



Formation of Competitive Teams

Purpose

This policy establishes the criteria and process for the formation of competitive teams within the NGHA. This policy does not apply to U22.

Competitive Program Committee

The Competitive Program Committee consists of the VP Programs, VP Operations and Competitive Directors. Other members of the NGHA Board of Directors may be added to the Committee, as required.

The Competitive Program Committee is responsible for the formation of teams, including organizing the annual tryout process and forming final teams as well as making decisions on any requested changes to the team roster after it has been initially submitted to OWHA.

General

The NGHA endeavours to structure the competitive tryout process so that it minimizes the pressure and stress on its players and families.

Teams will be formed with a minimum of 15 skaters and 1 goalie by the beginning of regular season play. The Competitive Program Committee can approve rostering up to 17 skaters per team.

Players are expected to play within their age level. If a player would like to try out at a higher level, a formal request with the relevant justification must be made to the Competitive Program Committee and approved.

Formation of Divisions

Prior to the beginning of tryouts, the NGHA will announce the proposed number and category of teams for each Division, based on considerations which include player interest, talent, and sufficient ice.

During the tryout process and prior to the beginning of the season, the Competitive Program Committee may decide to add, remove or re-categorize teams when it is deemed in the best interests of the players and the Association.

Tryout Process

Players will be selected for competitive teams through a competitive tryout process. Players trying out as goalies should expect to attend an additional goalies only assessment.

Each division will have a selection committee comprised of the following individuals:

- Head Coach of the team



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- Up to 4 paid non-parent evaluators with hockey backgrounds who do not have a child at that age level or are not related to anyone trying out at that age level.
- A member of the NGHA Competitive Committee whose role is to oversee the evaluation process and ensure that all NGHA policies are being followed. Unless required, this individual will not be fulfilling the role of an evaluator.

Final team rosters are approved by the Competitive Program Committee before being announced.

The Head Coach may bring their own evaluator who is not a parent or related to anyone trying out at that age level. *This evaluator is there to assist the coach only and will not be involved in the evaluation discussions with the Selection Committee.*

The selection committee can make selection decisions based on a player's ability, potential, and the needs of a team. For example, a player who has tried out as a Forward may be selected for a Defence position and vice versa.

Where a parent coach has been selected for a competitive team, the Competitive Program Committee has made an assessment in advance that the Coach's daughter would be appropriately placed on that level of team. There are no guaranteed roster spots for any child of a named coach and a player may be placed higher or lower than the advanced assessment.

Communications During the Tryout Process

Communication regarding the tryout process, registration, schedule and continuations will be found on the NGHA website.

Players, families, coaches, and staff are expected to communicate with each other in a respectful manner; any incivility or harassment will not be tolerated.

Tryout Attendance

Players must attend all tryouts at the Division and Tier for which they registered until they are successful in making a team, are released or tryouts at that tier are completed.

If a player is unable to, **because of illness or injury**, participate in tryouts according to the published schedule, or if they incur an injury or illness during the tryout period and are not able to complete the tryouts, the injury must be reported **before** the impacted tryout. The following will occur:

- The nature of the injury and the expected return date of the player are required. Upon returning from injury, each player must provide a medical certificate stating that the player has been cleared to return to play.
- For players unable to continue with tryouts, the Competitive Program Committee will consult with a variety of sources to obtain sufficient information about the player so that a reasoned decision can be made that considers both what is best for the player as well as the affected team



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or teams. The sources will include previous coaches, any tryout sessions attended, and any other appropriate source deemed relevant by the Competitive Program Committee.

Players who do not attend tryouts for **reasons other than illness or injury** are not guaranteed a spot on a competitive team. The Competitive Program Committee will consult with a variety of sources to obtain sufficient information about the player so that a reasoned decision can be made that considers both what is best for the player as well as the affected team or teams. The sources will include previous coaches, any tryout sessions attended, and any other appropriate source deemed relevant by the Competitive Program Committee. If a player will be missing tryouts for a reason other than illness or injury, the Competitive Committee must be informed by email no later than 2 weeks before tryouts begin.

Accepting a Position Following A Tryout

When a player participates in tryouts, it is expected that they will accept a position on a team if offered a position.

Players who accept a position on a competitive team are expected to make that team their first priority. By accepting a position, a player is committing to attending practices, games, tournaments and team events as scheduled.

A player who has been offered a spot on an NGHA competitive team and subsequently decides not to play on that team will not be eligible to play on any NGHA competitive team for that season and the following season. For example, if a player is offered a spot on a competitive team in 2025/2026 and then decides not to play for that team, she may not play on any other NGHA team for the 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 season

The Import Policy will apply when the player next attends competitive tryouts.

Changes to a Team Roster During the Season

For short term absences, teams are encouraged to call up players according to the NGHA Affiliation Policies.

Where a player can no longer continue with a season, NGHA supports a player moving up from a lower tier according to OWHA deadlines and limitations of which lower tier is available for call ups according to the affiliation policy. The Competitive Program Committee must be informed before action is taken to replace a player and has final approval of a new team roster. The Competitive Program Committee will decide on the timing of a roster change and communicate with the Registrar to formalize and report the change to OWHA. Team fees may be refunded to the departing player in accordance with the NGHA Refund Policy.

The committee will also be responsible for communicating these changes via email to impacted teams and making decisions on any resulting impacts to teams (e.g. budgets).



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The following will also be taken into account:

- The decision whether or not the departing player will be replaced is the responsibility of the coach of that team.
- The decision of which player will be offered the replacement opportunity is the responsibility of the coach of the team from which the player is leaving. The coach is encouraged to speak to lower tier coaches and the Competitive Program Committee to inform their decision.
- The player is not obligated to accept the offer.
- Differences in team fees, if applicable, will be communicated to the player being offered the opportunity by the Competitive Program Committee.