



# COMPETITIVE TRYOUTS



## WELCOME TO TASA MINOR HOCKEY COMPETITIVE TRYOUTS

We encourage everyone to become familiar with the information below, as we hope it will answer most of your questions. This can be a stressful time for players and families, so please do your part in making this as positive an experience as possible for everyone involved.

TASA Minor Hockey is a large and very competitive association; therefore, it is imperative you prepare for all possible outcomes. Building unrealistic expectations prior to the process can have negative effects and spoil what could be a positive year for your player.

### EXPECTATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE HOCKEY

We understand that many players are involved in other sports or activities and we would like to encourage that whenever we can. However, hockey is a team sport and coaches and teammates expect that all parents and players will be committed to their TASA Minor Hockey team. Our coaches strive to deliver a fair play program (please see the TASA Policy Manual for the Fair Play Policy) that provides an opportunity for all players to develop. For this to happen, we expect players to attend all practices and team sanctioned events. Of course, there will be situations that will lead to missed practices or missed events. Please understand that players who regularly miss practices will also miss out on development opportunities, which could lead to reduced playing time during games.

In addition, the following are often expected at the competitive level so players/parents should be prepared to be involved/participate in:

- Early morning practices - 6:00 or 6:30 am weekdays and/or weekends.
- A significant amount of fundraising. Any parent that does not contribute to the team's financially agreed upon objectives and or fundraising efforts can have their child's playing privileges revoked.
- Possibility of up to 5 tournaments and costs associated with them such as gas, motels, and meals.
- An average of 1-2 games per week (home and away), 2 practices per week as well as the possibility of dryland training.

**If you and/or your child are prepared to commit to the above, please continue to read details on the tryout process. If you and/or your child are not prepared, you may wish to explore TASA Recreational hockey.**

# OVERVIEW OF COMPETITIVE TRYOUT PROCESS

The evaluation process will be run by TASA Minor Hockey. Kyle MacDonald, Technical Director, will act in an advisory role and will assist with the selection of evaluators for scrimmages. TASA Minor Hockey will ensure a non-biased evaluation process for all divisions. Notification of adjustments to the groupings will be posted after each session. No adjustments will take place to groupings once the group has stepped on the ice. Adjustments can be made right up until a player participates with that group's session.

**It is the player's responsibility to check the TASA website for his/her next scheduled tryout session, as new lists will be posted following each session.** All information will be posted to the website. We will attempt to provide all players at least 24 hours advance notice of their next ice session; however, this may not always be possible.

Again this year, My Team Genius software will be used to manage evaluation scores. Scoring will be based on a range from 0.5 to 10 for each evaluation.

Parent Head Coaches will not be appointed until their child has secured a spot on a specific team.

**TASA will be participating in home-and-home games with other associations.** It is TASA's goal to provide our players with more time on the ice in smaller scrimmages, allowing more opportunities to accurately assess each players' capabilities and strengths. This year, the TASA tryout process will run through 5 phases. Games in phases 1 through 4 will be 1 hour in duration. Phase 5 could have 1.5 hour long games.

Evaluations will be conducted by independent evaluators and TASA will make every attempt possible to keep 4 consistent evaluators for each group. In situations where an evaluator is not able to make a session, TASA Technical Director Kyle MacDonald will fill in for that session.

Goalies will have a pre-evaluation prior to Phase 2. This evaluation will be used to place the goalies in the proper groupings for Phase 2 of the tryouts. All goalie evaluations will have 2 independent evaluators.

IF YOU BEGIN THE COMPETITIVE PROCESS AND WISH TO DISCONTINUE DURING THE PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT THE TASA COMPETITIVE VP IMMEDIATELY.

## INQUIRIES DURING THE PROCESS

To ensure the process runs as smoothly as possible, the following must be adhered to:

Inquiries during, and following, the tryouts must be addressed to the TASA Competitive VP only. No other coach, evaluator, assistant or TASA executive member will entertain any issues relating to individual players.

**Please note:** No in person meetings will be held with anyone during the tryout process and any e-mails will only be accepted after 24 hours have passed from the time of the placement posting.

Should you initiate contact regarding placement of your child within the 24 hour period, your inquiry will not be heard. If you make an inquiry after the 24 hour period and if the TASA Competitive VP feels the matter requires further review, he/she



will then consult with person(s) involved, as well as the TASA Technical Director. In extreme cases, the matter may be referred to other members of the TASA Minor Hockey Executive for final decision.

Harassing or threatening calls/e-mails will not be tolerated. They will be reported to the TASA Minor Hockey Disciplinary Committee and action will be taken immediately. Hundreds of hours have been dedicated by volunteers to provide a fair process to choose the TASA MHA teams, and follow a proven process. While we understand that not everyone agrees with every decision, the Organization is committed to this process and believe it places athletes in the best position for an enjoyable season.

## PHASE 1

This phase is for grouping purposes only; scores from this phase will not be carried over for the remaining 4 phases. Phase 1 will consist of 1-hour games. Groupings for this game will be randomly created with a mix of all skill levels. Evaluations, for this phase only, will be done by TASA coaches and/or members.

## PHASE 2

During this phase there will be 3 or 4 groups participating in 1-hour games. The players will be placed in groups based on the scores from Phase 1. It is TASA's intention, when all possible, to make the 4 groups small.

- Group 1 will consist of players who scored at the higher end during Phase 1
- Group 2 will consist of players who scored in the middle of Phase 1
- Group 3 and 4 will consist of the players who scored at the lower end during Phase 1.

All players will be scored 0.5 to 10. Each group will have a different weight applied to the score.

- Group 1 scores will be weighted at a 1
- Group 2 scores will be weighted at a 0.8
- Group 3 and 4 scores will be weighted at a 0.6

The weighted scoring system is recommended by Team Genius and have been used successfully by other hockey associations. After the completion of this phase, the scores locked into Team Genius will be reviewed and new groups will be made for Phase 3. There will be player movement to different groups for Phase 3.



## PHASE 3

This phase will also consist of 3 or 4 groups participating in 1-hour games, as outlined in Phase 2 and the scoring will remain the same as outlined in Phase 2. As in Phase 2, it is TASA's intention to keep the groups as small as possible.

Upon completion of this phase, TASA will again review the locked-in scores. It is possible, after Phase 3, that players may be assigned to the AAA level (or AA for divisions that do not have AAA) or to the C division.

**Players who have been confirmed to these divisions will have completed the tryout process.**

## PHASE 4

During Phase 4, there will be either 3 or 4 groups per division and players will participate in 1-hour games. Groups for this phase will be formed based on the scores from Phase 3. Scoring will remain the same as outlined in phase 2. Upon completion of this phase, locked in scores will again be reviewed. As in Phase 3, it is possible that players could be assigned to AAA/AA or C divisions and for these players, the tryout process will be considered completed.

## PHASE 5 (HOME & HOME GAMES WITH OTHER ASSOCIATIONS)

This phase will be the final phase of tryouts. Again the intention is to keep the groups as small as possible and have either 3 or 4 groups. As in the other phases scoring will remain the same as outlined in Phase 2.

## SPECIAL NOTE FOR ALL COMPETITIVE PLAYERS

For competitive tryouts, players will be required to declare a position prior to the tryout process. TASA MHA reserves the right to meet with players and their families regarding a recommended change in position. For example, during the tryout process, the TASA Technical Director or the evaluators may feel that a player may be better playing defense than as a forward or vice versa; thus having the best players play at the highest level based on skill. The final decision as to whether to make the change rests with the player/parent. Parents cannot request a position change once tryouts have begun.



# EVALUATION PROCESS GUIDELINES FOR ALL DIVISIONS

- The process is designed to evaluate the fundamental skill set of a player and give each player an opportunity to display these skills in game competition.
- Evaluators are not given players' names; are encouraged not to share opinions; and, are not provided with the other evaluators' scores.
- Major discrepancies between evaluators are rare; however, if this occurs, it will be investigated and, if needed, a player's history may be used and/or feedback from the Technical Director will be taken into account.
- Atom aged players are only permitted to tryout at TASA MHA.
- As per Hockey Nova Scotia regulations, players from outside associations who have been officially released from their home association may try out for TASA MHA teams.
- No player will be permitted to attend other associations' AAA or AA tryouts until he/she has been released by TASA MHA.
- Players must attend a minimum 60% of sessions to be considered for a competitive team. It is advised to attend all sessions in order to receive a fair and accurate evaluation.

## INJURED PLAYERS

Inevitably, and unfortunately, some players become injured during the process and/or sometimes before tryouts begin. This can result in a very difficult situation for everyone involved (injured players, parents, players the child is competing with, evaluators and Executive). When this happens, we attempt to place the player at the appropriate level based on a number of qualitative factors, such as:

- Where did the player play last season?
- How did he/she develop during that year?
- How was the injured player's performance at the end of the previous season relative to the other players on his/her team?
- Discussion with prior coaches for other qualitative factors.

Because this is a competitive process, this often leads to disappointment on the part of the injured player if he/she thought his/her development was greater; or, disappointment on the part of another player who placed on a lower level than that of the injured player. It is very difficult to place an injured player to a higher level when they are unable to display the skills against other players at that level; however, this can occur.

Injured players must be able to return to play by Dec 1 to be placed on a competitive team. This means a player with an injury must provide a note from a physician that includes the expected date of return to play.

**If you have any questions prior to tryouts, particularly parents of first year Atom players, and anyone else that may be new to this process, please contact the TASA Competitive VP via e-mail. Once the tryouts begin, please follow the process as outlined above.**

