before the player can skate with the aforementioned team in the older age category.

- 2.4. The Evaluation Committee will also assess the movement of a goaltender to a team in an older age category. In addition to the ability, stature and maturity of the goaltender, the Hockey Operations Committee will consider the goaltending needs of other teams in the Association. The Hockey Operations Committee will approve the movement of a goaltender before the player can skate with the older age category team.
- 2.5. Player movement to second or lower teams cannot be requested. In the event that the Board of Directors deems a movement to a higher age group would be beneficial to balances numbers across divisions, the Evaluation Committee will convene to identify players for that movement. This movement must be motioned and passed by the Board of Directors.

3. SELECTION OF IMPORT PLAYERS

3.1. DEFINITION AND PROCESS:

- 3.1.1. Any player that is currently registered to any other OWHA centre is considered an Import Player. This includes the most recent season that a player was registered in the OWHA, whether that is current or any past season. For example, a player that registered to an OWHA team in any previous season and has player OMHA in the meantime is still considered an Import Player.
- 3.1.2. Exceptions to Import Status:
 - 3.1.2.1. In the event a player left the St. Thomas Panthers Girls Hockey Association in the previous season to play for a higher level team than the highest level offered by the Association in that year, the player would not be considered an Import Player for only the following season.
 - 3.1.2.2. Players that are new to OWHA hockey (having never been registered to any OWHA association previously) will not be considered to be an Import Player, whether new to hockey or coming from an Association outside of OWHA.
- 3.1.3. In the event that St. Thomas Panthers Girls Hockey Association is not able to provide a team option for a Non-Import status player, the Board may allow



for that player to play outside of our Association for one (1) season, while maintaining Non-Import status.

- 3.1.4. For an Import Player to be selected, the player must demonstrate a higher skill level than “local” residents trying out for the team (regardless of the position).

4. ACHIEVING NON-IMPORT STATUS

4.1. Import players will attain Non-Import status following a season where the following criteria are met:

- 4.1.1. Players has completed a full season on a St. Thomas Panthers Girls Hockey Association roster; AND
- 4.1.2. Player has satisfied their Bond requirements for that season through hours, exemption, or payment of bond.

5. NUMBER OF IMPORT PLAYERS

5.1. The maximum number of Import Players allowed per team is as follows: (unless otherwise specified by STPGHA)

Divisional Classification	Number of Import Players (inclusive of all positions – defence, forward and goalie)		
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3/Tier 4
U9	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
U11	Up to 4	Up to 3	Up to 2
U13	Up to 4	Up to 3	Up to 2
U15	Up to 4	Up to 3	Up to 2
U18	Up to 5	Up to 4	Up to 3

- 5.2. Priority selection given to STPGHA players.
- 5.3. Under special circumstances, a Tier 1 Coach may request additional import players above the number allocated for the respective age group. All requests must be in



writing, supported by the Coach and player, reviewed and approved by the Hockey Operations Committee. Players being considered must meet the criteria for the respective age category in the Selection of Import section above. The decision of the Executive is final and not subject to appeal.

- 5.4. Considerations for Goaltenders Developing and retaining goalies is a priority for STPGHA, in order to achieve this, the following considerations apply:
 - 5.4.1. When the total number of STPGHA goaltenders in a division is equal to or exceeds the total number of available goaltender positions, import goaltenders will NOT be permitted without approval.
 - 5.4.2. When the total number of STPGHA goaltenders in a division is less than the total number of available goaltender positions, import goaltenders will be permitted. Import goaltenders may attend tryouts beginning with the Tier 1 team tryout and continue to subsequent team tryouts if released and approved.
 - 5.4.3. If an import goaltender is selected under 5.4.1. above the import goaltender counts as one of the total Import Players allowed for the team. If an import goaltender is selected under 5.4.2. above the import goaltender does not count as one of the total Import Players allowed for this team. Any deviation from these considerations requires approval.