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

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REP HOCKEY POLICIES

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. 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.
- 1.2. 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.

2. Commitment

- 2.1. 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 to provide effective guidance and hockey knowledge to the team.
- Rep coaches will display the time commitment that is required of the program. Except for certain personal or work matters discussed with the Executive Director, 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 based upon the Hockey Canada pathway for the age division.
- 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 scheduled 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 Executive Director.

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.
- 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**

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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.
- The VTMHA Rep team activities must always take priority over another hockey program. This includes, but is not limited to, involvement in another league, tournament program, or skill session.
- VTMHA will adhere to all Hockey Canada, BC Hockey and PCAHA policies and bulletins regarding members participating in non-sanctioned programs.
- 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 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 most 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 and will accept all consequences for the missed activity as per the team rules.
- 2.2. 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*.
- 2.3. Although the expectations of Rep hockey players and families are quite demanding, they are necessary 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 to avoid issues later in the season.
- 2.4. 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*.
- 2.5. Coaches shall notify the Director of Rep Hockey of any disciplinary action taken for breach of the commitment policy, and the Director of Rep Hockey 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 of Rep Hockey shall be at liberty to advise the coaches for the level at which that player is trying out of the player's past record.
- 2.6. 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. 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

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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.

- 2.7. 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 confirming their commitment to the principles outlined above.

3. Rep Fees

- 3.1. 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. With respect to the rep fee, see Policy P-4: *Fee Schedule*.

4. Numbers of Rep Teams

- 4.1. The VTMHA typically enters tiered rep teams in the U11, U13, U15 and U18 divisions. The number of VTMHA rep teams will be decided before the formation of practice rosters in the rep tryout process by the VTMHA Board based upon the recommendation of the Executive Director and Director of Rep Hockey, based upon the availability of both players and ice times.

5. Team Sizes

- 5.1. Each rep team in the:

- 5.1.1. U11 or U13 divisions shall consist of up to 2 goalies plus a minimum of 13 skaters and a maximum of 17 skaters.

- 5.1.2. U15 or U18 divisions shall consist of up to 2 goalies and a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 17 skaters.

- 5.1.3. U21 division may have up to 3 goalies and up to 23 skaters, provided that it may not register more than 25 players in total.

- 5.2. The VTMHA Board may review the above numbers and provide further direction as to team sizes as part of the rep tryout process.

- 5.3. Through the initial tryout process, the Executive Director or designate, 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.

- 5.4. The VTMHA Board may, on application by the Executive Director or designate, vary the required roster size for any rep team.

6. Affiliate Players

6.1. An affiliate player is defined as a registered player who is temporarily included on the

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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 the appropriate sections of the PCAHA Rules prior to the start of the season.

- 6.2. Each rep team shall affiliate a minimum of 5 skaters and one goalie by October 15 of each year.
- 6.3. The Executive Director 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.
 - 6.3.1. Before a player is rostered as an affiliate:
 - 6.3.2. 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
 - 6.3.3. the affiliation shall be approved by the Executive Director to ensure eligibility.
- 6.4. Before an affiliate player can be invited to attend a practice or game, permission must be given by their team coach to ensure there are no issues with eligibility, injury, or unacceptable conflict with their own team activity.

7. Team Officials Selection

- 7.1. The VTMHA board will have final approval of all coaches for all rep teams, including both parent and non-parent coaches.
- 7.2. Parent coaches or on-ice help will not be rostered to any team until after the player roster is finalized.