

## **V. REPRESENTATIVE “A” TEAM SELECTION**

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.

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 and miscellaneous expenses.

Representative Coaches will form teams by selecting from players who have elected to try out for that particular age group and level. 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.

### **A) Player Procedures**

1. Only players registered with CMHA may participate in Representative tryouts.
2. Only players who have completed the Representative tryout application and paid the Representative tryout fee during the Representative 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, room permitting.
3. All players must wear all equipment as required by Hockey Canada under Hockey Canada Rulebook Section 3.
4. 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.

5. 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.*
6. 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.
7. 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 shall be placed on a team at the discretion of the appropriate Vice President.
8. 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 executive and coaches to meet. The Player may expect to be placed on a C team.
9. 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.
10. 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;
  - 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.

- 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. If the referee clinic is held during representative team tryouts, any player who misses an evaluation event in order to attend the referee clinic shall be officially excused from the representative event and said absence will not factor into the representative team selections or releases.
11. 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.
  12. The goal of all Representative teams is to play at the highest level.
  13. The final date for player movement within the Rep A1 and A2/A3 pools is December 1<sup>st</sup>, unless there are disciplinary issues which need to be dealt with by the coaching staff, the Executive and will follow PCAHA guidelines.
  14. It is mandatory that all members operate under the 24 hour cooling off rule. This rule requires that a member wait for 24 hours as a cooling off period before the concern will be addressed. This rule applies to all members, including coaches, the CMHA Executive and all volunteers.

## **B) Representative Player Selection Committee**

1. The representative player selection committee will consist of the Development Coordinators or equivalent, representative Coaches, and their Assistants for the division, together with the appropriate Vice President.

2. At the discretion of the First,, Second or Third Vice President, Representative coaches from other levels can be requested to assist.
3. It is the responsibility of the appropriate Vice President, along with the Development Coordinators or equivalent, Coach Coordinator and Independent Evaluators in each division to arrange the on-ice evaluation for the rep tryouts.
4. Representative A1 Coaches and Independent Evaluators will evaluate players from an off-ice vantage point. At no time will a rep coach be involved in the evaluation process of his/her own child. The Executive will not assign a team to a parent representative coach until the child has been independently evaluated.
5. 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 or the President.
6. 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.
7. 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.

### **C) Evaluation Process**

Players shall be divided into groups and a unique identifier number will be issued which shall be used during the tryouts to identify the individual players. In preparation for the representative skates, the Registrar shall prepare a player list of those who applied for each Representative age group U11 through U18. The First, Second or Third Vice President and Division Coordinators will assign the players into reasonably even sized groups.

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

The players' assessment shall be based on the following on-ice skills:

- Skating

- Puck Control and Shooting
- Passing/receiving
- Checking (U15 rep and above)

In addition, the following will be taken into consideration:

- Desire/determination Work ethic / Battle & Compete
- Discipline / Game sense / Hockey IQ

Round One shall consist of two or three tryout sessions, which shall include all players in their respective group assignments, who have registered for the A1 team tryouts. The Development Coordinators or equivalent, Representative A1 Coaches, and Independent Evaluators will ensure the groups are split evenly and evaluate the game sessions.

- 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). Both (or all) Goalie evaluators shall not be hired from the same outfit.

Round Two will consist of up to two top 30-36 games ("Top 30 game") where groups are split evenly and balanced for skill. After the Top 30 game(s), the A1 pool will be formed with a max of 24 skaters and 4 goalies.

- Goaltenders shall be placed on a team in which they will play in intervals, being rotated through the teams as determined by the VP of the division.

At the end of Round Two sessions, with the exception of U21, the players shall be assigned to one of two pools the A1 Pool and A2/3 Pool, which will consist of the remaining players not assigned to the A1 Pool. The players not assigned to either of the A1 or A2/A3 Pools will be released to the C Division.

- This is the final chance that a player can 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>
1. The A1 pool shall consist of up to 24 skaters and up to 4 goaltenders. A player from the A1 pool cannot be released to C without the prior approval of the appropriate Vice President.

2. The A2/A3 pool shall be divided into 3 to 4 equally balanced groups for two additional game-style evaluations after which the A2/A3 pool will be divided into the A2 and A3 pools.
3. Those players not selected for the A1 or A2/A3 pools shall be assigned to the C Division. Players released to the C Division after this point of the tryouts will be contacted by the Division Coordinator and assigned their next ice time.
4. Players selected to advance to the next round of tryouts will be informed by a list posted on the CMHA website or by the Representative Coaches for that particular Division.
5. All players and parents must be informed of when the releases will take place. Representative Coaches 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.
6. All final round releases must be done by the Representative Coaches in person and in private. A suggested procedure for logistics of handling the player releases will be given to the Representative Coaches for each Division by the appropriate Vice President. All players assigned to the C pool will be contacted by the appropriate C Divisions Coordinator and will be given the date and time of their next C ice time. Where possible, 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.
7. All Representative Coaches shall mutually agree to the placement of these players into their respective pools. The First, Second and Third Vice Presidents responsible for the division shall review the final list before releases are made. If a VP is in conflict (their child is in the division they are managing), another non-conflicted VP will handle this review.
8. The First, Second and Third Vice Presidents have 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.
9. The Representative Player Selection Committee chaired by the appropriate Vice President shall settle any disagreements amongst the coaches regarding the placement of players, with final decision-making power resting with the VP of the division, providing they are not in

conflict. If conflict arises, another non-conflicted VP will make the decision.

10. 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.
11. Until releases from a pool or a Representative team have been personally disclosed to player candidates or disclosed by public notice where permitted by these policies and procedures, no one on the Committee shall disclose such releases or possible releases to anyone outside of the Committee.
12. 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.
13. 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 Committee and review such policies and procedures with them in order to ensure strict compliance therewith.

#### **D) Final Rosters**

1. The Executive 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.
  
2. 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 Coordinator and then immediately inform the player and his parents. The Division Coordinator shall ensure that the player is notified of his assignment to a Representative "C" Team.
  
3. 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.
  
4. U21 teams shall be at a declared roster size by mid October.