



Nova Elite Hockey Development Association		Team Policies & Procedures
Active Date: 07/23/2026	Page: 1 of 5	Revised Date:8/6/2026
Fall Tryout, Selection & Release Process		

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide players and parents/guardians with a clear understanding of the fall tryout, selection, and release process for The Novas.

The fall tryout process is governed by the Nova Scotia U15 Major Hockey League, Hockey Nova Scotia, and Hockey Canada. This document is intended to summarize the league-mandated process and explain how The Novas will communicate with players and families throughout tryouts.

This document is not a separate team policy and does not replace any league, Hockey Nova Scotia, or Hockey Canada rule, regulation, deadline, or requirement.

Purpose

Fall Tryout Structure

Fall tryouts for the 2026 season will not begin before September 7.

The Novas will begin fall tryouts with their protected players. Additional players may be invited to participate in accordance with league rules.

Fall tryouts are by invitation only.

The total number of players permitted to participate in the fall tryout process is limited by the league.

Players who are not invited to fall tryouts are not eligible to participate in The Novas's fall tryout sessions.

Selection Decisions

All tryout, selection, release, roster, affiliate, protected list, and team composition decisions are made by The Novas in accordance with Nova Scotia U15 Major Hockey League, Hockey Nova Scotia, and Hockey Canada rules.

Decisions will be made by the appropriate team officials in the best interests of The Novas and the team being formed.

Selection decisions are not based on any single factor and are not subject to parent/guardian appeal, lobbying, explanation, comparison, or debate.



Nova Elite Hockey Development Association		Team Policies & Procedures
Active Date: 07/23/2026	Page: 2 of 5	Revised Date:8/6/2026
Fall Tryout, Selection & Release Process		

The Novas are not required to provide individual evaluations, player comparisons, ranking information, or detailed reasons for selection or release decisions.

Final decisions regarding player selection, release, roster status, affiliate status, team role, and team composition are final.

Phase 1

Phase 1 of fall tryouts will take place from September 7 to September 13.

During Phase 1, teams are required to complete a minimum amount of league-mandated ice time.

Following Phase 1, teams must reduce their list and submit the required roster information to the league in accordance with league deadlines.

Players and parents/guardians will not be advised of protected or released status until the applicable league process has been completed and communication is permitted.

Phase 2

Phase 2 of fall tryouts will take place from September 14 to September 17.

During Phase 2, teams are permitted additional league-mandated ice time.

Following Phase 2, teams must reduce their list and submit the required roster information to the league in accordance with league deadlines.

Players and parents/guardians will not be advised of protected or released status until the applicable league process has been completed and communication is permitted.

Following Phase 2, teams may be permitted to add players to their list for the tryout tournament in accordance with league rules.

Phase 3 — Tryout Tournament

The tryout tournament will take place on September 19 and September 20 in Antigonish.

Each team will play four games during the tryout tournament.



Nova Elite Hockey Development Association		Team Policies & Procedures
Active Date: 07/23/2026	Page: 3 of 5	Revised Date:8/6/2026
Fall Tryout, Selection & Release Process		

At the completion of the tournament, teams are required to submit a roster list to the league in accordance with league deadlines.

Any player not included on the submitted roster list is considered released and may pursue other opportunities once the release process has been completed in accordance with league rules.

Players and parents/guardians will not be advised of released or rostered status until the applicable league process has been completed and communication is permitted.

Phase 4 — Final Ice Sessions

Phase 4 will take place from September 21 to September 24.

Teams may add players to final ice sessions in accordance with league rules.

Teams are permitted additional league-mandated ice time during this phase.

Final rosters must be submitted to the league in accordance with league deadlines.

Players and parents/guardians will not be advised of final roster decisions until the league has completed its process and communication is permitted.

Affiliate Player Invitations

Following completion of the final roster process, The Novas may invite up to 10 players to join the team as affiliate players for the season, in accordance with Nova Scotia U15 Major Hockey League, Hockey Nova Scotia, and Hockey Canada rules.

Affiliate player invitations are separate from final roster selections.

An invitation to participate in the fall tryout process does not guarantee a final roster position or an affiliate player position.

A player who is not selected to the final roster may be considered for an affiliate player position; however, affiliate player invitations are made at the discretion of The Novas and are not automatic.

Affiliate player offers will not be issued until after the final roster has been submitted to the league and communication is permitted under the league process.



Nova Elite Hockey Development Association		Team Policies & Procedures
Active Date: 07/23/2026	Page: 4 of 5	Revised Date:8/6/2026
Fall Tryout, Selection & Release Process		

Affiliate player selections are final and are not subject to parent/guardian appeal, lobbying, explanation, comparison, or debate.

Communication With Players and Families

The Novas will communicate with players and parents/guardians as clearly and respectfully as possible throughout the tryout process.

However, the timing of communication is controlled by league requirements. Players and parents/guardians must understand that The Novas may not be permitted to advise players of their protected, released, rostered, final roster, or affiliate status until the league has completed its required process and communication is permitted.

The Novas will make reasonable efforts to communicate with players and families as soon as practical once communication is permitted.

Players and parents/guardians should understand that communication may not occur immediately at the exact time a league deadline passes.

Parents/guardians should not contact coaches, team officials, or Executive members seeking advance information regarding selection, release, roster, or affiliate decisions.

The Novas will not provide selection, release, roster, or affiliate information before communication is permitted under the league process.

Releases

A player is considered released only when the release process has occurred in accordance with league requirements.

Players who are released may pursue other opportunities as permitted by the Nova Scotia U15 Major Hockey League, Hockey Nova Scotia, and Hockey Canada.

The Novas will follow all league requirements regarding the timing and communication of player releases.

Tampering and Player Contact

The Novas will comply with all league, Hockey Nova Scotia, and Hockey Canada rules regarding player contact.



Nova Elite Hockey Development Association		Team Policies & Procedures
Active Date: 07/23/2026	Page: 5 of 5	Revised Date:8/6/2026
Fall Tryout, Selection & Release Process		

The Novas will not contact, recruit, or speak with a player who has not been properly released by another team.

Players and parents/guardians are also expected to respect the process and avoid communication that could place The Novas, another team, or the player in a difficult position under league rules.

Parent/Guardian Expectations

Parents and guardians are expected to allow players to participate in the tryout process without unnecessary pressure, interference, or distraction.

Tryout decisions are made by the appropriate team officials and are not subject to parent appeal, lobbying, explanation, comparison, or debate.

Parents and guardians must respect the roles of the President, Head Coach, coaching staff, evaluators, and team officials.

Any communication during the tryout process must be respectful and must follow the expectations established by The Novas.

Final Decisions

Final roster decisions are made by The Novas in accordance with league rules and in the best interests of the team.

Selection, release, protected list, affiliate player, roster, and role decisions are final.

The Novas will comply with all applicable league, Hockey Nova Scotia, and Hockey Canada requirements throughout the tryout, selection, and release process.