



FAQ's on Tryouts

- **I noticed that you have included birth dates for tryouts; does this mean that teams are going to be selected by birth year?** *No. In the past we tried to do it alphabetically but felt this way would divide the groups more evenly. The Hawks still pick their teams on talent regardless of birth year.*
- **Last year my player received an envelope after the first night telling him when his/her next tryout would be, is that going to happen again?** *Yes. At some point your player will be notified of the team they have made or the next tryout that they need to attend.*
- **My player is trying out for Central States; will all decisions be made on the first night?** *No. We will continue to evaluate until the team is picked. That may or may not be done on the first night but your player would then go to the tryout based on their birth year.*
- **If you have a player trying out for SSHL, do they come to the NIHL tryouts?** *No. They only come to tryouts for SSHL on Sept 5.*
- **What happens if my player does not make Central States?** *Central States tryouts are ONLY for those trying out for Central States. Unfortunately if your player does not make it than they would be asked to go to the NIHL tryouts. If your player signs up for NIHL and does not make a team they will be asked to attend SSHL tryouts. If your player tries out for SSHL and does not make it they will be placed in our in-house.*
- **When will the players be notified of the teams they have made?** *Everyone will be notified as soon as possible and at the very latest by Monday, Sept. 7. It is a process that starts with the top team in that age group followed by the next and so on.*
- **When will I be required to pay my fees?** *Teams will be selected by September 7th. At that time, each player will receive an email prompting them to go back into the website to complete Part II of Fall Registration- Payment of Fees. Part II allows for fees to be paid in full or in four installments. Families with multiple skaters will be given an option of paying their fees in 6 installments. Each player must complete Part II within 72 hours of receiving the prompting email. No player will be permitted to skate with their team until Part II of their registration is complete.*



- **It seems some players find out sooner than others, why is that?** *We take our time in making all our decisions to ensure that no mistakes are made and that we are selecting the right player. Once it is decided that a player is a good fit and is selected they may be notified. If your player is not notified at the same time it does not necessarily mean that he will not be selected. Some players are still asked back to be a bench mark for others still trying to compete for the final spots.*
- **How could you take that other player over mine?** *Ask just about any coach that is selecting a team and he will tell you that the top goaltender, top two lines and top couple of defenseman are the easy part. It is the next group that you are looking at maybe six forwards for three spots or four defenseman for two spots or two goalies for one remaining spot. What did your player do that made him stand out or distinguish him/her from the rest? That is the biggest question that a player needs to ask themselves. Sometimes it is a very fine line between team two and three.*
- **Who will be making the selections?** *All the coaches at that age level in addition to the hockey directors collaborate and decide who the best choices are for that team. The last few picks are often debated at length to ensure that no mistakes have been made.*
- **My player is a terrible tryout player but is great in the regular season, do you take that into account?** *Most players are terrible tryout players. It is very difficult to simulate actual game conditions in tryouts. Add the stress and other factors and it is easy to see why some perform better in other situations. Tryouts count for most of the final decision but we have contacted previous coaches and evaluations of players to confirm decisions.*
- **If my player doesn't make the top team how will he improve this season?** *Placing a player on a team that they are over their head and have trouble competing can actually do more harm than good. Don't underestimate what a little confidence can do for a player not only on the ice but can spill over to the classroom.*