



IHWC Youth Hockey Parents,

IHWC Hockey Tryout time is here for the 2018-'19 season! This overview is to provide information on the *IHWC youth hockey team composition* for the upcoming season and explain the *evaluation/tryout process*. Our program is always working to improve the youth hockey experience and this overview includes changes being introduced for the 2018-19 season. The goal of any youth evaluation or tryout is to find the best team for each player to develop, and more importantly, have fun.

IHWC Rangers Division Names, Team Formation & Tryout Evaluations:

(1) IHWC Team & Division Nomenclature:

Beginning with the 2018-19 season IHWC will be *removing* the reference to Travel and House for our IHWC Rangers youth teams. Every Rangers youth age group will have at least one Recreational (Rec) hockey team – previously called House, as this is the *foundation* of our program. Rec teams will be referenced by a “B” after the team name. Non-recreational teams will be referenced by an “A” after the team name. The “A” and/or “B” included in the team name follow the USA Hockey guidance denoting the level of competition for the team. The 8U/Mite will continue to be called Indian Hill Mite League (IHML).

- ***Recreational (Rec) or B Teams- (previously House)***
 - Participate in the Midwest Youth Hockey League (MYHL) or other leagues offering parity of play.
 - Includes players of any skill or experience level.
 - Focus on local games and competition, with less time and commitment relative to A teams
 - Each IHWC age division will have *at least one* Recreational team each season as it is the foundation of our program.
 - Season is Mid-October 2018 to early March 2019.
 - 20-25 games, End of Season League Tournament, 2 weekly practices and 1 ADM weekly session (optional)
- ***Non-Recreational or A Teams –(previously Travel)***
 - Participate in the Buckeye Travel Hockey League, Ohio Scholastic Hockey League or any competitive League for parity of play.
 - Includes teams at AA and/or A levels as well as high school teams.
 - Will require a greater level of travel, monetary and time commitment to the sport.
 - Will place a greater emphasis on competition with additional games and tournaments.
 - Season is early September 2018 to early March 2019
 - 40-50 games, End of Season League tournament, 2-3 add'l tournaments, 2-3 weekly practices and 1 ADM weekly session (optional)



(2) IHWC Team Formation:

- **All** Rangers youth teams will be formed in the Spring following IHWC Evaluations/tryouts.
- Tryout evaluations are for players wanting to play on a Non-rec A level team.
- Rec. players are also requested to attend an exhibition scrimmage during the age division tryout days. This scrimmage will ensure we have a full roster of Rec. players for each age division.
- April 2018 Tryouts include all players in the 10U/Squirt, 12U/Peewee, 14U/Bantam & High School Levels. Mite All Star evaluations will be held in the Fall of 2019.
- Players who have historically played on the IHWC "Select" teams should attend late April 2018 tryouts for team formation.
- Each age division may have 1-2 A level teams, dependent on registered player numbers. Team formation is determined by skill level.
- Each age division will be reviewed for number of rostered players, goalies and to ensure each age division will have a Recreational B team and parity of play.
- Each age group has factors that vary - different number of players registered, different skill set and desire for competition level. Age groups will be reviewed independently based on the variables mentioned above

Team Formation Example: 12U/PW Age Division – illustrating new team names and formation for 2018-19 season. Example only.

- 12U/PW A1 – Plays in Buckeye A Gold
- 12U/PW A2 – Plays in Buckeye A Silver
- 12U/PW B – Plays in MYHL

Why are these changes being made for the IHWC Rangers youth hockey program?

- All skaters are provided fairness and evaluated at the same time.
- Team placement is early. Players know their coach and roster in advance of the season starting. We no longer have travel tryouts in the Spring and House team divisions in the Fall.
- All skaters will be placed on a team with parity of selection based on skill within their age group.
- Rec players are included in an Exhibition game during Spring evaluations to ensure Rec teams have players and goalie for a team roster.
- New RANGER uniform and gear ordering. As we are introducing new uniforms, we can ensure all uniforms, spirit wear and gear is ordered well in advance of the 2018-19 season start.
- Ice scheduling. Knowing teams will allow us to appropriately schedule practice and game ice for 2018-19



IHWC RANGERS ONE STOP SHOP: Tryout & Hockey Registration:

1. Register for Tryouts (or attend Rec Game)
2. Register for 2018-19 Season – by May 18
3. Purchase 2018-19 Uniform – by May 2018

[ONE STOP SHOP – IHWC RANGERS](#)

Indian Hill Mite League (IHML) information is located under the 2018-19 IHWC MITE Hockey Program in the One Stop Shop link referenced above.

Tryout & Evaluation Overview:

Objectives of IHWC Spring Tryout Evaluations:

The IHWC Recreational hockey program continues to be our focus and foundation of IHWC Youth Hockey. The Non-Rec teams are available for a higher level of play and commitment (and include varying levels of additional regional travel, tournaments and games). **Note – this is a change for all Non-Rec A teams to be formed in the Spring.** Evaluation Objectives are:

- Provide a fair and impartial assessment of a player's total hockey skills during skating, small area games and scrimmage sessions
- Place players on the most appropriate team based on their level of skill, measured against their peer group, during on-ice evaluations, while also factoring in feedback from previous coaches and certain hockey “intangibles” (e.g. work ethic, coachability, attitude, etc.)
- Provide uniformity, consistency and transparency in the tryout process such that player and parent expectations are consistent from year to year as players move through the various levels of the IHWC's age groups (8U/Mites, 10U/Squirts, 12U/PeeWee, 14U/Bantam, & High School)
- Form teams that are competitive at each level and provide the best opportunity for all players to further develop their skills and to **HAVE FUN** playing hockey
- Provide feedback in order to enhance the development of each hockey player within IHWC
- Exhibition game for all players desiring to play in the Recreational division for the 2018-19 season. If your skater can't attend their age division “Exhibition Game”, we would ask your player is registered with IHWC for the season.



2018 IHWC Tryout Dates & Times

Please plan on being at the rink 1 hour prior to your scheduled ice-time. *A level team is formerly Travel/Select and Rec is formerly House.*

10U/Squirt – 2008-2009 birth years

A Teams Tryout : Monday, April 23 6-7:20pm
A Teams CALLBACK: Monday April 30 6-7:20pm
Rec B Exhibition Game: Monday, April 30 7:30-8:30pm
(*Rec is formerly House*)

12U/Peewee – 2006-2007 birth years

A Teams Tryout: Tuesday, April 24 6-7:20pm
A Teams CALLBACK: Tuesday May 1 6-7:20pm
Rec B Exhibition Game: Tuesday May 1 7:30-8:30pm

14U/Bantam – 2004-2005 birth years

A Teams Tryout: Thursday, April 26 6-7:20pm
A Teams CALLBACK: Thursday May 3, 6-7:20pm
Rec. B Exhibition Game: Thursday, May 3, 7:30-8:30pm

HighSchool – JV & Varsity:

Tryouts: Tuesday, April 17 & Thursday April 19 4-6:00pm
FALL Tryouts: Thurs., September 6 & Monday September 10 TBD

- Members of Indian Hill Winter Club do not need to pay a fee to try out.
- A \$100 Tryout Fee must be paid if you are not a member of IHWC. If that player makes a team that amount will be deducted from your initiation fees.
- If a non-member is offered a roster position and it is accepted, the player will be charged a \$250 non-refundable acceptance deposit and the IHWC membership application has to be submitted within one week to reserve the roster spot offered.



Player Tryout Evaluation FAQ's

The following are *Frequently Asked Questions* that hopefully will help build greater understanding and transparency of how the process works:

1. When should we arrive for the tryouts?

Your player should arrive **1 hour** before their scheduled tryout. This allows time to go through registration and be ready 10 minutes before the ice time begins for a meeting with the IHWC Director of Youth Hockey. At that time the Director will explain the format for that evening's tryout session.

2. How many tryout sessions will there be?

There will be 2 total sessions. The first session will be an overall evaluation of all players. Session 2 (Call Backs) will consist of a scrimmage amongst the players called back. 10U/Squirt, 12U/PW and 14U/Bantam tryouts will be 1 hour and 20 minutes with High School being up to 1 hour and 50 minutes.

3. Why do we have tryouts?

IHWC conducts tryout sessions to provide player assessments each season and to place players on teams of parity of skill. The players at each age level are divided according to ability to maximize the potential for each player and each team to improve and have a successful season. The goal of IHWC is to provide the best opportunity for all players to further develop their hockey skills and have FUN!

4. Should my son/daughter try out for an "A" level team?

This question can be answered by referring to your player's success and growth over the past season in parallel with the feedback provided by your current head coach. Any player of the appropriate age is eligible to try out for the "A" level teams however; it is important parents are realistic in your expectations.

5. Are tryouts mandatory for all youth hockey players at IHWC?

No. The tryout evaluation is only required if your player wants to tryout to play on an "A" level team. The tryouts provide your player to be evaluated against his/her peer group and placed on the appropriate level team. ***Players that wish to continue with IHWC's Rec. program ARE NOT required to attend any tryout sessions, but ARE requested to attend the Exhibition game for their age group.***

6. If my son/daughter was on a team on a Travel Team last season, will that mean they automatically make one of the A level teams in the coming season?

No one is guaranteed placement on any team except the Recreational teams. The tryout format is to compare and assess all players and their abilities to be competitive at the "A" level.

7. What if my player cannot make it to the evaluations/tryouts?

Each player desiring to make an A level team must participate in the evaluation process, absent an injury. If your skater is unable to attend because of injury, you must contact both contacts in advance:

- Andy Pokupec, Director of Youth Hockey apokupec@ihwinterclub.com
- Kevin Lord, Director of Ice Operations klord@ihwinterclub.com

No player is guaranteed a spot. If a player has a documented injury and is unable to participate in the tryout process, their team placement will be at the discretion of the Evaluation Committee.



8. Who will do the evaluations?

There are 3 key groups involved in the evaluations:

- **On-ice coaches** to take players through the session.
- **Off-ice independent evaluators** who will be responsible to evaluate every player on the ice during the time allotted. There may be on-ice evaluators depending on the particular situation. Our goal is to have independent evaluators that are members of the IHWC and Cincinnati area hockey community who do not have children in the youth hockey program. The evaluators are the best available most experienced coaches and hockey players that will give us the best evaluations possible. These evaluators will be located around the rink evaluating the players.
- **Off-ice administrators** who will be responsible for collecting evaluations.

9. What should my son/daughter wear to the tryout?

Full equipment is always mandatory. This includes a protective cup, shin pads, hockey pants, shoulder pads, elbow pads, skates, hockey gloves, hockey stick and a USA Hockey approved helmet and full shield and a mouthguard. Also, please bring BOTH a black and a white game/practice jersey that has number.

10. Will the player be evaluated in a skill and game environment?

In order to give each and every player a fair opportunity to exhibit the range of skills that they possess they will be evaluated within skill stations, small area games, and full ice environments. At the younger age levels a greater emphasis will be placed on the evaluation of skills; as the players get older the small area game and scrimmage sessions will have a greater overall impact on the player's placement.

11. Will the prior season evaluation information be used?

The tryout process will include prior season assessments and feedback from their prior year coaches. Players will be selected not only on individual skills but also several intangible traits. These traits are as follows:

- Attendance & Commitment
- Player's commitment, as specified by his or her previous seasons' coaches, will be used as a critical factor in final player placement. A player's commitment to the program and more specifically, their team, will not be over-looked or taken for granted
- Attitude & Behavior
- Determination, drive, intensity, work ethic
- Discipline
- Positive team attitude & player
- Coachability
- Hockey is a team sport and individuals with stronger skills but who are selfish can often be counterproductive to achieving team goals and upset team chemistry. Hockey is a long season and the right team chemistry (on and off the ice) is crucial to a successful program. IHWC will keep this in mind when making team selections.



12. What happens after the evaluation sessions? How are the players notified of their team placement?

Parents/players will be notified of their team placement by logging in to the IHWC member site.

IHWC Member Log-in → Hockey → Youth Hockey → 2018-19 A Rosters

Rosters will be posted within 48 hours of each final age division tryout session (see chart below). Parents will login and identify the player's "unique tryout number". The unique tryout number will **not** be the player jersey number.

Please note this is a change from last season.

Age Group	48 hr. Notification	Accept By:
10U/Squirt	Wed 5/2	Wed 5/9
12U/PW	Thurs 5/3	Thurs 5/10
14U/Bantam	Sat 5/5	Sat 5/12
High School	Sat 4/21	Sat 4/28

If an age division offers two A level teams, the rosters will be identified as such.

Example: Bantam A1 Roster or Bantam A2 Roster

13. When does the player have to accept the spot on the team?

Players will have one week from posted results to accept a roster spot on the team (acceptance dates referenced in table above). If a non-member player accepts a roster position on any youth or high school team, a \$250 deposit and membership application has to be submitted to reserve the roster spot.

14. What if my player is offered a roster spot on a team, but wishes to play on the next team? Example: Player is offered a spot on Squirt A1 and wants to play on Squirt A2?

A request in writing from the parent/guardian can be submitted to the Youth Hockey Director and Youth Hockey Committee for review. Teams are selected for parity of skill and competition and the request will be reviewed and consider all parties involved.

Teams & Team Composition

The estimated numbers at each level are as follows and follow the USA Hockey ADM recommendations.

10U/Squirts

10-12 Skaters and 1-2 Goalies

12U/Pewees:

12-14 Skaters and 1-2 Goalies

14U/Bantams

14-16 Skaters and 1-2 Goalies

High School

16-18 Skaters and 1-2 Goalies



Player Selection Criteria

The following is a general overview of skills that may be evaluated in the tryout evaluations.

We ask that all players planning on trying out please watch the tryout video.

[2018-2019 IHWC Tryout Video](#)

Skating - Acceleration, speed, mobility, agility, balance, stride, crossovers, pivots/transitions, acceleration out of turns, quick feet, controlled skating, change of pace.

- Can the players perform the basic forward and backward stride?
- Are the players knees well bent with the back slightly forward and the head up, or is the player hunched over, bending at the waist with little knee bend?
- Good skaters will use long strides with a complete recovery of the stride leg before striding with the other leg. Their strides will look very smooth and appear not to require much effort to move around the ice.
- Does the player look smooth when they skate, or do they appear off balance?
- Can the player turn in both directions with little trouble or do they struggle to turn in one or both directions?
- Can the player stop in both directions? Younger players will often have trouble stopping in one direction.
- Can the player keep up with the play or do they struggle to stay with the other players on the ice?

Passing - Passing, receiving, passing choices, on backhand, unselfish with the puck, presents a good target, receives and retains with control, touch passing.

- Does the player have the basic skills to execute a forehand pass?
- When the player passes, the puck do they slap at it or is the motion smooth with the player following through to the intended target?
- Can the player pass the puck to its intended target with minimal effort?
- Can the player make an accurate pass to a moving target?
- Can the player receive a pass on their backhand or do they tend to shift their body to receive the pass on the forehand?
- Can the player pass the puck off of the backhand with some speed and accuracy?
- Does the player call for the puck vs. banging their stick on the ice or saying nothing at all?
- Does the player passing the puck make eye contact with the intended receiver or do they just pass the puck blindly?
- Can the player execute a saucer pass over sticks and other obstacles?
- Can the player pass the puck off of the boards to another player?

Puck Control - Head up, smooth and quiet, good hands, protection, in small spaces and in traffic.

- Is the player foundationally ready to handle/carry the puck using a hockey stance with hands away from the body?
- Does the player appear to be comfortable handling the puck while skating or do they appear to fight the puck and have trouble skating with some speed while handling it?
- Can the player keep his/her head up while carrying the puck?
- Can they execute dekes and fakes with the puck?
- Can they stop quickly or change direction while handling the puck?
- Can the player continue to handle the puck while in traffic and under pressure?
- Does the player get pushed or checked off the puck easily?



Shooting - Power, accuracy, quick release, can shoot in motion, goal scorer, rebound control, variety of shots wrist shot, snapshot, backhand, slap shot.

- Does the player exhibit balance within the shooting motion?
- Can the player execute the technique of a wrist shot and backhand?
- Does the player follow through to the target on all shots?
- Can the player raise the puck?
- Is the puck shot with some velocity?
- Does the puck sit flat in the air or does it wobble?
- Can the player execute a one-time shot?
- Is the player accurate when shooting?

Positional Play - Ability to see the play developing both offensively and defensively and moves to support, judgment, anticipation, understands systems, disciplined.

- Does the player seem to understand where he/she are to play on the ice?
- Do they support the puck in defensive and offensive situations?
- Does the player show patience, or do they tend to panic when pressured?
- Do they protect the mid lane and force opposing players inside out?
- Can the player angle another player off of the puck?
- Does the player force the play, or do they wait too long?

Checking Concepts - Angling, good body position with balance and control, defensive side position, aggressive checker, strength, taking checks.

- Can the player execute basic stick and body checks?
- Does the player understand angling and how to effectively angle an opposing player?
- Does the player check properly with their hands down or do they get their arms up to give a check?
- Can the player receive a check properly, not turning their back and staying close to the boards?
- Can the player check an opposing player and pin them on the boards?
- Does the player shy away from other players?

Goaltending – Balance, mobility, quickness, low shots, rebound control, cutting off angles, post play, stick control, reaction, butterfly, posture, flexibility and concentration



Parent Participation and Rules

Since your player will be busy working on the ice during this time, we ask you to follow these simple rules during tryouts.

Rules for parents during tryouts:

- Be positive with your child at all times.
- Stay away from the glass during tryouts. Parents and bystanders should not stand along the glass. Please sit in the club room during the tryouts or bleachers.
- The balcony will be closed, as it is reserved for the Independent Evaluation Team and Winter Club Administration.
- Sideline coaching by the parents during the tryouts or outward yelling will not be tolerated. Your player needs to remain focused and attentive to the instructors at all times.
- Focus on the big picture and trust that our goal is to put every child into the best opportunity for them to succeed.
- Refrain from talking about other players or comparing your child to other children.
- Support the program and help your child have a great year!

IHWC Play up Policy:

IHWC Rangers play up policy places a priority on safety, age-appropriate player development, and IHWC teams that could be impacted. Each player will be assigned to an appropriate team based on: (first) age group according to birth year and USA Youth Hockey Age Classifications; and (second) ability as determined by a neutral panel. The IHWC Rangers Play up Policy is located in the IHWC Youth Hockey Documents library.

(IHWC member website → Hockey → Youth Hockey → IHWC Youth Documents)

Closing Remarks:

The purpose of this information sheet is to improve transparency and provide assurance regarding fairness and consistency in the team selection process. If you have any further tryout or team placement questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Director of Youth Hockey or Club Management.

We look forward to a fun and successful hockey season!

**IHWC Youth Hockey Committee
& Director of Youth Hockey**