

## New To Our Tryout Process

### Here's the scoop.....

For those of you new to the Tri-Valley Blue Devils tryout process, the following information should be helpful in understanding what to expect.

The Tri-Valley Blue Devils hold tryouts each summer prior to the beginning of the NORCAL season. Because of the increased level of commitment of both time and money, travel hockey is not for everyone. Those players interested in playing in our in-house program need not attend tryouts.

Prior to the beginning of tryouts, parents must go to [usahockey.com](http://usahockey.com) and register for the 2010-2011 season. The cost for this is \$35.00 and includes supplemental insurance coverage as well as a one year subscription to USA Hockey magazine. Upon arrival at Dublin Iceland, you will be asked to provide confirmation of your player's online registration by submitting a copy of the form you received from USA Hockey. You will be asked to pay a non-refundable \$100.00 fee to cover the ice time for the tryouts. Players brand new to Tri-Valley are also asked to provide a copy of their birth certificate. After paying the tryout fee, players will be issued a tryout number which will be pinned to the front and back of their jersey and will be worn for the duration of the 3 day event. Players should bring both a light and dark colored jersey each day, preferably without any identifying names on the back.

On the first evening of tryouts, each age group is scheduled for a 60 minute ice slot which is used to evaluate players and, in the case of larger groups, separate them by skill level. During their scheduled ice slot there will be one or two coaches skating on the ice who will organize a series of drills designed to showcase the talents of those participating. There will be several off ice evaluators who will watch the drills and grade each player based on their skill level. These evaluators will include but are not limited to the head coach, Director of Coaches and an independent evaluator. The independent evaluator is an individual who has no personal knowledge of those players on the ice and his input is vital to the evaluation process. If there is time, a scrimmage will be organized to give each player the chance to showcase their talent in a controlled game situation.

At the end of the first ice session, the evaluators and on-ice coaches will retire to a room to discuss their observations and exchange information on how each player was rated. By the time the players have changed into their street clothes, a list of players by tryout number only will be posted near the rink entrance on a large sheet of paper indicating the time to report the following day for the next evaluation. It is important that no one leave the rink until that list is posted as scheduled ice times could change.

Day two of tryouts will follow closely with the first day with the exception that no additional paperwork will need to be filled out and the ice slot will be 75 minutes in length. Day two and three emphasize more game situational play through the use of scrimmages. At the end of the ice slot, evaluators will once again retire to confer with each other and a new list will be posted, again by number only, indicating what time to return the following day.

By day three, the evaluators have a good idea which players will make the team but they use this last ice slot to look at players who may be on the bubble as far as team placement. Once again more time will be spent scrimmaging to help with that process. Remember that a hockey roster allows for a maximum of twenty players that may be selected including goalies. Tri-Valley's goal is to roster each team with a minimum of 15 skaters and 2 goalies if the level of talent will support it.

After the third ice slot is over, the evaluators will again retire to compare notes. Parents and players will be asked to remain in the lobby while letters are prepared to present to each player informing them of the team they have been selected for; Travel A, Travel B, Exhibition in the case of the mite squad or In-House. Once the player has received his or her letter, they will be given 30 minutes to think it over and then return the letter to the club indicating whether they accept or decline the offer to play on a team. It is a good idea to go to a private area outside before opening the letter to avoid creating an uncomfortable environment for your player. Those players who accept a position on a team will be given a packet with forms that will need to be filled out and returned to their first team practice. A club official will be in attendance at that first practice to collect the forms. The club will try and post the dates and times for the first practice prior to the end of the last tryout session. If that is not possible you will receive an email letting you know when team practice will begin.

**Remember to have your player arrive early each day so that they will be ready when their ice slot begins. Parents are welcome to watch from the stands but no one will be allowed on the bench except those people who are directly involved in the tryout process. Encourage your player to do their best, have fun and not to worry if they make a mistake.**