

Competitive Tryout Policy

It is the goal of the Lindsay Girls Hockey Association (LGHA) to provide players with a fair opportunity to be evaluated through a standardized process that ensures transparency, fairness, and consistency. LGHA encourages players to compete at the appropriate level to maximize their development both as athletes and as individuals.

1. Eligibility

- The tryout passport fee will be set annually by the LGHA Board of Directors. The mandatory tryout fee is to be paid in full to the LGHA before the beginning of the first tryout when registering/purchasing the passport.
- Tryouts are open to all registered LGHA Residents, Non-Resident Players (NRPs) and OWHA Release Players.
- All LGHA players from the previous year are required to try out a minimum of one tier higher than their previous season (ex. 2024-25 played Tier 2, will tryout at Tier 1)
- LGHA seeks to create teams that represent the skill level of the players. All players are required to attend tryouts and do not have the option to “opt” out of a level. If a player chooses not to attend tryouts or they decline a roster spot they will be removed from all competitive tryouts and assigned to house league.
- A Permission to Tryout (PTT) is required before the first tryout if the player is coming from another centre.
- Head coaches should be aware of the OWHA (Ontario Women’s Hockey Association) Tampering Policy.

2. Before Tryouts Begin

- There will be a registration deadline for tryouts that will be posted on the LGHA website. It is encouraged to register early, regardless of the level your player wishes to attend, as this assists us in determining the number of teams
- Tryout passports can be obtained after the deadline by emailing the Registrar registrar@lgha.ca
- The tryout schedule will be posted on the LGHA website.
- Players are required to register for tryouts through RAMP.
- After registering with RAMP, players will be assigned a unique tryout number that they will use throughout the process.

3. Player Evaluation and Selection

- The LGHA will hold tryouts to enable head coaches to assess and choose players in conjunction with an evaluation team.
- Evaluation team names must be submitted and approved by the Board of Directors prior to tryouts.
- On-ice volunteers will need to meet OWHA requirements. On-ice volunteers will not be able to participate in the evaluation process.
- Tryout sessions will be designed by head coaches to include skills, competitive games, scrimmages and exhibition games.
- Players may be rostered prior to the first tryout session. The coach will have discretion whether the player must continue participating in tryout sessions.
- Players must be registered for tryout sessions to be considered for a team. Absences due to

illnesses and injury, must be discussed with the coach, VP of Competitive Teams and President (minimum of 2 hours prior) for approval.

- Missing a tryout to attend another association's tryouts is **NOT** a valid reason;
- Coaches may roster a team, with a minimum of 12 players and one goalie but are encouraged to roster up to 15 players and 2 goalies maximum. Any exceptions must be approved by the Board of Directors.
- After teams are selected, rostered and the season commences changes may be made to rosters at the discretion of the Board.

4. Objectives of Player Evaluations

- To provide players a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a team appropriate to their skill level as determined during evaluations.
- To provide consistency in the evaluation process so that player and parent expectations are consistent as players progress through the Association's program levels from year to year.
- To form teams to maintain competitive play in which athletes can develop and participate equitably while having fun during the season.
- To provide meaningful feedback to enable player development.

5. OWHA Team Recategorization

- The LGHA Board of Directors, in collaboration with the coach, will determine the division in which a team will participate. This decision will be based on player skill levels, evaluations, and exhibition games conducted during tryouts and through the end of September. In the event of a disagreement between the coach and the Board, the Board of Directors' decision shall be final.
- For example, Tier 1 teams may not compete at the A level due to overall skill and ability. If the Board of Directors determines that greater development and success can be achieved at a lower level, such as BB, recategorization may be considered in accordance with OWHA deadlines and procedures.

6. Communication

- Ongoing communication with parents and players is a priority.
- Initial Coach Contact: An introduction letter at the first tryout outlines the coach's expectations.
- Coaches may request in-person meetings with families with Board Approval.

7. Conflict of Interest

- Players should be evaluated fairly and objectively.
- The head coach is the only evaluator aware of participants' names during the selection.
- Coaches will aim to choose evaluators with minimal direct conflicts of interest.
- The Board approves all evaluators and can assist in resolving conflicts.

8. Independent Evaluators

- Each team will be assigned one independent evaluator by the LGHA Board of Directors with no conflicts of interest.
- The head coach makes the final team selections from the top 25 players and 4 goalies.
- Independent evaluators ensure the tryout process is ethical and fair.
- An impartial evaluator is a non-parents with adequate hockey knowledge, approved by the Board.

9. On-ice Instructors

- Must be at least 18 years of age during tryouts.

10. Offers of Position

- Players can be offered positions at any point within the tryout process.
- Offers will be made via direct conversation or phone call.
- Final rosters will be posted via LGHA website
- A LGHA player that is offered a position on a LGHA Representative Team is required to sign a LGHA Offer of Commitment within 48 hours to accept the offer and make payment arrangements (based on association rates set yearly).
- If the Offer of Commitment is not signed and payment arrangements are not received within the 48 hours, or declined the head coach, at their discretion, may release the player from the team and offer the position to another player previously released at their discretion, selecting from the remaining top 25 of players.
- If no players remain within the top selections as presented, the head coach can select from the remaining eligible players.

11. Releases

- Player releases are managed through the LGHA website using their unique RAMP number.
- Coaches will endeavour to post releases within 4 hours of the completed tryout session. Assigned numbers of players still competing for a spot will be posted. If not posted the player is considered “released”.
- Sign-in tables will display players’ unique numbers.
- Families will be directed where to access the tryout list for each team online.
- After tryouts, head coaches will be asked to keep notes for two weeks after completion of tryouts to provide opportunities for players to discuss areas of growth and any other information on why they were not selected.
- Feedback may be requested for developmental purposes only. Requests must be submitted in writing to the VP of Competitive Teams within 2 days of release and response by the coach may take up to 14 days after receiving the submission. Feedback will be limited to skill-based observations from tryouts and will not involve discussion of other players, rankings, or roster changes. Coaching decisions are final.

12. Selection of Bench Staff

- Head coaches select bench staff (assistant coaches, trainer, and Manager) after the completion of tryouts.
- A bench staff request form must be completed by all head coaches and submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.
- The head coach may select one assistant coach prior to tryouts and participate in evaluations.

13. Code of Conduct

- All players, parents, and coaches are expected to adhere to the OWHA Code of Conduct.

- Any behaviour contrary to the code or expectation may result in immediate expulsion from tryouts.
- Any communication between families and the head coach during tryouts must include the VP of Competitive Teams

14. Permission to Tryout (PTT)

- New players require a PTT form from their Home Association. Returning LGHA players do not need a PTT.
- If LGHA is not your home centre, you will require a Permission to Tryout (PTT) form to attend tryouts. You will need to contact your Home Association to receive the PTT form. If you played in the LGHA the previous season, you do not need a PTT.
- Registration and tryout fee payment on RAMP are required.
- Non-Resident Players (NRP) players MUST bring and hand in a printed copy of their PTT form to the registration desk at their first tryout.
- Failure to register, pay, or provide PTT (if necessary) may prevent participation.

15. Permission to Tryout Information for Current LGHA Players

- Players seeking tryouts at other associates must complete a LGHA PTT online request form at least 48 hours in advance.
- One request is needed per PTT (per centre, dates, and level).
- No PTT will be issued until tryouts begin in April (per OWHA).
- LGHA reserves the right to deny requests to try out at the same level as LGHA.

16. Import or Non-Resident Players

- As a guide, the import should rank high in skill on the team.
- Non-Resident goalies are treated as residents.
- Limited import spots support player loyalty and maintain competitive play.

17. Player Movement

- Players cannot move up more than one age division without exceptional status approved by a Board majority. Example is if you have a U11 player and would like to be considered for U13. The Player can not move up more than one age division.

18. Injured Players and Tryouts

- Injured players must:
 - Register and pay the tryout fee.
 - Submit documentation before their first scheduled tryout.
- Placement decisions involve:
 - Head Coach
 - Board of Directors
 - Previous years coaching staff (feedback if requested)