

## 2019/20 Tryout Policy

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### Waiver Policy

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1. **Waiving Out of Niagara North AAA Zone: No Waivers will be issued to any Niagara North AAA Zone eligible player without paying the Tryout fee to the Niagara North AAA Zone Hockey Association and the player skating at least one tryout.** The waiver will only be granted by the Association once the AAA Head Coach issues a *Release Letter* to the player informing him that he will not be offered an *Offer of Commitment*. This is in accordance with the SCTA (South Central Triple-A) League Rules.
2. Waiving **Into** Niagara North Zone: **The NN AAA ZONE is CLOSED zone from Novice through Peewee.**
3. Waiving **Into** Niagara North Zone: **Minor Bantam through Minor Midget (See policy below)**

Players who reside outside the Niagara North Hockey Association zone, and are in possession of all applicable OHF AAA Hockey Waivers (F1) **prior** to contacting Niagara North, may request permission to attend a Niagara North Try Out. All requests must be submitted to the Niagara North Vice President. All requests to try out must be approved by Niagara North before registering or attending any try out.

Niagara North only accepts these requests for the Minor Bantam, Bantam, and Minor Midget age groups. Niagara North reserves the right to accept or decline any request, and there is no appeal process. If approved, upon try out registration, all applicable OHF AAA Hockey Waivers must be presented to the Niagara North Registrar, as well as any applicable fees paid, before stepping on the ice.

#### Procedure for receiving an F1 Waiver:

1. All waivers will be issued by the **Registrar, President or Vice-President ONLY**. To receive a waiver, the player must present their *Release Letter* from the Head Coach acknowledging that the player attended the AAA Tryouts and that the player was not offered a AAA *Letter of Commitment* by that coach. **Players will not be issued the Waiver without the *Release Letter* from the Head Coach.**

## Tryout Procedure:

1. **New Players:** New players are to register online through the Niagara North website or in person on the scheduled tryout registration night. Try out fees must be paid online or in person. Every player must present a permission to skate form from their home association. New players begin to try out on the *first scheduled ice time* for their respective age division, and are guaranteed two ice times. New players can be released after the second ice time.
2. **Returning players:** Returning players are to register online through the Niagara North website or in person on the scheduled tryout registration night. Try out fees must be paid online or in person. Every player must present a permission to skate form from their home association. Returning players begin to try out on the *second scheduled ice time* for their respective age division, unless otherwise directed by the Head Coach and are guaranteed both the second and third scheduled ice time. Returning players may be released at the conclusion of the third scheduled ice time.
3. **New Goaltenders :** All goaltenders are to register online through the Niagara North website or in person on the scheduled tryout registration night. Try out fees must be paid online or in person. Every goalie must present a permission to skate form from their home association. New goaltenders begin to try out on the *first scheduled ice time* for their respective age group, and are guaranteed two ice times. New goalies can be released after the second scheduled skate for their respective age group. New goalies are guaranteed two ice times.
4. **Returning Goalies:** Returning goalies are to register online through the Niagara North website or in person on the scheduled registration night. Try out fees must be paid online or in person. Every goalie must present a permission to skate form from their home association. Returning goalies begin to try out on the *second scheduled ice time* for their respective age division unless otherwise directed by the Head Coach, and are guaranteed both the second and third scheduled ice time. Returning goalies can begin to be released at the conclusion of the third scheduled ice time. Returning goalies are guaranteed two ice times.
5. **Registration Cost:** The cost for AAA Zone Tryouts for each season will be set annually by the Board of Directors. Each player will be guaranteed 2 (two) sessions inclusive, if they are registered before or on the date of the first tryout. Any player who registers after the first tryout is not guaranteed two tryouts. Coaches are encouraged to assign players they have no interest in as soon as practically possible to their home centre in order to keep numbers manageable. No player will participate in AAA Zone Tryout or off-ice activities without signing the tryout form, providing the Permission to Skate form and paying the prescribed fee to the Association. Even if the player arrives for the last tryout only, that player must pay the tryout fee. **There are NO exceptions.**

6. **Spring Roster Selection:** The Tryout period for the Niagara North AAA Zone teams will be conducted over a 7-day period as per OMHA Regulations. There will be approximately 7.5 hours of ice allocated to select each AAA Zone Team. This number may be reduced or increased depending on the registration numbers and the ages of the teams.
  - a. **F1 Waiver after Day 4:** Following the first four days of tryouts, any player not made an Offer of Commitment is entitled to an F1 Waiver as per OMHA regulations. In the 2019-20 season, this occurs at 12am Friday morning.
  
7. **Offers of Commitment:** According to OHF Regulation E32: A player who is offered a player registration in accordance with E30 has seven (7) days to accept the player registration, failing which the AAA Club may fill the player's position. If a player does not accept the Offer of Commitment, and F1 Waiver will not be granted.
  - a. The AAA Head Coach will present an Offer of Commitment to 14 Skaters and 2 Goalies by the end of the last AAA tryout exhibition game in the spring. The Minor Midget AAA Head Coach must make Offers of Commitment to sign **at least** 13 Skaters and 1 Goalie at the end of the last AAA tryout exhibition game. Offers of Commitment will be offered to all necessary players by the conclusion of the last tryout or exhibition game. Exceptions to this policy may be made but must be approved by the Niagara North Board of Directors.
  - b. As the re-assignment procedure, the AAA Coach will distribute a *Release Letter* to players that he has no intention of signing to a AAA card. This is not a release from the association, but a release from the AAA team back to his or her home centre.
  - c. The Coaches will ensure that all players given an Offer of Commitment are aware that, although under OHF guidelines, the player has 7 days to accept the Card, and if the player does not make the decision immediately, his/her roster spot may **be offered to another player**. Although the minimum AAA roster required by the Association is 14 skaters and 2 goalies, coaches are encouraged to sign a full roster of 15 skaters and two goalies. This is especially important from Minor Bantam to Major Midget due to injuries, suspensions etc.
  - d. Once a player signs an Offer of Commitment from the AAA Head Coach, the player will not be eligible to play for any other team including another AAA team unless released by the Head Coach only. Within 24 hours of completing the roster the Head Coach must submit ALL names of players to the Niagara North Registrar as per OMHA regulations.
  - e. The AAA Head Coach reserves the right to make an Offer of Commitment to an injured player, during the tryout period up until September 15<sup>th</sup> as per OMHA policy 3.5 d) ii)
  
8. **Acceptance of Offers-of- Commitment:** All players receiving and signing an Offer of Commitment from the coach and witnessed in accordance with OHF Regulation E30, **MUST** pay the **non-refundable** \$600 deposit to the association, on a specified deposit night. If the deposit is not paid on this date, contact **MUST** be made with the Treasurer to arrange payment or the player will not be allowed to participate in team activities.

## TRYING OUT IN A HIGHER SERIES

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### BACKGROUND:

In accordance with the OMHA guidelines, any player may tryout in a higher series providing the coach at the higher series wants the player on his team. The Association however, has set certain criteria to approve this advancement. This option is designed for “exceptional players”.

“Exceptional Player” is defined as a player who is the #1 player in their own age group and the #1 player in the age group in which they are trying out for, regardless of position.

### REGULATIONS:

In order for a player to try out at for a higher series team the player must comply with the following:

1. Inform the Vice President, Hockey Operations 15 days in advance of the first scheduled tryout, in writing of the intent to try out at the higher division.
2. Register and pay the required Association Tryout fee for the lower division.

### PROCEDURES:

1. The Evaluation Committee (as determined by the Vice President) will meet to evaluate whether they feel the player warrants a tryout in the age group above.
2. If deemed to be allowed to try out, the Evaluation Committee will attend during the tryout process, of the higher division team to assess the player and determine, in their opinion, if the player is deemed to be “exceptional” as per the wording above.
3. The coach, player, and parent are expected to comply with and accept the decision of the Association in accordance with the *Code of Conduct*.

## Player Eligibility

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### Policy:

All Niagara North Zone players must reside within the area of jurisdiction of the Niagara North AAA Zone as set out by the OMHA. Players from St. Catharines, Jordan, the Town of Lincoln, West Lincoln, Grimsby and Niagara-On-The-Lake are considered part of the Niagara North AAA Zone Association jurisdiction.

The **series age limits** (as of December 31<sup>st</sup>) for the Association shall be in accordance with the OMHA rules, as follows:

Major Novice	8 years of age between January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2011-December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2011
Minor Atom	9 years of age between January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2010-December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2010
Major Atom	10 years of age between January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2009-December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2009
Minor Peewee	11 years of age between January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2008-December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2008
Major Peewee	12 years of age between January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2007-December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2007
Minor Bantam	13 years of age between January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2006-December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2006
Major Bantam	14 years of age between January 1 <sup>st</sup> -2005-December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2005
Minor Midget	15 years of age between January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2004-December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2004
Major Midget	16-17 years of age between January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2003-December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2002

### Procedure:

1. Players **MUST PROVIDE** a **Permission to Skate** form from their home centre before trying out for a Niagara North AAA team. Players will not be permitted to attend tryouts without a **Permission to Skate**. The Permission to Skate form is obtained from your “feeder centre”, not from Niagara North.
2. Players must attend try-outs for the appropriate level team and pay the appropriate fee. Notice of Try-outs for Niagara North Stars Teams is posted on the Niagara North Stars website at [www.niagaranorthstars.ca](http://www.niagaranorthstars.ca) prior to the start of try-outs.