
**Policies & Procedures
of the
Vancouver Thunderbird
Minor Hockey Association**

P-8

REP HOCKEY POLICIES

Date Revised:	August 2015	Revision No.:	8
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A. Introduction

1. The VTMHA participates in the rep hockey program of the PCAHA, BC Hockey and Hockey Canada. VTMHA rep hockey is governed by the rules and regulations of these organizations.
2. Rep hockey brings together dedicated, skilled players and dedicated, experienced coaches to form teams to play against the best hockey players and coaches from other associations. Rep teams play in a league that permits players to compete against players of similar ability.

B. Mission Statement

1. To challenge, motivate, teach and inspire every Rep Hockey player to reach their unlimited potential by providing them with a well defined and structured program. To give each and every player the opportunity to be the best they can be by having an organization that is committed to professionalism, integrity, respect and sportsmanship.

C. Vision and Value Proposition

1. The strategic vision and value proposition of the VTMHA Rep program was developed to support the organization's Rep hockey mission statement. The VTMHA will continuously evaluate all aspects of the Rep program in order to identify areas for improvement and to capitalize on available opportunities. The VTMHA Board and Director of Hockey Operations will strive to ensure that the organization:
 - i. Provides high quality coaching
 - ii. Provides the best in skill development and power skating.
 - iii. Provides players with a platform to learn and grow in the game of hockey and as individuals.
 - iv. Instills our core values.

D. Core Values

1. THE VTMHA will provide an opportunity for players to compete at the highest level. Maximizing a player's individual potential is dependent upon several factors outside the rink. Therefore, it is incumbent upon every Rep coach to assist each player with his or her individual efforts in taking control of their personal development, and to help build the blocks of a solid foundation for lifelong success. Creating awareness and internalizing the core values of the VTMHA will provide players with a toolbox full of practical values that enable them to collect experiences, build self-confidence, expand their horizons and open doors to future opportunities. Core values are:

- Sportsmanship – Showing respect for yourself, your teammates, your coach, your opponents, and the officials. Winning and losing as a team with dignity and class.
- Commitment –To yourself, your team and the organization to always put forward your best effort and to continue to improve at all times.
- Teamwork – Recognizing that you are part of a team that can only succeed as a team.

- Enthusiasm – Bringing enthusiasm and passion with you at all times in an effort to be the best you can be.

E. Commitment

1. Rep teams will only succeed where players and coaches are committed to the Core Values of the rep program. Rep hockey is an elite competitive program that is designed with the goal of achieving the highest level of hockey possible. The rep program is built on commitment and dedication. Participation in rep hockey requires a significant commitment from coaches, parents and players. Although there will be some discretion based on individual circumstances, the following sets out in general terms the expectations of those involved.

Coaching Staff

- Rep coaches will have all necessary qualifications and experience in order to provide effective guidance and hockey knowledge to the team.
- Rep coaches will display the time commitment that is required of the program. With the exception of certain personal or work matters, the coach will maintain a perfect attendance record for all practices, games, tournaments and team social functions.
- Rep coaches will be expected to arrive at the rink at the same time that is expected of the players (e.g. 1 hour before games)
- Rep coaches will have a well-defined annual plan for the team, which shall be reviewed with the Director of Hockey Operations not later than September 1.
- Rep coaches will come fully prepared to each practice and game.
- Rep coaches (and managers) will provide a schedule of events (games, practices, tournaments, and other hockey functions) planned so that players and parents can schedule this hockey commitment around work, family/social functions and school. To the extent possible, a general schedule of practice, home game and other regularly schedule events, as well as an indication of tournaments that the team will participate in, should be provided before players are asked to commit to the team, and as the year goes by schedules for upcoming events should be provided to players and parents as soon as they are known.
- Rep coaches will follow the structure laid out by the VTMHA Board and Director of Hockey Operations.

Players

- Unless there is an extenuating circumstance, players are expected to be available for all practices, games, training, tournaments (including out of town tournaments) and social functions.
- In order to be a team member of a Rep hockey team, the players must be prepared to make a commitment often at the expense of **high school hockey, spring hockey, other sporting endeavors**, free time and/or social events.
- If a player is also planning to be involved in another sport or school activity that will inhibit their ability to fully commit to the VTMHA Rep team, then the player must make this known during the try-out process. The Rep coach will most certainly factor this other commitment into his/her decision process when finalizing the selection for the team.

- Players will be expected to maintain a high level of fitness such that he/she will be able to compete at the level required of an elite hockey program and avoid injury.
- Players will be expected to give a 100% effort to all the Rep hockey endeavors (practices, games and other training).
- Players will adhere to the VTMHA dress code applicable to their team.
- The VTMHA has a great reputation within our community and among other associations for being very well behaved and respectful when participating in games and tournaments. Let's work together to continue this reputation for years to come.

Parents

- Given that the majority of minor hockey players require transportation from their parents to all the Rep hockey events, parents will be expected to agree to the player expectations above.
- Parents will support and encourage the commitment that the Players have made.
- If a player will miss a scheduled Rep hockey event, the parents will ensure that the coach (or manager) is notified in advance.

2. The expectations set out in this policy are in addition to the basic coach, player and parent codes of conduct that apply to all VTMHA coaches, players and parents. See Policy P-14: *Codes of Conduct*.

3. Although the expectations of Rep hockey players and families are quite demanding, they are necessary in order to be fair to the coaching staff and other teammates who are willing to make a similar commitment. Therefore, it is important that these expectations are understood and agreed to early on so as to avoid issues later in the season.

4. Failure to honor the commitment level as laid out by the VTMHA Rep Hockey Program will result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the coach. If the coach feels a suspension longer than one game is required, the coach shall seek approval of such suspension in accordance with Policy P-17: *Discipline Policy*.

5. Coaches shall notify the Director Rep of any disciplinary action taken for breach of the commitment policy, and the Director Rep shall maintain a record with respect to each player who is disciplined. Should a player who has been disciplined for more than one breach of the commitment policy try out for a Rep hockey team in a subsequent year, the Director Rep shall be at liberty to advise the coaches for the level at which that player is trying out of the player's past record.

6. Playing Rep hockey is a privilege, not a right, for the skilled hockey player. Playing Rep hockey can be an incredibly rewarding experience since it allows participation in an activity at the highest level available. This being said, it is not skill alone that dictates who will be selected and able to participate in the Rep hockey program. If players and/or parents are unable or unwilling to make the commitment necessary, then another player will likely be chosen to play on the Rep team who is willing to make the proper commitment.

7. It is important, in order to avoid misunderstandings with respect to required commitment, to properly articulate the expectations of the Rep hockey program at the outset. Before being

rostered with a rep team, it is expected that each coach and player and the parents of each player will sign a document (see Appendix A and Appendix B) confirming their commitment to the principles outlined above.

F. Rep Fees

1. Rep hockey of necessity involves additional expenses for additional game and practice ice, tournaments, travel and miscellaneous expenses such as team apparel. Players on rep teams will be expected to pay a rep fee to the VTMHA, which will cover only a portion of these additional expenses, as well as to make additional contributions to team funds to cover a proportionate share of these expenses. With respect to the rep fee, see Policy P-4: *Fee Schedule*.

G. Dress Code

For all Rep Teams, the Dress Code consists of:

- Dress Shoes
- Khaki dress pants
- Shirt and Tie
- Rep Association Jacket
- For the above-noted teams, Thunderbird tracksuits with athletic shoes and other Thunderbird Rep approved clothing package may be worn instead, at the discretion of the coach.

H. Numbers of Rep Teams

1. The VTMHA typically enters tiered rep teams in the Atom, Peewee, Bantam, Midget and Juvenile divisions. The number of VTMHA rep teams will be decided before the start of each hockey season by the VTMHA Board, with input from the Director of Hockey Operations, based upon the availability of both players and ice times.

I. Team Sizes

1. Each rep team in the:

- Atom or Peewee divisions shall consist of up to 2 goalies plus a minimum of 13 skaters and a maximum of 17 skaters.
- Bantam or Midget divisions shall consist of up to 2 goalies and a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 17 skaters.
- Juvenile division may have up to 3 goalies and up to 23 skaters, provided that it may not register more than 25 players in total.

2. The VTMHA Board may review the above numbers and provide further direction as to team sizes in advance of the rep tryout process.

3. Through the initial tryout process, the Direction of Hockey Operations in consultation with the rep head coaches within each division, the Director of Rep Hockey and the VTMHA Board, will determine the appropriate number of players for each team.
4. The VTMHA Board may, on application by the Director of Hockey Operations or a rep coach, vary the required roster size for any rep team.

J. Affiliate Players

1. An affiliate player is defined as a registered player who is temporarily included on the playing roster of a team in a higher division or category within the VTMHA. Each rep team should strive to affiliate numerous rep players, subject to the maximum limits prescribed by the PCAHA Rules. Every rep coach and manager should carefully review section C 34, C35, and C38 of the PCAHA Rules prior to the start of the season (or, in the case of Atom rep coaches, sections C27 through C30).
2. Each rep team should affiliate a minimum of 10 skaters and two goalies.
3. Each rep team shall affiliate a minimum of 5 skaters and one goalie by October 15 of each year. The affiliate list should be increased to at least the minimum set out above not later than December 31 of each year.
4. The Director of Hockey Operations and the Director of Rep Hockey shall coordinate the assignment of affiliate players to rep teams in order to ensure that (a) the PCAHA Rules are followed, (b) each team has appropriate levels of affiliate players, and (c) players are given an adequate opportunity to become affiliates of teams for which they are suited.
5. Before a player is rostered as an affiliate:
 - the coach or manager shall confirm with that player or player's family that he or she is willing to be affiliated to that team; and
 - the affiliation shall be approved by the Vice President of Rep Hockey.

K. Team Officials Selection

1. The VTMHA board will have final approval of all coaches for all rep teams, including both parent and non-parent coaches.