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

*P-9*

**REP PLAYER SELECTION**

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**1. Registration for Rep Tryouts**

- 1.1. Players wanting to attend the rep tryouts must indicate this by the date communicated at registration each year.
- 1.2. A player registering for rep tryouts must elect to try out for either goalie or skater. Those who elect to try out as skaters in the U13, U15 or U18 divisions will be asked to further indicate a preference to play either forward or defence. A player will be assessed based on their position preference until practice groups are formed where coaches may ask a player to play forward or defence depending on the needs of the team.
- 1.3. Before participating in the rep tryout sessions, players must be fully registered with the VTMHA, have paid all required fees, and have met all requirements of the PCAHA, BC Hockey, Hockey Canada, and the IIHF to play rep hockey with the VTMHA.
- 1.4. For rep tryouts in U15 and older, every player (other than a goaltender) who has not played bodychecking hockey in the past must have completed a VTMHA bodychecking clinic or provide written proof of completion of a bodychecking clinic from another qualified organization.
- 1.5. Players who have not completed the requirements in this section will not be allowed on the ice for a rep tryout session.

**2. Attendance At Rep Tryouts**

- 2.1. All players trying out for rep hockey must attend all rep tryouts applicable to that player, which usually are scheduled to commence approximately one week prior to the Labour Day long weekend for U13 and U15 and the first week after Labour Day for U11 and U18.
- 2.2. Players who do not attend all applicable tryouts will forfeit their opportunity to play rep hockey for that season and will immediately be registered for C level hockey in their division except as provided in this section.
- 2.3. A player who has registered for rep hockey but is unable to attend a rep tryout session due to sickness or injury must provide as early as possible, but not later than 2 hours prior to their next scheduled ice session, a letter from a physician confirming this. In such circumstances:
- 2.3.1. In the event a player *was assessed in a minimum of one tryout session*:
- 2.3.1.1. If the player's injury prevents the player from completing the tryout process, the player will be assessed by the rep coaches for that division, the Executive Director and the Director of Rep Hockey after the earliest medical approval date provided it is prior to the final ice session scheduled before final team assignments are determined.
- 2.3.1.2. A position may only be held for an injured player if the player has a doctor's note indicating that the player is expected to be able to fully participate in a hockey game with contact no later than one week prior to the start of the PCAHA Tiering round.
- 2.3.1.3. If a definitive assessment cannot be completed to place the player onto a team prior to the

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scheduled date of the final team assignments:

- 2.3.1.3.1. the highest team level will be determined by the evaluation team with the Executive Director and Director of Rep Hockey;
- 2.3.1.3.2. that roster will be formed with one spot held back or a decision will be made to enlarge that team roster by one for the season.
- 2.3.1.3.3. When the player can be assessed, they will enter the process at one level lower than they had played their final tryout session at.
- 2.3.1.4. As the player is assessed, they must participate in a minimum of one exhibition game/internal scrimmage before determining movement upward or downward.
- 2.3.1.5. No injured player is guaranteed a position on a rep team. They must complete an assessment.
- 2.3.1.6. If the assessment is conducted after the formation of practice rosters (i.e., releases have been made), and the injured player is not successful in being assigned to the highest possible team as identified, the higher team will select one player from the players released from their practice roster to complete their team. This will continue through the teams below until the level the injured player is ultimately assigned to.
- 2.3.2. In the event a player is *not able* to participate in any tryout session prior to final team assignments are determined:
  - 2.3.2.1. A position may only be held for an injured player if the player has a doctor's certificate indicating that the player is expected to be able to fully participate in a hockey game with contact by a minimum of 5 days prior to the scheduled date final team assignments are determined. They must be able to be assessed within the group to determine if they are at a suitable level.
  - 2.3.3. If a position is held for an injured player, then the player must pay the applicable rep tryout fees prior to playing with the team.
  - 2.3.4. If a position is held for an injured player, then the player must attend all team functions (ice sessions, meetings, etc.) even though they cannot participate on the ice. They may be asked to assist the team in other manners and must agree to doing so.
- 2.4. A player who has registered for rep hockey but is unable to attend a rep tryout session due to work related obligations must provide to the Executive Director, in advance of the session to be missed, a letter from that player's employer. If work-related obligations require a player to miss more than one session, then the continued participation of that player in the rep tryout sessions shall be at the discretion of the Director of Rep Hockey, in consultation with the Executive Director.
- 2.5. A player who has registered for rep hockey at the U18 or U21 level may miss a rep tryout session due to conflicting attendances at major midget or junior team tryouts but is required to notify the association a minimum of 2 hours prior to the ice time.
- 2.6. A player who has registered for rep hockey but is unable to attend a rep tryout session due to exceptional personal circumstances must seek permission in advance of the session to be missed by way of a letter (which includes electronic mail) addressed to the Director of Rep Hockey and/or the Executive Director. The Director of Rep Hockey, in consultation with the Executive Director, shall determine whether

to approve the request.

2.7. Failure to attend a rep tryout session because of holiday travel will not be considered acceptable.

**3. Procedure at Rep Tryout Sessions**

3.1. The plans for the on-ice sessions will be designed by the Executive Director in consultation with the rep coaches and/or in-season skill provider for the rep division.

3.2. The Executive Director will ensure that there are qualified coaches overseeing all rep tryout sessions.

3.3. Players must wear all protective equipment, including a CHA approved neck guard, during tryouts. Any player found not wearing all the required protective equipment must be sent off the ice and must not be permitted to return until he/she has put on the missing approved equipment.

3.4. Players must wear their assigned rep tryout jersey during all on-ice sessions.

3.5. The Executive Director shall endeavour to set up the viewing areas in such a manner as to discourage contact or discussion between parents or players and those evaluating the players. Evaluators will maintain separation from each other during the ice sessions and will submit their rankings prior to the group discussion.

3.6. All evaluators participating in the tryouts will not be permitted to discuss any players or evaluations with any player, parent, or general public member. Parents/players are not permitted to ask questions on performance until after a final team placement is made.

**4. Evaluation and Selection Criteria**

4.1. The goal of the Rep Selection Policy is to evaluate players fairly and consistently for the purpose of tiering.

4.2. Player shall be assessed based on their performance in the rep tryout sessions, based on their overall skill level and ability to perform during the tryout sessions.

4.3. To develop the rep program, the rep coaches in forming teams shall endeavour to have, overall, at least 33% first year players at the U11, U13 and U15 levels, and at least 25% first year players at the U18 level. Any deviation from these ratios shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Director and the Director of Rep Hockey.

**5. Evaluation Process – Conflicts of Interest**

5.1. Under no circumstances will a rep coach be involved in the evaluation of his or her own child. At no time in any stage of the selection process will a parent coach be involved in a selection conversation concerning their child.

5.2. In the event the Director of Rep Hockey has a child trying out for a rep team, an alternate Board Director will be assigned to oversee that age division(s). They will not be present for any discussion on that age division, nor will they be provided access to documents concerning that division throughout the rep tryout process.

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5.3. No parent, friend or relative of a player participating in the rep tryout process shall offer any sponsorship, financial incentive, or other benefit to a team or to the coach of a team in connection with or during the tryout process.

### 6. Evaluation Process

6.1 All players will participate in a minimum of 3 ice sessions during the selection process. Goaltenders will also attend a goalie specific evaluation session. For players assigned to a practice roster, a minimum of two exhibition games for the team will be scheduled, with every player participating in a minimum of one.

6.2 Players assigned to practice groups will participate in intra-group scrimmages, after which the coaches will be required to select the following total number of players to move to the next stage. These numbers will be determined each season by the Director of Rep Hockey and Executive Director based upon final registration numbers, however the target will be:

For U11 and U13:

A1 pool = 18 skaters and 3 goaltenders

A2 pool = 15 skaters and 2 goaltenders

A3 pool = 15 skaters and 2 goaltenders

A4 pool = 15 skaters and 2 goaltenders

For U15:

A1 pool = 19 skaters and 3 goaltenders

A2 pool = 16 skaters and 2 goaltenders

A3 pool = 16 skaters and 2 goaltenders

For U18, the final sizes of the practice rosters will be determined based upon the total number of players trying out and any extenuating circumstances which may include creation of a joint team with another MHA, change in process in other leagues that players may be trying out in, or any other situation out of the control of VTMHA that would require altering our process to allow for all opportunity for players have a place to play.

If the targeted numbers above are what occurs, all players must be dressed for all exhibition games for A2, A3 or A4 teams. The coaches of an A1 team cannot dress all skaters, however no player should sit more than one game. Should the numbers be altered, the process will be clearly communicated to those involved.

Following the exhibition games, with input from external evaluators, coaches from within a division will make the final selections and create final rosters with approval from the Director of Rep Hockey to ensure proper process is followed in the selection.

6.3 Prior to the start of tryouts and during the phase prior to the creation of the practice groups, all communication regarding player assignments will occur via the VTMHA website and/or email.

Individual emails will be sent within 24 hours of the deciding ice time to all participants for any division that coaches do not conduct player interviews.

6.4 Final assignments will be confirmed during a coaches' conference call/meeting with the date determined by the PCAHA tiering round schedule. It is desired that the final team rosters will be set a minimum of ~~one week prior to the first tiering round game, however this may be altered in the event of an ongoing~~

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injured player assessment or another extenuating circumstance. All impacted participants will receive updated information as required.

- 6.5 Players released from the “A1” pool will be assigned to the “A2” pool, players released from the “A2” pool will be assigned to the “A3” pool, and players from the “A3” pool will be assigned to the “A4” pool, and players from the “A4” pool will be assigned to recreational hockey. Any exception to this must be approved by the Executive Director and the Director of Rep Hockey.
- 6.6 The recreational program relies on the rep program to release players to the recreational program in time to allow those players to be placed on recreational teams with minimal impact on the balancing process. Any variation in any of the deadlines above must be approved in advance by the Director of Rep Hockey, Director of Recreational and the Director of Player and Coach Development - Recreational.
- 6.7 If a team has not made its final releases by the deadlines noted above, or any extension granted to those deadlines, then the Executive Director and Director of Rep Hockey may make releases to bring the team to the approved roster size.
- 6.8 A player may be removed from a rep team roster if the appropriate rep fees have not been paid. A player who has failed to pay the rep fee after being asked to do so shall not practice or play with that rep team. If non-payment continues for seven days following written notice of such failure to the parent or guardian of that player, then the player shall be immediately assigned to a recreational team.
- 6.9 No player will be rostered with a rep team until that player has submitted a signed commitment policy document.
- 6.10 No release can be made after teams have been rostered without the permission of the Director of Rep Hockey. After this date, coaches are expected to make a commitment to work with each member of their team.

### **7. Self-Release**

- 7.1. Decisions are made as to the numbers, sizes, and composition of rep teams (and of recreational teams) based on the number of players who have registered. Players who participate in rep tryouts, then leave the rep program, can cause significant difficulties to both the rep and recreational programs. As a result, the following restrictions have been imposed to minimize these situations:
  - 7.1.1. Any player who self-releases and leaves the VTMHA or asks to be assigned to recreational after participating in three rep tryout sessions will not be entitled to try out for the VTMHA rep program the subsequent year.
  - 7.1.2. Should a U11 player self-release in his first attempt at trying out for rep hockey, approval to tryout the following year will be granted.

### **8. Appeals**

- 8.1. A player may appeal his/her release from a rep team. Any such appeal must:
  - 8.1.1. be made by notice given to the Director of Rep Hockey and/or the Executive Director;
  - 8.1.2. be given within 48 hours of the meeting at which the release was communicated;
  - 8.1.3. be in writing (verbal appeals will not be accepted); and
  - 8.1.4. clearly state the reasons for the appeal.

8.2. Such appeal may only be made on one of the following grounds:

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- 8.2.1. the decision under appeal was influenced by bias;
- 8.2.2. irregularities in the process leading up to the original decision are such that an unjust result may have resulted; or
- 8.2.3. the decision was patently unreasonable.

- 8.3 If the written appeal does not meet one or more of the above grounds, it will not proceed, however the opportunity for a meeting will be offered to the player. A parent may attend this meeting if desired, however the player is required to participate.
- 8.4 The notice shall be referred forthwith to the President and/or Executive Director, who shall appoint three persons to constitute a review panel (the "Panel"). The Panel shall be comprised of persons with no significant relationship with the appellant, who were not involved in the decision being reviewed, and who are free from bias or conflict.
- 8.5 The Panel shall consider the information contained in the notice of appeal, speak with the rep coaches and external evaluators for that division, the Director of Rep Hockey, and the Executive Director, and review the Selection Committee rankings from the initial tryout sessions and any independent third party skills assessment and provide the appellant with an opportunity to make any further submissions.
- 8.6 The Panel shall consider whether any of the grounds of appeal noted above have been established and, if so, what an appropriate remedy might be, and shall render their decision within 72 hours of being appointed.

### **9. Players Returning from Junior or U18AAA**

- 9.1. The VTMHA seeks to support those of its players who are interested in playing at the Junior or U18AAA levels, while also recognizing the importance of fairness and commitment to the players who are committed to and fully participate in the VTMHA's rep tryout process.
- 9.2. A returning VTMHA player who registers with the VTMHA but who has also been carded with a Junior or U18AAA team but is later released from the Junior or U18AAA team, may on request be placed on a VTMHA U18 rep team in accordance with the procedures set out in this section. To be eligible, the player must have participated in at least one of the initial three tryout sessions (unless excused in accordance with section 2 above). The player may apply to the Director of Rep Hockey for permission to participate on a VTMHA U18 rep team in which case the Director of Rep Hockey will consult with the U18 rep coaches and the Executive Director.
- 9.3. If the application is received prior to final releases being made from a U18 rep team, the player may be included in the remainder of the evaluation process for potential inclusion on that team.
- 9.4. If the application is received after final releases have been made but before October 31, then the Director of Rep Hockey, with approval of the VTMHA Board, may authorize the addition of that player to a team. In deciding on any such application, the VTMHA Board shall consider the number of players already rostered on that team, any long-term injuries suffered by players on that team, the impact of adding a player on playing time and overall hockey experience of those already rostered on the team, and the historical commitment of the player to the VTMHA rep program. A player added to a team pursuant to this section must be an addition to the initial roster size, subject to the permitted maximum. No player shall be released from a U18 rep team because of the addition of a player pursuant to this section.