

Tryout Policy Addendum: Absence Due to Injury or Illness

This addendum applies to any player who is unable to attend one or more scheduled tryout sessions due to injury or illness. Its purpose is to provide a fair and consistent process for evaluating and placing players who are absent for medical reasons while maintaining the integrity of team selection.

Communication Requirements

Families must notify SSMHA as soon as they know the player will be unable to participate in a tryout session due to injury or illness. Where possible, they should also provide an anticipated timeline for the player's return to gameplay and update SSMHA if that timeline changes.

For transparency, injured players will be listed on scrimmage rosters under a different section.

Evaluation and Placement

The Tryout Committee and third-party evaluators will work together to collect and review the available information about a player who cannot complete the tryout process. This may include historical statistics, previous roster placement, evaluations from sessions the player attended, and feedback from coaches from prior seasons about the player's development.

The third-party evaluators will use the available information, in conjunction with the Tryout Committee, to make a placement recommendation. The recommendation should reflect the team level at which the player would reasonably be expected to play if healthy, while recognizing the limits of an evaluation made without full tryout participation.

If the information collected by the Tryout Committee and third-party evaluators establishes that a player would, in all reasonably foreseeable circumstances, have been placed on an AA, A, or B team when healthy, the Tryout Committee may hold a roster spot for that player at the applicable level, subject to the medical-clearance and roster requirements below.

Medical Clearance and Rostering

A player may be placed on an AA, A, or B team only if medically cleared to return to gameplay by the December 1 roster submission deadline.

If a player is projected to be cleared after December 1, the player will be placed on the C team in their age division, where SSMHA is hosting a C team that season. If SSMHA is not hosting a C team in that age division, SSMHA will apply to Hockey Nova Scotia Minor Council for approval or direction regarding the player's placement and next steps.

Holding a roster spot under the evaluation process does not override the December 1 medical-clearance requirement.

Movement After Return to Play

After a player returns from injury or illness, their placement may be reviewed if their rostered team level is found to be above or below their demonstrated ability. Movement in either direction may be considered following discussion with, and input from, the coaching staffs at both relevant team levels. The Tryout Committee must confirm that the proposed movement is in the best interests of the player or players affected. Any movement remains subject to applicable roster rules and required approvals.