



Southern Shore Minor Hockey Association (SSMHA)
and
Goulds Minor Hockey Association (GMHA)

Tryout Process

Sept 8, 2024



Southern Shore Minor Hockey Association (SSMHA)

Goulds Minor Hockey Association (GMHA)

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The purpose of this document is to explain the tryout process for the Southern Shore Minor Hockey Association (SSMHA) and Goulds Minor Hockey Association (GMHA).

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We encourage ALL players to try out at the start of the season as we will not be holding mid-season tryouts as we have done in the past.

Note: Eastern Zone associations will no longer select additional teams beyond the initial DJHL All Star ("A", "B", or "C") selection phase for end of season provincial play



Section 1 - Tryout process for selection-based teams

The following Tryout Process is applicable to all selection-based teams

1. All players registered for tryouts prior to the established deadline will be placed on a team. The number of teams will depend on the number of registered players.
2. Each team will have at least 1 skills session and play a minimum of two (2) games. There will be at least one bench coach for each team and the bench coach will try their best to ensure equal ice time for each player. Please note that the bench coach will have no child trying out for an All-Star team on the bench that they are coaching, but they are permitted to be on the opposing teams' bench.
3. Our aim is to have each game be evaluated by a minimum of three independent evaluators. SSMHA-GMHA will endeavor to have evaluators who do not have a clear conflict of interest, and they will have no children in the same division in their respective organization as the one in which they are evaluating.
4. The evaluators will each assign an overall rating to each player following the tryouts. There are varying skill sets for forwards, defense, and goalies which will be referenced to come up with the player's overall rating.
5. After each evaluation game, evaluation sheets will be collected by a member of the SSMHA-GMHA executive. At the conclusion of the tryout games, the evaluation sheets will be compiled and the total rating for each child will be recorded. In a situation where two or more children have an identical ranking, the evaluator's notes will be reviewed by the Technical Director(s) as well as the



All-Star Representative(s) to rank the players. Previous year's coaches may also be consulted for their input in this circumstance.

6. The selection process will be based on the evaluator's ratings. The Head Coach of the team may also be asked for input, as outlined below.
7. Any DJHL or Tier 1 team will automatically comprise the eight highest-rated forwards, five highest-rated defense, and the highest-rated goalie. The Head Coach of the team may be asked for their input when selecting the final forward, defense, and goaltender. At this point, the Coach is invited to the room (if available) to participate in the final player selections. These final selections must be made from the next four highest-rated forwards, three highest-rated defense, and two highest-rated goalies.
8. All-subsequent teams will be decided in the same manner using the remaining highest-rated players.
9. For U11 teams where the top 15 are taken, the Evaluators will select the top 13 skaters and 1 goaltender. The Head Coach of the team may be asked for their input when selecting the final 2 skaters and the second Goaltender. At this point, the Coach is invited to the room (if available) to participate in the final player selections
10. Some of the highest rated players may be selected to the team before the conclusion of tryouts to give players still competing for a spot more ice time during the tryout games.
11. For U9 Selects and U18 teams, no formal tryouts will be held at this time. Eastern zone Metro Presidents are still aligning on a solution for U18 provincial teams. Once final, tryouts for U18 Provincial teams will be announced.
12. For all tryouts, players must be members in good standing. "In good standing" means that they have no infractions for inappropriate behavior, have paid their respective registration fees, have paid the respective tryout fees, and have no outstanding balance of funds owed from previous years with SSMHA or GMHA.



Players must be in good standing prior to the deadline posted on the SSMHA & GMHA shared website - <https://ssmha-gmha.ca/>

13. In the event of illness or unforeseen circumstances during tryouts, players must follow the guidelines set out in the [SSMHA-GMHA Tryout Exemption Policy](#).
14. Final team selections will be posted to the SSMHA-GMHA website. Ratings will not be posted.

Section 2 - Tryout and Evaluation Code of Conduct

Purpose:

- To establish guidelines and boundaries to be adhered to during tryout evaluations, to ensure evaluators can assess players without external influence, interference, or bias.
- This policy does not supersede or override the SSMHA/GMHA Tryout and Evaluation policy.
Tryout and evaluation process details can be found within that policy.

Process:

- Tryout practices and games will be observed by a group of independent evaluators, as mutually agreed by the executives of SSMHA and GMHA.
- Evaluators will observe the on-ice activity from a segregated area, without possible interference or influence from players, parents, coaches, executive members, etc.
- Executive members with children or relatives trying out may assist with assigning jerseys and serve as bench staff provided they are on the opposing team as their child or relative. However, they must refrain from participating in any other activities related to the tryout, including assigning tryout teams, or participating in player evaluations/selections.



Protocol:

- Evaluators are to refrain from conversations or communication with players, parents, coaches, or executive members while attending tryout events. Any discussions, even those unrelated to hockey, can be perceived by others as potential opportunity for external influence or interference.
- At no time during the tryout practices or games should any player, parent, coach, or executive member be in the vicinity of the evaluators.
- Upon conclusion of the on-ice sessions, the voting process is used by the evaluators to select the first 13 skaters, and 1 goalie. This process is witnessed by the relevant executive members (Presidents, Vice-Presidents, All-Star/Female Directors) to ensure the process is conducted fairly. The Head Coach (or Head Coach candidates) **is not** to be present for this initial voting/selection process. **Only** during selection of the final 2 skaters and 1 goalie, is the pre-determined Head Coach (or Head Coach candidates) to be present. He/she will be given the opportunity to pick the final players.

Section 3 - Tryout exemption policy

The purpose of this policy is to accommodate players who are injured, ill, or absent during the tryout process for a SSMHA or GMHA team.

- A player who wishes to try out for any team but is unable to try out due to injury, illness, or other absence (i.e. family emergency) must email and notify the SSMHA/GMHA All-star Director before tryouts begin.
- If the injury, illness, or family emergency happens during tryouts, SSMHA/GMHA's All-star Directors must be notified immediately, prior to the player's next tryout session. If proper notification is not given, considerations may not be made.
- Once the proper notification has been given the player will be put on the Injured, Illness, or absent list. A roster spot can be held open for a player on the injured/illness/absent list.



- A roster spot for a player on the injured/illness/absent list may be held for a maximum of 4 weeks past the last tryout skate.
- Players on the injured/illness/absent list will be vetted by the Vice Presidents, and All-star Directors to decide if the caliber of the injured player warrants a roster spot being held.
- If any participant becomes sick, injured, or has a family emergency and cannot attend all sessions, the player shall be ranked for the sessions in which they participate, and their score shall be prorated for the session(s) they are unable to attend.
- If a player is sick, injured, or has a family emergency and is unable to attend any portion of the tryout process, the player will be ranked based upon any background information that the evaluators can access such as past performance with prior teams, coaching reports from those teams, and any other pertinent information available to them.
- The Technical Director(s), Vice Presidents, and All-star Directors will have the option of choosing from the injured/illness/absent list to complete the roster, based on perceived skill level, past performances, and any other pertinent information available.
- If a player from the injured/illness/absent list is chosen, they must have approval from SSMHA/GMHA's President/Vice-President. Players who are chosen from the injured/illness/absent list must have already been registered and be a member in good standing with the SSMHA/GMHA.
- Players who are chosen from the injured/illness/absent list are required to pay all team fees that the rest of the team is required to pay, regardless of when they will begin playing with their team.
- Tryout fee refunds will not be made for injuries/illnesses/absences during tryouts.
- In cases of a significant injury (one that causes the player to miss multiple sessions), a note from the attending physician approving the player's return to play is required before the player can rejoin the process or resume play the SSMHA-GMHA hockey activities.