



IHWC Youth Hockey Parents,

IHWC Rangers Hockey Tryout time is here for the 2019-'20 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 expectations for the 2019-20 season. The goal of any youth evaluation or tryout is to find the best team for each player's development and most importantly to have fun.

IHWC RANGERS TRY-OUT & REGISTRATION KEY DATES:

Date:	Rangers Youth Hockey Event:	Register:
Through 4/14	IHWC Tryout Registration	CLICK HERE
4/1	USA Hockey Registration for 2019-20 season	USA HOCKEY
4/3	IHWC 2019-20 Season Registration (Mite to HS) – Opens 4/3	Opens 4/3!
4/3	IHWC Rangers Online Store Opens	
Week of 4/8	2019-20 A1/A2 Team “Tryout Clinics”	CLICK HERE
Weeks of 4/15 & 4/22	2019-20 A1/A2 Team Tryouts & HS Varsity Tryouts	CLICK HERE
5/1-5/4	2019-20 Rosters Posted on IHWC Website (Acceptance in 1 week)	
5/16	2019-20 Season Registration Closes & Rangers Online Store Closes	

IHWC RANGERS DIVISION NAMES, TEAM FORMATION & TRYOUT EVALUATIONS:

(1) IHWC Team & Division Nomenclature:

IHWC will roster both Rec and A level teams at each youth age group. 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:**
 - 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 *one* Recreational team each season.
 - Season is Mid-October 2019 to early March 2020.
 - 20-25 games, End of Season League Tournament, 2 weekly practices and ADM session (TBD). (optional)
- **A1/A2 Teams:**
 - Participate in the Buckeye Travel Hockey League, Ohio Scholastic Hockey League or another 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 2019 to early March 2020
 - 40-50 games, End of Season League tournament, 2 tournaments, 2 weekly practices and ADM session (TBD). Additional tournaments can be decided upon and paid by team.



(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 an A1/A2 level team.
- Rec. B players do not have to attend a tryout session, but do have to register for 2019-20 season starting April 3 to May 16.
- April 2019 Tryouts include all players in the 10U/Squirt, 12U/Peewee, 14U/Bantam & High School Levels.
- Each age division may have 1-2 A level teams, dependent on registered player numbers. Team formation is determined by registered numbers and 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.
- 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

EXAMPLE ONLY - Team Formation: 14U/Bantam Age Division – illustrating team names and formation for 2019-20 season.

- 14U/PW A1 – Plays in Buckeye A Silver division
- 14U/PW A2 – Plays in Buckeye A Bronze division
- 14U/PW B – Plays in MYHL or another competitive league

Why do we have team formation in the Spring 2019?

- 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.
- All skaters will be placed on a team with parity of selection based on skill within their age group.
- IHWC RANGERS uniform and gear ordering. We ensure all uniforms, spirit wear and gear is ordered well in advance of the 2019-20 season start with a Spring store offering. The IHWC uniform online store will open April 3 to May 16 in coordination with IHWC registration.
- Ice scheduling. Knowing teams will allow us to appropriately schedule practice and game ice for 2019-2020 season.

TRYOUT & EVALUATION OVERVIEW:

Objectives of IHWC Spring Tryout Evaluations:

- 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



2019-20 A1/A2 TEAMS TRYOUT CLINIC & TRYOUT DATES:

Age	Birth Years:	Tryout Clinic: Register – CLICK HERE	Tryout Dates: Register – CLICK HERE
8U Mite	2011 to 2013	No Clinic- Register for season on April 3!	No Tryout – Register for season on April 3!
10U Squirt	2009 & 2010	Monday, April 8 6pm	Monday, April 15 6pm Monday, April 22 6pm
12U Peewee	2007 & 2008	Tuesday, April 9 6pm	Tuesday, April 16 6pm Tuesday, April 23 6pm
14U Bantam	2005 & 2006	Thursday, April 11 6pm	Thursday, April 18 6pm Thursday, April 25 6pm
HS Varsity*	2001 to 2004	n/a	Thursday, March 21 7:10 - 8:40pm Thursday, April 11 7:10 – 8:40pm Thursday, April 25 7:10 - 8:40pm FALL TRYOUTS: September 2019 TBD

*For Varsity 2 of the 3 Spring try out dates required. Varsity will host two to three additional tryout sessions in the Fall 2019 (September). Players who want to play JV do not need to attend tryouts but DO have to register for the 2019-20 season on 4/3.

- 10U, 12U and 14U Parent Meetings will be hosted at IHWC during tryouts the week of April 15. Mite and High School parent meetings will be held in the Fall 2019.
- The “**Tryout Clinic**” offered the week before tryouts is a clinic that will run-through the drills and format of the tryout session.
- Please plan on being at the rink 1 hour prior to your scheduled ice-time.
- Tryout Fee: Members of Indian Hill Winter Club will pay a \$20 tryout fee and non-members a \$100 Tryout Fee. If the non-member player makes a team the \$100 will be deducted from the new member’s initiation fees.
- Tryout Clinic Fee: The clinic to prepare for tryouts is \$20 per player, member and non-members.
- Upon registration and acceptance of an IHWC Rangers roster spot, the player will be charged a \$250 non-refundable acceptance deposit. For non-members, the IHWC membership application has to be submitted within one week of acceptance to reserve the roster spot offered.

IHWC Checking Clinics and Baseline Testing for 14U, JV and Varsity players:

Checking Clinics: IHWC will host two checking clinics every 14U player will be required to attend before playing in League Games for the 2019-20 season. Clinics will be held in early September at IHWC.

Baseline Testing: Baseline testing is a measure of a person’s balance and cognitive function prior to sustaining a concussion. Every player in the 14U and High School program will be required to complete a Baseline test (done every two years) through a complimentary service. This test is for all players who are of checking age. The Baseline test is also available complimentary for any IHWC player *under* the age of 14U upon request to Rangers@IHWinterClub.com.



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 Evaluation Instructor/Club Management. At that time the format for that evening's tryout session will be explained.

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 will consist of either a call-back or scrimmage amongst all players. 10U/Squirt, 12U/PW and 14U/Bantam tryouts will be 1 hour and 20 minutes with High School being up to 1 hour and 20 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 who wish to continue with playing on an IHWC's Rec/B team ARE NOT required to attend any tryout sessions, but ARE required to register for the 2019-20 season by May 16, 5pm.***

6. If my son/daughter was on a team on an A1/A2 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. It also takes into account the number of players registered for the 2019-20 season and their skill sets for team placement.

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:

- Kevin Lord, Director of Ice Operations Klord@IHWinterClub.com
- Youth Hockey Committee Rangers@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 follow a makeup tryout the first week in September 2019.



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. Players will be provided from IHWC a white or dark jersey they will wear to each tryout session and return at the end of tryouts.

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 viewing on the IHWC website.

IHWC Website → Hockey → Youth Hockey → 2019-20 Tryout Rosters Announcement

Age Group	48 hr. Notification	Accept By:
10U/Squirt	Wed 4/24	Wed, May 1
12U/PW	Thurs 4/25	Thurs, May 2
14U/Bantam	Sat 4/27	Sat, May 4
High School	Sat 4/27	Sat, May 4

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.

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). All players will pay a \$250 deposit upon registration and acceptance of roster spot. If player is a non-member, an IHWC membership application has to be submitted to reserve the roster spot as well as the \$250 deposit.

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 YHC 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 on teams follow the USA Hockey ADM recommendations.

Note: Rostered number of players may vary for the 2019-20 season.

10U/Squirts

10-12 Skaters and 1-2 Goalies

12U/Pewees:

12-14 Skaters and 1-2 Goalies

14U/Bantams

13-15 Skaters and 1-2 Goalies

High School (JV and Varsity)

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.

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.

Please find all of the IHWC Rangers policies in this library of documents.

www.IHWinterClub.com → 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 Club Management or the Youth Hockey Committee.

We look forward to a fun and successful hockey season!

**IHWC Youth Hockey Committee
& IHWC Club Management**