



U15 B Tryouts – 2024 / 2025 Season

Memo From Coach John McIntosh

As the head coach, I would like to thank you and your daughters for choosing to participate in the U15B Rep tryouts for the 2024/2025 season. I hope the girls will enjoy their experience and that you will find the process both enjoyable and fair. Please find some additional details below around the tryout process. There are a lot of talented players in this age group, and I am excited to be able to lead this team through the next phase of their development.

Player Selection and Criteria

- The objective over the tryout period is to select 15 players and 2 goaltenders for the teams. In selecting the teams, we will be considering several criteria including but not limited to: **skill, intensity, resilience, development potential, leadership, hockey sense and coachability** demonstrated during the tryouts and over the past several weeks. In addition to attending practices and games played (regular season, black and white games, etc.), we have had the chance to observe many players over the past weeks.
- The tryout process is the **final step** in selecting the teams. While the Head Coaches have the final say, contributing factors to player selection include:
 - *the rep coaching selection committee input*
 - *feedback received from the 2023/24 U13 and U15 coaches*
 - *player observations at various games and/or practices over the last several weeks*
 - *tryout performance*
- There may be some player/position movement to start the season, and throughout the season, depending on what works best for the team.
- During tryouts I will be looking to fill 6 available roster openings with players who illustrate **competitiveness, coachability, hockey skills, hockey sense and team play**. I'm particularly interested in assessing girls who demonstrate that they are a team player and not players who play as individuals or based on parent coaching.

The Tryout Process and Communication

- Try-outs times:
 - Saturday April 20th 1:00pm River Oaks A – open tryout
 - Sunday April 21st 12:45 Sixteen Mile 4 (check Hornets Portal to see if your player will return)
 - Tuesday April 23rd 8:30 PM Joshua Creek Blue (check Hornets Portal to see if your player will return)
- Communication during tryouts will come through the Hornets portal. I am available to all families during this time. Please understand that my preference would be to communicate outcome of tryouts face to face with each player, however given the tryout window and the number of players involved, it is not always logistically possible.

My Philosophy

- For B level players, my focus is equally spread between having fun, building hockey skill, developing disciplined athletes and creating some great memories. I will challenge the players to reach their full potential and create an environment where we consistently aim to improve through positive reinforcement.

Time Commitment

- Players are expected to attend all activities / functions.
- **May** – expect a practice and a 1 exhibition game to allow the girls to get to know each other better.
- **July and August** – Once school is out, we will take advantage of the warm weather to arrange dryland training once per week in preparation for the start of the season in September.
- **September 1st 2024 to March 31st 2025**
 - **Players are expected to prioritize Hockey as their top sport during the hockey season.** You can anticipate 4-5 activities per week including one away game.
 - Players will continue dryland training but will be scaled back (likely once every other week) due to on-ice activities.
 - **The U15 B Team will enter 4-5 tournaments this season.** I believe there are a lot of good, local hockey tournaments to help families minimize hotel and travel costs. However, we all know the players love travel tournaments and we will be looking into 1 or possibly 2 away tournaments (More to come on this as we investigate tournaments throughout the summer).
- It is expected that players are available during March break for practices and games (Provincials).
- We will not be practicing or entering tournaments between Christmas and New Years (we will break from Dec 23rd until Jan 2nd) as this will be dedicated to family time.

Financial Commitment

- The final team budgets are yet to be finalized and are expected to be approximately \$55,000. Your family commitment will be *approximately* \$3,250 per player and can be partially offset by fundraising and sponsorship activities.
- This amount is above the Oakville Hornets Registration fee.
- Hotels, travel, meals for tournaments are an additional expense.

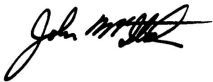
Family Commitment

- 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. I will be looking for 2 assistant coaches, a trainer and an assistant trainer to help on the bench. I will also need a team manager, social committee, sponsorship coordinator as well as several other roles. 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. 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

- **On Ice Apparel** - All Oakville Hornet Rep players will be required to wear a consistent uniform to all games. This includes:
 - Oakville Hornets hockey pants,
 - black helmet,
 - black gloves (gloves do not need to be Oakville Hornets branded),
 - jersey (Black & White).
- **Off Ice Apparel** – The uniform will consist of:
 - Oakville Hornets jacket,
 - Hornets warm-up pants,
 - warmup shirt (long sleeve or short sleeve),
 - Hornets crewneck or hoodie
- Fittings will take place at Corbett's (early May 2024) and all on and off ice apparel will be able to be ordered online through Corbett's via a link provided by the Team Manager. Payment for these items will be made at time of purchase by each family.
- Players may use team branded apparel from previous seasons if apparel still fits.

Best of luck to all players and families during tryouts!



John McIntosh

Head Coach, Oakville Hornets U15 B