



# Mt. Lebanon Hockey Association

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## MLHA AA TRYOUTS

Building on the success of MLHA's AA teams this year and prior years, the MLHA Board and its members are excited to announce a separate Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam and U16 AA try-out this Spring. This try-out is at a different date and time from our general try-out schedule.

Our intentions are to play in the Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam, and U16 AA division in the Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League for the 2017-18 season. In addition to league play, our teams will also play a portion of their schedule against non-PAHL teams from across the country in tournaments, weekend series, and individual games. It our organizational belief that a well-balanced schedule of home and away games is good for player development at the AA level.

**Please note: All final placements of teams are determined by the PAHL Placement Committee and cannot be guaranteed by the Mt. Lebanon Hockey Association.**

All current MLHA 2001 through 2008 birth year players and players from outside the MLHA organization are eligible to tryout at their assigned age group.

The try-out process will include 5 evaluators at each level, and will have oversight from a MLHA board member. Each evaluator will score players on the tryout skills accomplished during the sessions and complete a team selection process to ensure all evaluations are given fair and equal weight.

Rankings by the coaches, evaluators, and MLHA Board members will eliminate any player that is not yet ready to play at the highest PAHL level. This may happen after the first session, or up to and including the final session of the try-out process.

If you try out for a MLHA AA team and do not make that team, you are encouraged to try out for our other MLHA teams at no additional try-out charge, provided you notify the MLHA Board **no later than the day after the AA teams are announced**. If you are chosen for a AA team and do not accept placement, the try-out fee is not refundable. Additionally, if you are placed on the top MLHA team at Squirt or Pee Wee, \$75 of the try-out fee will be credited toward your annual player dues.

## Try Out Notes

- Try-out fee of \$200 must be paid in full prior to taking the ice for the first session
- **The try-out sessions for** each level is currently posted on the MLHA web-site, including times, dates and rink locations. Please note due to the on-going upgrades at our home facility we will hold these sessions at the UPMC facility in Cranberry and RMU Island Sports Complex.
- **USA Hockey Registration** must be complete for the 2017-18 season prior to taking the ice for the 1<sup>st</sup> session (No exceptions)
- **Team Construction:** Based on the pre-registration numbers for try-outs at each level, we may choose more than one team per level. This could be based on birth year and or a large enough talent pool to field 2 teams at that age level. The MLHA Board will notify age groups of any adjustments as quickly as possible.
- **Goaltenders** will be evaluated during the sessions and are charged a \$50 try-out fee.



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- If the player is trying out as a goalie, he/ she will be evaluated as a goalie and will not be evaluated as a skater unless the try-out fee of \$200 is paid in full prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> session
- Interested families should pre-register quickly for the try-out on the MLHA web site to make sure you have a spot in the try-out process. The MLHA Board holds the right to close registration depending on the number of players who register.
- Notification of players continuing to the next try-out will be posted on the MLHA web site no later than 24 hours after the completion of the last session during which the player participated.
- Notification of players making the MLHA Squirt or Pee Wee AA roster will be posted on the MLHA web site no later than 48 hours after the completion of the last session.

The following is background information on the AA Try-out coordinators for our AA offering:

## **Dave Klasnick – Evaluator and Pee Wee / Bantam Coach**

- Dave has been a member of the MLHA organization for 20 years as a player, coach, board member and USA Hockey ADM coordinator. Dave has recently been the Head Coach of the Squirt and Pee Wee AA teams at MLHA. His background includes playing Junior “A” Hockey in the USHL for the Sioux City Musketeers, Division 1 Hockey at the University of Denver for 4 years, and playing AA / AAA hockey in the Pittsburgh area as a youth player.

## **Mark Baumgartner – Evaluator and Pee Wee / Bantam Coach**

- Mark has been a member of the Hornet organization as a coach, coordinator, and board member for 14 years. Mark played high school hockey at Upper St Clair. After finishing his playing career, he immediately jumped into the coaching ranks. Mark has coached at all levels of youth hockey, including the 8U level in the ADM model and the Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget levels in PAHL. In addition to coaching in the PAHL, Mark also coached some of the earliest AAA teams in Pittsburgh at the Bantam and Midget levels with the Pittsburgh Hornets.

## **Scot Lehman – Evaluator and Pee Wee Coach**

- Scot has been a member of the Hornet organization as a player, coach and evaluator for 15 years. Scot played high school hockey at Mt. Lebanon, and after graduating competed collegiately at Penn State University, where he was a member of a National Championship team. Scot jumped into coaching at an early age, working with the Aspen, CO youth hockey program while also serving as an instructor with the Laura Stamm power skating camps across the country. Scot most recently served as our AA Squirt Head Coach.

## **Jeremy Church – Evaluator and Squirt / Pee Wee/ Bantam Coach**

- Jeremy has been a member of the Hornet organization as a player, coach and board member for 7 years. Jeremy played high school hockey for Mt. Lebanon and later at Culver Military Academy in Indiana. After graduating, Jeremy played collegiately at Hobart College and then finished his career at Ohio University. Jeremy has extensive coaching experience at all levels of youth hockey, including coaching prep school hockey at Culver Military Academy. Jeremy most recently served as our Mite Red coach and built the development plans for our 8U group this past season.



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**Claudio Simione - Evaluator and U16 Coach**

- Claudio has been a member of the Hornet organization for the past 10 years as a coach and board member. Claudio played high school hockey at Peters Twp, and brings a wealth a coaching experience at all levels of youth hockey. His passion for the kids in our organization is unparalleled. Claudio most recently coached our Bantam AA team, and successfully guided that group to a playoff spot in PAHL.

The MLHA Board is committed to this process, and if you have any questions please e-mail Dave Klasnick at [klasnicd@advisory.com](mailto:klasnicd@advisory.com) with any questions pertaining to the try-outs or the teams next season.

Best Regards - The MLHA Board