

Policy 10 – Tryouts



Applies To: All players eligible for CMHA tryouts at the “AA, A, BB, and C” levels.

Purpose:

To provide a transparent, fair, and development-focused process for annual CMHA tryouts. Tryouts are designed to identify and place the most qualified players at the appropriate level of competitive hockey within CMHA in accordance with Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) and Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) regulations.

Governing Principles

Tryouts shall be conducted in a manner that encourages all eligible players to attend the highest level available to them, while respecting the level they are best suited for. CMHA adheres to OMHA’s **Open Borders Policy**, which allows eligible players from outside the association’s geographic boundary to try out for AA and A teams without an NRP passport.

Dates

11.1 CMHA tryouts for U9 to U18 teams will be posted on the CMHA’s website, following the official start dates which will be designated by the **OHF**.

Eligibility

11.2 All players must be **registered with CMHA** through the Hockey Canada Registration (HCR) system prior to participating in tryouts.

11.3 Players must attend “AA” tryouts in order to be eligible for subsequent levels if they:

- Played “AA”, “A” (any age), or U9 House League in the previous season.
- Were previously rostered but left the team for any reason.

Note: This rule remains in effect for CMHA internal eligibility, even under the OMHA's Open Borders policy.

11.4 Players released from “AA” are eligible to attend “A” tryouts. Players released from “A” may proceed to “BB” or “C” tryouts (availability of BB and C levels depends on registration numbers and may vary by season).

11.5 Open Borders Policy (OMHA): Players from outside CMHA boundaries are eligible to try out for **AA and A teams without a passport**, subject to OMHA rules and timelines. CMHA encourages out-of-centre players to follow OMHA guidelines and registration requirements for open tryouts.

11.6 Players wishing to attend **AAA zone tryouts** must obtain a **Permission to Skate form** from their home association.

Cost & Attendance

11.7 All players attending tryouts must purchase a **Tryout Passport**, available online prior to the first session.

11.8 Players may be exempt from the passport fee due to **serious injury or illness** with a **doctor's note**. Refunds or credits are subject to CMHA Executive approval.

11.9 Non-resident players participating in tryouts under Open Borders will pay a **per-session rate** for tryouts, as established annually by CMHA.

Underage Tryouts (Playing Up an Age Group)

11.10 CMHA does not promote underage movement at “AA, A, BB, or C” levels. However, players may apply to try out in an older division under **exceptional player status**.

To qualify, the player must:

- Be the **#1 player** in both their current and desired age group.
- Submit a written request to the **GM of Hockey Operations** and **Director of Player Development** at least **3 days prior** to the first “AA” tryout session.
- Provide supporting documentation including:
 - Previous season team and level
 - Stats
 - A coach’s endorsement letter
- Be registered in their correct age division and hold a valid tryout passport.

11.11 If approved, the GM, Director of Player Development, or an independent evaluator may assess the player at the higher-level tryout to determine if they meet the exceptional standard.

11.12 This policy **does not apply to minor birth-year players** participating in a **combined birth-year team** at the “BB” or “C” level.

Withdrawal from Teams

11.13 Any player who withdraws from a Toros team after signing a commitment letter must seek **approval from the CMHA Executive** before being permitted to try out in future seasons.
Medical withdrawals are exempt.

11.14 A second withdrawal after signing a commitment letter (for non-medical reasons) will result in the player **not being permitted to return** to CMHA teams in future seasons.