



U11 AA Tryouts – 2024/25 Season

Welcome to the U11 “AA” Rep tryouts for the 2024/25 season – please see below for some useful info.

Player Selection and Criteria

- The objective over the tryout period is to select the 15 strongest skaters and 1 or 2 goaltenders for the team. In selecting the team, I will be considering several criteria including but not limited to: **skill, intensity, resilience, development potential, leadership, hockey sense and coachability** demonstrated during the try-outs and over the past several months. In addition to attending practices and games played (regular season, black and white games, etc.), I have had the chance to observe several players over the past several months.
- The tryout process is the **final step** in selecting the team. While the head coach has the final say, contributing factors to player selection include:
 - *the rep coaching selection committee input*
 - *feedback received from the 2023/24 U9 and U11 Rep coaches*
 - *player observations at various games and/or practices over the last several weeks*
 - *tryout performance*
- **As a result of the evaluations performed to date, U11 “AA” has 8 skater positions available, and 1 or 2 goalie positions.**

Time Commitment

- Each player is expected to **prioritize Hockey as their top sport during the hockey season**. Players are expected to attend all functions. You can anticipate 4-5 activities per week including one away game.
- The U11 AA Team will enter 5-6 tournaments; 2 or 3 of which will likely be out of town.
- It is a goal of our team to compete at both league and the Provincial championship weekends. As such **the expectation is for players to be available during March Break for practices and games**.
- Christmas - It is the coach's intention for families to be able to enjoy a break at Christmas.

Financial Commitment

- The final team budgets are yet to be finalized and are expected to be approximately \$65,000. Your family commitment will be *approximately* \$3,500-\$4,000 per player which will depend on fund raising and sponsorship activities.

Family Commitment

- As with any team sport, we will need parent volunteers to help with team management and team functions to ensure a positive experience for your daughters. This will be discussed at the first parent meeting.
- It will be your daughter's responsibility to ensure that hockey does not negatively impact her schoolwork.
- To be clear, my philosophy is **SCHOOL COMES FIRST** - a player or family should NEVER feel they are letting the team down if they need to miss an event to focus on schoolwork with adequate notice.

Rep Apparel and Game Jerseys

- All Oakville Hornet Rep players will be required to wear a consistent uniform to all games (Regular season, exhibition, tournament, playoffs, play-downs). The uniform will consist of: Oakville Hornets Jacket (New track or winter jacket, old Bauer or bubble jacket), Hornets warm-up Pants (New track, old Bauer or Hornets leggings), Warmup Shirt (long sleeve or short sleeve), Hornets Crewneck or Hoodie, Jersey (Black & White), and Bauer Hockey pants. No other Hornets/non-hornets pants/tops will be acceptable when representing the Oakville Hornets at games.
- Fittings will take place at Corbett's shortly after the team is picked and apparel will be able to be ordered online via a link provided by the Team Manager. Payment for these items will be made at time of purchase by each family.

This is an anxious and uncomfortable experience for all – players, parents and coaches. I would respectfully request that you refrain from calling or emailing during the tryout period as we need to be as objective as possible. I would be pleased to discuss anything about the tryout or the evaluation process after this period. In the meantime, if there are any issues, please direct them to the Hornets office.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and best of luck during the tryouts!

Mike Kneeland

Head Coach, Oakville Hornets U11 AA