**CPYHA Tryout Q&A**

How were selection decisions made?

For each tryout, a team of evaluators ranks the players based on a number of dimensions including skating, stick handling, shooting and game situations. The assessments are recorded based on the tryout jersey assigned to the player. Following the final tryout, the evaluators, along with the head coach, review the tryout results, discuss each player in detail, and select the roster based on full consensus of each of the evaluators and the coach.

Who performs the assessments?

The evaluators are individuals with extensive hockey backgrounds (for example, playing experience up through college level, officiating backgrounds, coaching experience, etc.) who (other than the coach) are not affiliated with the team that is being assessed or the individual players on the ice.

Can a coach independently select individuals he/she wants on the team? Are returning players assured a spot on the roster?

No. Selections can only be made with full consensus of the committee (inclusive of the coach), considering the on-ice performance.

How are goaltenders evaluated?

Goaltenders are selected through the same process of full committee consensus.

How could a player who may have been a top performer one year, not be selected for the following season?

There are a number of reasons. The level of competition changes each year, and players develop at different rates. Everyone has a fresh chance for each new season. Also, sometimes a player for whatever reason does not give his/her best performance, while another player puts forth an exceptional effort during the sessions.

Also, despite all of our best efforts, the process is by its nature subjective and therefore imperfect. There is room for error on the margins. It can be extremely difficult to separate the 14th best player from the 16th best player. That said, players who differentiate themselves by performing near the top of the group are much easier to assess and there is very seldom disagreement when it comes to identifying and selecting those players.

What happens if a player did not attend all sessions?

It is always best for a player to attend all sessions, as that gives him/her the best opportunity to be assessed and selected. However, an individual may be selected based on only one tryout if his or her skill is very clearly demonstrated to be among the stronger players participating.

How is the size of the roster determined?

That is largely at the discretion of the coach and Division Director, based on the anticipated needs of the team, the relative differentiation in talent levels, and the number of teams and registered players.

Will there be another opportunity to try out for the same team?

In some cases (particularly for spring tryouts), a supplemental tryout is held later in the year. That is largely based on the number of players who are selected and accept a position from the initial tryout.

Can I get feedback on my son/daughter’s performance during the tryout?

Unfortunately, the focus of the evaluation committee is to perform the difficult job of ranking the players, and not to construct development feedback for each individual player – which would take considerably more time. The best source for development feedback is from past coaches, skills clinics or camps, etc.

What do I do next if my son/daughter has been selected?

Go to [www.cliftonparkyouthhockey.com](http://www.cliftonparkyouthhockey.com) and register online within 72 hours of receiving an email that you have been selected in order to confirm your spot on the team. Additional communications will be forthcoming from the coach as the season approaches. (This applies to spring tryouts. Individuals trying out in the fall are typically registered for teams in advance).

What do I do next if my son/daughter has not been selected?

We have a broad range of offerings through CPYHA, including Junior Dynamo teams playing in New England leagues, multiple competitive travel teams playing within the region in the Tech Valley league, all girls teams at various levels of competition, and the more recreational Club Hockey. We encourage everyone who is interested to participate in one of these programs.

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