

Boys' Player Development Report June 2018

	2018	2017	2016	2015
Tryouts and Camps held in 2017-18 (thru Jun 20)	Attendees	Attendees	Attendees	Attendees
Boys 14 Tryouts – Sylvania	138	146	142	112
Boys 15 Tryouts – Sylvania	205	204	176	153
Boys 16 Tryouts – Sylvania	136	133	105	94
Boys 17 Tryouts – Sylvania	90	66	78	77
Boys 14 Camp – Sylvania	68	68	67	66
Boys 15 Camp – Kent State	72	66	68	67
Boys 15 MultiDistrict Camp – Kent State		59	34	n/a

The purpose of the Boys tryouts is to provide a platform for evaluating the top players in the District and to move those players on to in-district camps at ages 14 & 15 and to national camps at 15, 16 & 17. Additionally, the tryouts attract coaches who scout players for Junior and College opportunities.

Kudos to Bill Switaj and the 15 Camp staff for their work in selecting the 15 players advancing to the 2017 National Camp; this year we had two A rated players and 13 B rated players. The rating scale translates as A = legitimate National Team candidate; B = a solid National Camp player; C = not a prospect.

Other 2017 National Camp results: At the 16s, there were two A rated players, seven B rated and three C rated. The C rated players were spread evenly across positions; 17s ratings reflected two A rated players, ten B rated players and one C rated player. This is as good a report card as I can recall.

Our allocated numbers to the national camps will be updated by the National Office. Our National spots at the 16s were reduced by 1 goaltender and 1 defenseman this year and by one forward at 17s; all districts had reductions in allocated numbers in order to open at-large spots available to all deserving players.

Dates for 2019 tryouts are: 14s & 15s April 26 – 28 followed by the 16s & 17s May 3 - 5. Tryouts will be in Sylvania, Ohio again. For 2019 tentative dates for the 15 Tryout Camp at Kent State are June 9 - 13; and for the 14 Development Camp at Sylvania June 16 – 20.

The final reports for the 14 & 15 Boys Camps were submitted to the National Office for the Player Development Grants and proposals for the 2018 Camps in January. In 2018 the 14 Camp made a small profit (\$180.00) and the 15 Camp had a small loss (\$2,120) after application of the grant money. Note that the grant money is calculated into the overall budgets which are targeted to be run at breakeven. The costs to bring in outside camp staff are variable and can result in overruns in any given year. The purpose of these tryout camps is to provide a National Camp experience for the 14s. This is accomplished by conducting on-ice training utilizing age specific drills aimed at providing these players with feedback on their skills, identifying strengths and weaknesses. All players are provided with a sit down exit interview. The 15 tryout camp uses the same overall format but has the added dimension of identifying those players by position to fill spots at the National Development Camp. In addition, other players will be identified to be brought back for a 15 Festival with players from Michigan, Southeast, Atlantic and Pacific Districts. Bear in mind that the turnover experienced in those selected to participate at National Camps between the ages 15 and 17 ranges from 50 to 70% nationally.

Information on the tryout process is updated on the website; nominations, again, will be sought through the state vice presidents beginning in mid-January. Invitations will go out to prospective players in early February with registration open until 7 to 10 days prior to each tryout weekend.

As usual we will need helpers during the process on the tryout weekends, particularly with bench coaches. Feel free to sign up by sending an e-mail to Lori, administrator@midamhockey.com. If you have a son trying out, we would ask that you not actively work in the rink where he is playing. Also, all tryout help will need to have been screened and passed SafeSport. If you are a member of an association as a coach/volunteer and have completed these requirements, please include them with your e-mail to Lori.

There were several video conference meetings with the other District Player Development Reps to discuss processes used in each district in an attempt to create best practices and conformity across the country. The last meeting focused entirely on goaltending including a drill package to be used and a listing of evaluators available to help in each of the districts. We have used one of our in-district goaltending coordinators and a few volunteers to assess and workout the goaltenders at the tryouts in the past year.