



Tryout Policy

Effective April 1, 2025

Approved by Keene Wolverines Executive - Mar 23, 2025

Article 1 - Competitive Tryout Process General

1. All players shall register and pay for competitive tryouts by the established deadline. Deadlines will be set before the start of each tier of tryout. Goalies will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the executive, if they miss the registration deadline.
2. Fees will be established by the Executive every year prior to registration opening.
3. Tryouts will consist of a series of skill sessions and/or scrimmages, as determined by the applicable coach. Players will be evaluated based on skills such as skating, passing, puck control, shooting, hockey IQ, positioning as well as their overall score in gameplay during scrimmages.
4. Players registered with another OWHA-affiliated association in the previous season, must have a signed Permission to Tryout (PTT) or a formal release from their previous association. Before their first tryout session, documentation must be emailed to the Competitive Registrar. Players coming from OMHA do not require a PTT.
5. Players that are trying out at another OWHA or OMHA center must declare their intentions with the President and Coach in writing prior to the first try-out.
6. Prior to each level commencing, the parents will receive a document outlining the team's expectations in terms of time commitment and approximate costs from the coach. By continuing with that specific tryout, you are agreeing to those expectations.
7. If chosen for the team, that player has 24 hours to accept the offer and sign a

commitment letter. A non-refundable \$200 deposit towards their registration must be paid within a week of accepting the offer.

Article 2 - Attendance

1. To be eligible for a competitive team, players must officially be registered by the deadline and should attempt to attend all tryouts. If unable to attend all tryouts, players must attend a minimum of:
 - a) For Returning Wolverines players, 1/3 or 2/4 tryouts.
 - b) Import players are required to attend a minimum of 2 tryouts.
2. Where a player will be absent from the minimum amount, or all the tryouts, they must provide to the Coach and President, a written explanation detailing the reason for the absence prior to the first tryout session. Coach approval must be secured in writing.
3. If the coach and the President approves a player's absence, the player will still be responsible for the registration fee and payment.
4. Medical limitations or absences will impact tryouts and placement as this is a very competitive process. The absentee player will not be guaranteed a spot on a competitive team. The Wolverines Executive and Coach of the team will use past performance, coaching evaluations, previous season statistics and other pertinent information to place the injured or absent player at the most appropriate level.

Article 3 - Tryout Levels

1. Players are expected to try out within their age level, unless under exceptional circumstances. If a player wishes to try out at a higher age level, a formal request must be made to the President and the Coach for their review and approval.
2. Exceptional circumstances may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a) The player is an exceptional player based upon all skills at their current level.
 - b) The player would be rated as a top 5 player in the above age group and level within the association as determined by an outside evaluator (s).
 - c) The above age group is missing positional players (eg. goalies)
3. A player can only play in a higher age division on the top tier team. ie. A U13 aged player cannot play U15B if there is a U15BB team in the organization.

Article 4 - Team Selection

1. Team selection will be based on a combination of the tryout sessions and the player evaluations from the previous season.
2. Ideally, each age division will have a "Selection Committee" consisting of but not limited to:
 - a) Head Coach of the team in that division plus one helper appointed by the coach. Preferably these individuals cannot be a parent or related to anyone trying out at that age level.
 - b) Non-parent evaluators with hockey backgrounds, and could be coaches from other divisions or associations.
 - c) A Board Member to act as an observer.

Article 5 - Composition of Competitive Teams

1. The Executive must approve a competitive team for a given division and category providing there is sufficient interest and talent among its players to do so, in consultation with the coaches.
2. Providing there are sufficient registrations to complete the desired number of rostered teams, Keene Wolverines will only be accepting a maximum of 6 imports at each age level. Tier 1 can take 4 imports but a maximum of 6 per age division. ie, if Tier 1 takes 4 imports, Tier 2 can take a maximum of 2 imports. Vice versa, if Tier 1 takes 2 imports, Tier 2 can select 4 imports. The maximum that any team can take will be 4 imports. If Tier 1 takes no imports, the maximum Tier 2 can take will be 4 (not 6).
3. An import is defined as a player that has been rostered with another OWHA center the previous year. Players who rostered at another centre the previous year at a higher classification than offered in Keene but were previously Wolverines and return, will not be considered imports providing their absence from the Organization was 1 year or less. The import rule does not apply for individuals directly arriving from OMHA centres. If there is a situation where registration numbers are low enough to potentially jeopardize the viability of a second or third team, more import players may be allowed. This determination will be made entirely at the discretion of the Keene Wolverines Executive. Goalies are not included in import numbers.
4. All releases will be done via email or in-person and will be communicated to the registrants prior to the process commencing by the coach.
5. Parents must observe the 24-hour rule on the day after player selection

announcements. On the second day after these announcements, parents can contact the President and Coach and request a “Feedback Exchange” meeting. All feedback meetings will be scheduled after all tryouts have been completed.

6. The meeting will include an Executive rep, President or VP, the player, and one neutral person to observe the exchange of information.

Article 6 - Commitment to a Competitive Team

1. Competitive hockey comes with a certain level of commitment. The expected level of participation in team functions are fully at the discretion of the coach.
2. It is encouraged that ALL Rep teams will enter a tournament prior to the categorization deadline (Typically September 20th – 25th).
3. All competitive players are expected to be available for all league & playoff games, provincial playdown games and tournaments. Playoffs and Playdowns typically start in February and can run until April, including through the March break.
4. Where a player cannot meet the expectations of a competitive team and is missing too many practices, games, or activities, that player may be replaced and moved to a lower tier subject to a decision by the Executive.
5. All competitive teams are expected to go through the qualification process for the Provincial championships and expected to participate in the Provincial championships if they qualify.