

U10-U18 Evaluation (Tryout) Policy

Unless otherwise indicated by Hockey Canada, Ontario Hockey Federation, or Ontario Minor Hockey Association, the following shall apply:

Kingston Area Minor Hockey Association (KAMHA) is classified as an 'AA' Centre in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) and therefore, an "AA" team shall be selected prior to any other Rep teams. Once this has occurred, KAMHA will then select an "A" and then a "BB" team. The only exception where KAMHA would be able to select a "BB" team before an "A" team is at U14 and older where the "BB" team will be classified as a non-contact division.

1. Registration:

All players wishing to attend evaluations (tryouts) for a KAMHA Rep team shall be required to register prior to or on the first day of evaluations (tryouts) at a cost determined by KAMHA. There shall be no extensions to the registration deadline and if not registered before the deadline, the player shall not be eligible to attend evaluations (tryouts) for Rep hockey within KAMHA. The registration will be valid for the entire evaluation (tryout) process. Registration entitles a player to attend a total of three (3) evaluation (tryouts) skates. This may be a combination of evaluation (tryouts) (eg. AA, A, BB), ***and does not mean a player receives three (3) evaluation (tryouts) skates per team.***

2. Non-Resident Player (NRP):

KAMHA invites Non-Resident Players (NRP's) to the evaluations (tryout) for AA division at U12 and above. ***The maximum number of NRP's allowed per team for the 2023/2024 season at U12 is two (2) and for U13 and up it is three (3).*** NRP eligible players must be pre-registered with their home centre, and possess an NRP approved Permission To Skate (PTS) form from their home centre to attend KAMHA evaluations (tryouts). If you are an NRP player and do not produce a PTS form from your home centre at the first evaluation (tryout), you will not be permitted on the ice.

NRP's are ***NOT*** guaranteed a minimum number of games

3. Eligibility to Play in a Higher Division:

KAMHA discourages the signing of underage players. In exceptional circumstances, an underage player may be signed if he or she is assessed ***in the top three (3) players or top goalie on the older aged team. Whether the player is among the top players on the older aged team is to be determined by the Representative Committee and communicated to the Head Coach and player after the second (2nd) skate. The Head coach will only be advised if the player is eligible or not eligible.*** If eligible, the player must commit to one team before the third (3rd) tryout. ***Players must advise in writing to the VP of Rep their intentions of attending evaluations (tryouts) in a higher division.***

Any underage player wishing to play on an older aged team for a second or subsequent year must meet the same criteria each year.

4. Tryout Guidelines:

Players interested in playing on a Rep team must first attend the “AA” evaluations (tryouts) in order to be eligible to be selected and play on a team below “AA” for the upcoming season.

Only if a player is released from the “AA” evaluations may the player attend and be considered at the next level of Rep evaluations (tryouts)

Exception: Only at U14 and up non-contact “BB” evaluations will KAMHA allow players to attend only “BB” evaluations (tryouts) only if they have no desire to play in one of the checking Rep teams.

5. Codes of Conduct During Evaluations (Tryouts):

Any player or parent in violation of KAMHA’s codes of conduct will be removed from the evaluation process and deemed ineligible for any team and will be placed in house league with a possibility of a hearing with our dispute resolution committee if further action and or punishment is required.

6. Reverse NRP:

At U12 and U13, only players that reside within the KAMHA boundaries that are not successful in making one of our Rep teams “AA, A or BB”, then and only then will they be granted a reverse NRP to attend evaluations at one (1) neighboring center that is classified lower than “A”. ***This request must be made in writing by email to the VP of Rep.***

At U14 and up only players that reside within the KAMHA boundaries that are not successful in making one of our Rep teams “AA” or “A”, then and only then will they be granted a reverse NRP to attend evaluations at one (1) neighboring center that is classified lower than “A”. ***This request must be made in writing by email to the VP of Rep.***

For players that only attend U14 and up “BB” non-contact evaluations (tryouts) and are not successful in making the team, ***they will not be given their release to attend any other tryouts.***

7. Coaches & Tryouts Evaluators:

Upon being awarded a team for the upcoming season, Coaches may be visible throughout the remainder of the season to observe possible player selections. Coaches may observe players in

game situations as well as practice situations. Information gathered may be used to inform decisions when a coach is selecting their team.

All evaluations (tryouts) shall include evaluators and on-ice instructors who are not connected to the team (ie do not have a player trying out for the team), and have no known conflicts of interest with any players trying out. These evaluators shall be spread throughout the rink and might not be visible, but will be there on behalf of the KAMHA executive.

With the exception of the coach, parents, relatives, friends of any players attending evaluations (trying) out shall not be permitted to be evaluators and/ or on-ice instructors during an evaluation (tryout). Coaches may however, choose one (1) staff member (preferably a Trainer) before the tryouts commence; this must be approved by the VP of Rep and this selection shall be made known to those trying out. All other bench staff selections shall be named after the team is selected, unless the bench staff is a non-parent.

8. Evaluation (Tryout) Exemption:

Players must attend tryouts to be eligible to be rostered to a KAMHA Rep team. Requests for an exemption from participating in a tryout due to vacations, illness or injury must be requested before the day of the first tryout. Requests shall be submitted directly in writing to the Head Coach and the VP of Rep. ***The coach and the VP of REP are not obligated to grant any exemption request.***

Players that are moving into the KAMHA boundaries from another province or country and will not be able to participate in the evaluations (tryouts) will need to make the request to the VP of Rep and will be required to pay the evaluation fee and submit video of recent games. This process is difficult to assess the players ability versus the players attending evaluations and no guarantee is made regardless of the level the player was at during the current year.

Should a player miss a tryout without an approved exemption they shall not be eligible to be rostered to a KAMHA Rep team. Should a player have an exemption request denied and choose not to try out for the team, that player shall be placed in house league for the season.

9. Releases:

Coaches may release players from tryouts as early as the first tryout, unless there is no possibility of the player totalling three (3) tryouts overall (ie AA coach may release after the first tryout, but the player will receive two tryouts at A if there is no BB team).

Releases shall be completed through the KAMHA website, and shall not be completed in person at the arena. In the event that a parent/ player wishes to receive feedback following a release, they shall wait twenty-four (24) hours before requesting feedback from the coach.

OMHA regulations prohibit OMHA from granting a release for a player to go to another center if they have not fulfilled their home centers evaluation (tryout) commitments. Players have a place to play Rep hockey within KAMHA and therefore, do not meet the requirements for an OMHA release due to lack of Rep hockey status.

10. Refunds:

There will be no refunds if a player decides not to attend evaluations