



COQUITLAM
MINOR HOCKEY

TRYOUT PROCESS 2026-27

PHASE 1:

- All Skaters will participate in 1 skill session.
- Goalies will be evaluated in 1 goalie-only session, with specialized goalie evaluators. *These evaluators will be from at least two outfits.*
- After these sessions have concluded, skaters will be assigned into balanced scrimmage groups.
- Skaters will play 3 to 4 scrimmages in their balanced groups.
- Goalies will be rotated between all groups.
- Depending on the division and number of players registered, reassignments to C may happen at the end of this phase.
- This is the first opportunity for a player to submit an Evaluation Review Request. There is a formal process that must be followed. Here is a link to that process:
<https://form.jotform.com/232366490855060>

PHASE 2:

- Players in each division will be selected to play in a Prospects game for the A1 pool. The remaining players not selected will be placed into the A2/3 pool.
- The A2/A3 pool will play 3 additional scrimmages
- Reassignments to the C division will occur at the end of this phase, including goalies in some divisions.
- This is the second opportunity for a player to submit an Evaluation Review Request. There is a formal process that must be followed. Here is a link to that process:
<https://form.jotform.com/232366490855060>

PHASE 3:

- The remaining A1 Prospects Game players that were not selected to the A1 pool after the Prospect Game concludes, and the A2/3 pool players, will be reassigned into either A2** or A3** for both skaters and goalies.
- Pool sizes:
 - A1 Pools will carry no more than 20 skaters and a max of 3 goalies* going into Phase 4.
 - A2** and A3** Pools will each carry no more than 15 skaters and 2 goalies going into Phase 4.
 - If a division requires all teams to keep more players on their final rosters due division-specific circumstances, these pool capacities might be higher, but the number of extra players will be no more than 5 skaters/1 goalie to be released after Phase 4.
- Pools in some divisions may participate in scheduled exhibition games and practices as well.
 - Exhibition games may be booked.
 - A1 Coaches have the option to not dress players for these exhibition games and/or during the Jamboree.
- During this phase, coaches may decide on player movement between the pools if warranted.
- Further reassignments to C may happen.
- This is the last opportunity for a player to submit an Evaluation Review Request. There is a formal process that must be followed. Here is a link to that process:
<https://form.jotform.com/232366490855060>

PHASE 4:

- Pools will participate in a Jamboree.
- Movement within Pools may still occur up until the Final Release Date.
- Movement to C will be in the form of “final releases” of up to 5 skaters and 1 goalie per division.
- Releases at this stage are coach decisions and are considered final. No review requests are allowed.

FINAL RELEASE DATE For all divisions will be after the Jamborees conclude and in person at Poirier on the last day of the Jamboree or the following day, depending on the Jamboree scheduling. **For U11 only**, parents are invited to sit in on the releases with their player.

NOTES:

** Depending on the number of goalies being kept on the final team.*

*** if the division has adequate skater/goalie numbers for A2/3 teams.*

SECTION D: 'A' TRYOUT POLICY & PROCEDURES (excerpt from CMHA Policy Manual)

Mission Statement: Representative hockey (also referred to as 'Rep' hockey) is a competitive program which provides an environment for high level hockey players to compete and develop to their highest level with a focus on team success. The goal of all Representative teams is to play at the highest level.

Representative teams play in a league which permits players to play against players of equal ability. It permits each player to improve his/her skills and character to play at the highest individual and team skill level. Players and parents must be willing and able to commit to a more intense hockey experience.

Representative hockey requires a large commitment of time and is an expensive proposition to parents and players who must consider this before applying to play on a team. There are additional expenses for travel, additional game and practice ice, tournaments, coach honoraria, and miscellaneous expenses. Representative Coaches will form teams by selecting from players who have elected to try out for that particular age group. Coaches are to select players in order to form the strongest possible team. There is no requirement of having a ratio of 1st, 2nd or 3rd year (if applicable) players for any Representative team.

1. Terminology

- a) Balanced Groups - are defined as groupings made up with the averages of each group's players' rankings being roughly the same, that the groups are evenly distributed with forwards and defense to the best of our ability, and that birth year distribution is as equal as possible.
- b) Tiered Groups - are defined as 2 or more groups formed of players of different calibers, but of like-skill within each group, based on:

- i. player ranking after the Phase 2 scrimmages, and
- ii. previous team placement

Tiered groups are not Pools. Players still have the potential to be assigned into a higher or lower Pool, or to the C division, going into Phase 4.

c) Pools - are defined as groupings of players containing the final releases. Only Pools will participate in Phase 4.

d) Teams - are defined as groupings of players that will be added to a final roster

2. To Be Aware Of When Considering Rep Tryouts

a) Ice time will be as fair as possible but it may not always be equal in Representative hockey, except in U11 where Equal Play is mandatory. It is a fair share of ice time, taking all circumstances into consideration and in the best interests of the team. As the season progresses, a coaching staff may choose to play players who have demonstrated an ability to perform in key situations.

b) Playing Representative hockey is a privilege and full attendance is mandatory. Everyone is expected to give 100% time commitment throughout the season. Out of respect for all participants, any vacation time scheduled during the hockey season and all other non-CMHA commitments should be addressed with the coaching staff prior to the selection of the team. Players may participate in other activities. They are, however, to fully understand that their first commitment is to the Association's team for which they play. The following guidelines are provided for clarity;

- i. It is expected that every player will attend all practices, games and team functions. Exceptions to this guideline may be provided with prior coach approval. Disciplinary action for violating this guideline may be enforced at the discretion of the Coach.

- ii. There are no restrictions on participation in other activities on a team game or practice day. If however, the earlier participation in another activity impedes a player's performance during an Association's game, disciplinary action may be enforced at the discretion of the Coach. With the following exception:

A Player who misses a team event (practice, game or other team function) in order to attend a hockey referee/officiating clinic shall not be subject to any penalty or disciplinary action by the team and/or coaches.

3. Parent/Guardian Spectator Policy

a) Purpose

The Coquitlam Minor Hockey Association (CMHA) is committed to a fair, unbiased, and professional environment for all players participating in Representative Team tryouts. To protect the integrity of the evaluation process, CMHA strictly prohibits parental or guardian observation during Phase 1-3 of on-ice tryout sessions. This policy eliminates external pressure on players and ensures evaluators can assess performance without interference or influence.

b) Scope

This policy applies to all parents, guardians, and spectators of players registered for CMHA Representative Tryouts across all age divisions.

c) Policy Rules

i. No Spectator Access During Tryouts:

(a) Parents or guardians are not permitted inside the arena bowl, viewing galleries, benches, or any other observation areas during any CMHA tryout session — including from doorways or behind glass.

(b) CMHA reserves the right to make allowances to this policy in relation to a medical issue that might make a parent in the arena necessary. A medical note must be provided.

ii. Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedure Only:

(a) Parents must use designated drop-off and pick-up zones. Linger in lobbies, hallways, or rink entrances during tryouts is strictly prohibited.

iii. No Interaction During Tryouts:

(a) Any form of verbal, visual, or non-verbal communication between parents and players, evaluators, or coaches during the tryout process is prohibited.

- This includes parents acting as “managers” (or any other assisting-type role) before teams are final.

iv. Approved Communication Channel

(a) All questions or concerns must be directed to the CMHA Vice President via email or by scheduled meeting.

d) Disciplinary Outcomes

i. If it is discovered and verified that any parent/guardian is in the arena spectating, it will result in their player being scratched from the next following ice time, with a rank of zero given for that session.

4. General Tryout Policies

a) Prior to the commencement of the try-outs for Representative teams, the appropriate Vice-President responsible for each division shall provide a copy of the CMHA policies and procedures respecting the process for selecting Representative teams to all members of the Rep Player Selection Committee and the families and review such policies and procedures with them in order to ensure strict compliance therewith.

b) CMHA reserves the right to make the final decision on the number of teams at any time before, during, or after tryouts. All players should be endeavoring to make the A1 team for their division. Refunds will not be issued because it was decided a team cannot be iced for that season. Decisions about the number of teams will be based on some or all of the following factors:

i. Minimum number of goalies trying out

(a) Must be enough goalies trying out for 1 goalie per team

ii. Minimum number of skaters trying out

(a) A1 team = 30 skaters

(b) A2 team = 45 skaters

(c) A3 team (U11/13) = 60 skaters

(d) A3 team (U15/18) = 75 skaters

iii. Placement of the teams in the standings from previous season's league play

iv. Calibre of players in current year's tryouts

a) Only players registered with CMHA may participate in Representative tryouts.

d) Only players who have paid the Representative tryout fee during registration shall be permitted to participate in the tryout process. All late entries shall be subject to Presidential approval. Late admissions may, at the discretion of the President, be assigned to a group, space permitting.

e) All players must wear all equipment as required by Hockey Canada under Hockey Canada Rulebook Section 3.

f) An Equipment Check must be completed before a player takes the ice for their first evaluation session. Any player not compliant with Hockey Canada equipment guidelines will be sent from the ice and shall not be permitted to return until he/she has put on the missing approved equipment or remediated the equipment deficiency. Players will be allowed to return to their assigned ice times when the equipment deficiency has been corrected.

g) Prior to any sessions, players will be issued two pinnies with the same number, each a different colour. Both pinnies must be kept in the gear bag for the duration of the tryouts, to ensure it is always on hand as this is how they will be identified, until the player has been assigned to a Pool or to the C division.

h) Players unable to participate because of being at a Hockey Canada sanctioned Junior-level tryout are to advise the appropriate Vice President for alternate consideration. Placement of returning players (released from Junior tryouts) will be at the discretion of the appropriate Vice President, based upon space availability and date of player return. Only players who are trying out for, and released from, a Hockey Canada sanctioned program are eligible for this consideration, and must have paid the tryout fee.

i) Players that have registered as an External Hold Registrant will be accounted for in Representative tryouts, but are not guaranteed a spot on a team.

j) In the event that a player cannot participate in their scheduled evaluation process, a submission may be made to the Representative Player Selection Committee for further consideration.

k) Goalies will either be assessed during existing ice times by a minimum of two goalie evaluators, or during a separate ice time by a minimum of two goalie evaluators, (whichever is deemed appropriate for that division), or both. Both (or all) Goalie evaluators shall not be hired from the same outfit.

l) In the event of an injury, where a player cannot complete the tryout process, the player shall provide a medical assessment in line with Hockey Canada guidelines and will be assessed after the earliest medical approval date by the Representative Player Selection Committee and/or designate. The player may be placed on a team at the discretion of the Rep Player Selection Committee for that division. Final placement is not guaranteed if the player's skill level does not justify it.

m) During the selection process, players who wish to release themselves from a Representative team must firstly notify the appropriate Vice President. The player may expect to sit out a minimum of 72 hours to allow the Board and coaches to meet. The Player may expect to be placed on a C team, if there is space in the C division.

n) During tryouts, It is mandatory that all members operate under the 12 hour cooling off rule. This rule requires that a member wait for 12 hours as a cooling off period before the concern will be addressed. This rule applies to all members, including coaches, the CMHA Board of Directors and all volunteers. At all other times in the hockey season, 24 hours is required.

o) There will be a team meeting prior to the last releases to discuss the coach's philosophy and expectations. All team rules must be explained to the parents and players in detail.

p) CMHA reserves the right to modify any part of the Tryout Process at any time if necessary. Changes to the process will be communicated no less than 24 hours ahead of implementation.

5. Representative Player Selection Committee

The representative player selection committee will consist of the Development Coordinator or equivalent, representative Coaches, and their Assistants for the division, together with the Vice President of Competitive Programming (VPCP) and paid independent evaluators

- a) At the discretion of the VPCP, representative coaches from other levels can be requested to assist.
- b) It is the responsibility of the VPCP, along with the Development Manager or equivalent, and Tryout Facilitator in each division to arrange the on-ice evaluation for the rep tryouts.
- c) Coaches and Independent Evaluators will evaluate players from an off-ice vantage point.
- d) At no time will a rep coach be involved in the evaluation process of his/her own child. The Board of Directors will not assign a team to a parent representative coach until the child has been independently evaluated.
- e) During evaluations Representative Coaches shall be neutral in their comments or any gestures that may be incorrectly perceived by players or parents. During evaluations Representative Coaches shall refrain from speaking with parents of players being evaluated, but shall refer parents to the appropriate Vice President.
- f) All representative coaches shall be present at every rep tryout where the players trying out will likely be trying out for that particular coach's team.

6. Evaluation Criteria

Rep tryouts shall consist of drills and scrimmage style sessions, which progressively evaluate the individual player's skills and abilities. Evaluations will be conducted by the Representative Coaches and Independent Evaluators.

- a) The Skaters' assessment shall be based on the following on-ice skills:
 - i. Skating
 - ii. Puck Control and Shooting
 - iii. Passing/receiving
 - iv. Checking (U15 rep and above)

- b) The Goalies' assessment shall be based on the following on-ice skills:
 - i. Positioning, Angles & Rebounds
 - ii. Skating within the Crease
 - iii. Tracking
- c) In addition, the following will be taken into consideration for all players:
 - i. Desire/determination / Work ethic / Battle & Compete
 - ii. Discipline / Game sense / Hockey IQ

7. Releases & Reassignments

- a) A player from the A1 pool cannot be released to C without the prior approval of the VPCP. This is otherwise known as a "double cut". The VPCP will refer to the player's playing history, tryout rankings, and the coach's reasoning when making the decision to allow the release.
- b) Players released to the C Division after Phase 2 or 3 will be first contacted via email by the VP of Competitive Programming, then by the 'C' Division Manager, assigned their next ice time and moved to that division's preseason team in Teamsnap.
- c) Players selected to advance to Phase 4 of tryouts will be moved into those Pools in Teamsnap.
- d) Upward movement between pools may still occur until the Final Release Date for that division. I.e. A player can be reassigned to a higher pool.
- e) Higher ranked Coaches who wish to reassign a player into their pool must provide reasoning to the VPCP, be supported by the Independent Evaluator for that division and the coach below must agree. I.e. An A1 coach wants to pull a player back up to the A1 Pool from the A2 Pool during Phase 4.
- f) All players and parents must be informed of when the releases will take place. Division Managers will provide a schedule to the players and parents at the beginning of the Rep tryout process detailing the date of each round of releases. Changes to release schedules will be communicated no less than 24 hours before the new date and time, and changes must only be made due to exceptional circumstances.

g) All final phase ('Phase 4') releases must be done by the Representative Coaches in person and in private. A procedure for logistics of handling the player releases will be given to the Representative Coaches for each Division by the VPCP. Players shall be interviewed in a private location, only after a home game or practice. At no time shall a Coach announce that a player has made the team prior to the final releases. All players assigned to the C pool will be contacted by the appropriate C Division Manager and will be given the date and time of their next C ice time.

i. For the U11 Division only, parents are invited to sit in on final releases.

h) All Representative Coaches shall mutually agree to the placement of these players into their respective pools. VPCP, shall review the final list before releases are made. If VPCP is in conflict (their child is in the division they are managing), another non-conflicted VP will handle this review.

i) The VPCP has the option to request an independent assessment of skills and abilities in the case of siblings trying out for the same team and in the case of a child of a Parent Coach. Any additional expenses related to this assessment will be borne by the parents of the child(ren) being assessed.

j) The Representative Player Selection Committee chaired by the VP of Competitive Programming shall settle any disagreements amongst the coaches regarding the placement of players, with final decision-making power resting with the VP of Competitive Programming providing they are not in conflict. If conflict arises, another non-conflicted VP will make the decision.

k) The opinions, assessments and impressions of coaches, evaluators and other members of the Representative Player Selection Committee (the "Committee") respecting the performance of player candidates during the try-outs and all evaluation data, commentary, rankings and any other information and documentation gathered or produced during the evaluation process are strictly confidential, only to be used within the confines of the Committee for the purposes of team selection. Any confidential information about a particular player candidate shall not be disclosed to parties outside of the Committee other than to the player candidate himself/herself or his/her parent guardian, without the written consent of an adult player or the parent or guardian of a non-adult player;

provided nothing herein shall prohibit the disclosure of such information if necessary under the CMHA Complaint and Appeals Procedure, pursuant to the policies and procedures of bodies by which CMHA is governed, or, following the selection of the Representative team, if it is made in response to legitimate enquiries about a successful candidate from coaches at a higher competitive level for affiliation purposes or for the purpose of otherwise promoting the player's career.

l) Coaches shall handle the release of players not selected with tact, care and caution. Coaches must be very thoughtful and careful in their selection of words. An improperly chosen phrase could injure the self-esteem of the young players.

m) CMHA reserves the right to decline the presentation of any evaluation data.

n) Until all players on a Representative team have been finally determined and all remaining player candidates have been informed of that determination at the time of the final releases in accordance with these policies and procedures, no one on the Committee shall disclose to anyone outside of the Committee that any player candidate has been selected to a Representative team or make any comment regarding any particular player's prospects of making the team.

8. Final Rosters

a) The Board will set the number of players per team. Generally, the teams are based on 15 skaters and 2 goalies per team. Teams may be adjusted depending on the declared team roster size.

b) If a player of a Representative A3 (or whichever team is directly above the C division) team is released, the coach and/or manager shall first inform the Division Manager and then immediately inform the player and his parents. The Division Manager shall ensure that the player is notified of his assignment to a Representative "C" Team.

c) Representative teams, U11 to U18, shall declare their rosters by early October. In the event a player is assigned and carded to a Representative A1, A2 or A3 team and that player decides he/she does not want to continue on that team, the player may be assigned to a C team in the next higher division, or placed in the C division for their birth year. This is at the discretion of the applicable VP and Registrar, based on division availability.

d) The final date for player movement within the Rep A1 and A2/A3 teams is December 1st, unless there are disciplinary issues which need to be dealt with by the coaching staff and the Board and will follow PCAHA guidelines.

e) U21 teams shall be at a declared roster size by mid October.