

Policies and Procedures of Vancouver Thunderbird Minor Hockey Association

P-9: Rep Player Evaluation Process

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1. Registration for Rep Tryouts

Players wishing to participate in rep tryouts must declare their intent by completing the separate rep tryout registration by the deadline set during the annual registration process.

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 must also indicate a preference to play either forward or defence. A player will be evaluated based on their position preference until pools are formed. At this stage, coaches may ask a player to play forward or defence depending on the needs of the team.

At U11 players will be evaluated at both forward and defence positions as any skater may be asked to play forward or defence depending on the needs of the team.

Before participating in the rep tryout sessions, to meet all insurance requirements, and to play rep hockey with the VTMHA, players must be fully registered with the VTMHA, have paid all required fees, and have satisfied all eligibility requirements of the PCAHA, BC Hockey, Hockey Canada, and the IIHF.

For U15 and older rep tryouts, any player other than a goaltender who has not previously participated in bodychecking hockey must complete a VTMHA approved bodychecking clinic or provide written verification of successful completion of an equivalent bodychecking clinic offered by a recognized organization. Verification must be submitted prior to participation in tryouts.

Players who have not completed the requirements in this section will not be allowed on the ice for a rep tryout session due to insurance and safety reasons.

2. Attendance at Rep Tryouts

Players trying out for rep hockey are required to attend all rep tryout sessions applicable to their age division. These sessions typically begin one week prior to the Labour Day long weekend, with specific dates communicated in the spring.

Except in the situations outlined below, players who do not attend all applicable rep tryout sessions will forfeit their opportunity to play rep hockey for that season. These players will be placed in Recreational hockey within their division.

Work Related Obligations: A player registered for rep hockey who is unable to attend a rep tryout session due to work-related obligations must email the Executive/Managing Director at least 24 hours before the scheduled session. If work-related obligations require the player to miss more than one session, continued participation in rep tryouts will be at the discretion of the Director Rep Hockey, in consultation with the Executive/Managing Director.

Junior Tryouts: A player registered for rep hockey at U18 or U21 may miss a rep tryout session due to attending U18 AAA or junior team tryouts. The player must notify the Executive/Managing Director by email at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled ice time. The player will be evaluated solely based on the sessions that he/she attends.

Exceptional Personal Circumstances: A player registered for rep hockey who is unable to attend a rep tryout session due to exceptional personal circumstances must seek permission

in advance of the session to be missed. The request must be submitted by e-mail addressed to the Director Rep Hockey and/or the Executive/Managing Director. The Director Rep Hockey, in consultation with the Executive/Managing Director, will determine whether to approve the request. If approval is granted, the player will be evaluated solely on the sessions that he/she attends.

Holiday Travel: Failure to attend a rep tryout session due to holiday travel will not be considered an acceptable reason for absence.

Illness or Sickness: A player who has registered for rep hockey evaluations but is unable to attend a rep tryout session due to sickness or injury must submit a physician's note confirming the illness or injury, as early as possible and no later than four hours prior to their next scheduled ice session.

A) If a player has participated ***in at least one tryout session***:

If the player's injury prevents the player from completing the evaluation process, the player will be evaluated by the rep coaches for that division, the Executive/Managing Director and the Director Rep Hockey after the earliest date on which medical approval is provided, provided this date occurs before the final ice session scheduled before final team assignments are determined.

A roster position may only be held for an injured player only if a physician's note confirms that the player is expected to be able to fully participate in a contact hockey game no later than one week prior to the start of the PCAHA placement round.

B) If a player has participated in ***at least one tryout session***, and a definite evaluation cannot be completed prior to the scheduled date of the final team assignments:

The highest team level for which the player may be considered will be determined by the evaluation team in consultation with the Executive/Managing Director and the Director Rep Hockey.

The roster for that team may be formed by keeping one position vacant for the injured player, or by expanding the roster by one additional player for the season.

When the player is medically cleared to be evaluate, they will enter the evaluation process at one level lower than the level at which they last participated during tryouts or as determined by the evaluation group, Director Rep Hockey and the Executive/Managing Director.

As the player moves through the evaluation process, they must participate in at least one exhibition game or internal scrimmage before any decision is made regarding movement to a higher or lower team.

No injured player is guaranteed a position on a rep team. All injured players must complete the evaluation process

If the evaluation occurs after rosters have been formed (i.e., player releases have already been made) and the injured player is not successful in being assigned to the highest team level previously identified, the higher team will select one player from among those released from its pool to complete its team. This process will continue sequentially

through lower teams until the injured player is assigned to the appropriate level.

- C) If a player is **unable to participate in any rep tryout session** prior to the determination of final team assignments:

A roster position may only be held for an injured player if a physician's note confirms that the player is expected to be able to fully participate in a contact hockey game no later than one week prior to the start of the PCAHA placement round. The player must also be able to undergo an evaluation within the group to confirm suitability for the identified level. In extenuating circumstances, the Director Rep Hockey, Executive/Managing Director, rep coaches can adjust the timeline if the player is cleared by a physician to play by the beginning of the placement round.

If a roster position is held for an injured player, the player must pay all applicable rep tryout fees before participating with the team.

If a roster position is held for an injured player, the player must attend all team functions—including ice sessions, meetings, and other team activities—even if they are unable to participate on the ice. The player may be asked to assist the team in other capacities and must agree to do so.

In extenuating circumstances, the Director Rep Hockey, Executive/Managing Director, rep coaches may adjust the return to play timing. Any adjustment will be made strictly at their discretion, based on medical guidance and the best interests of the player and team.

3. Rep Tryout Procedure

The on-ice session plans will be developed by the Executive/Managing Director in consultation with the in-season skill provider for the division and/or the contracted rep coaches.

The Executive/Managing Director will ensure that qualified evaluators, coaches, and other certified personnel are in attendance for all rep tryout sessions.

As with all Association sanctioned on-ice activities, players must wear full protective equipment, including a CSA-approved neck guard, during all tryout sessions. Any player not wearing the required equipment must be removed from the ice and may not return until the missing approved equipment is worn. This is to ensure all players and coaching staff are covered by insurance.

Players must wear the Association-required royal blue helmets and TBird-coloured or black socks at all rep tryout sessions. Spring hockey or high-performance equipment—including helmets, helmet decals, socks, pant shells, and similar items—is not permitted. This requirement is in place to eliminate any real or perceived bias. Players will be required to remove any such items before being allowed on the ice.

Players must wear their assigned rep tryout jersey for all on-ice sessions. Unless otherwise notified by the Executive/Managing Director, players may skate only at their assigned sessions.

The Executive/Managing Director will endeavour to arrange viewing areas in such a manner as to discourage contact or discussion between parents or players and evaluation team.

Evaluators may not discuss any player or evaluation with players, parents, or the public. Parents and players may not ask performance-related questions until final team placement has been made and any such request must be made through the Executive/Managing Director.

4. Evaluation and Selection Criteria

The objective of the Rep Selection Policy is to evaluate players fairly and consistently for tiering purposes.

Players will be evaluated on their performance during rep tryout sessions only, including overall skill level, which includes but is not limited to skating, puck skills, work ethic, compete, and hockey sense/decision making.

5. Evaluation Process – Conflicts of Interest

If a rep coach has a child participating in rep tryouts, that coach may not evaluate their own child, nor participate in any selection discussion involving their child.

If the Director Rep Hockey has a child participating in rep tryouts, an alternate Board Director will oversee that age division, and the Director Rep Hockey will not participate in discussions or access documents related to that division.

No parent, friend, or relative of a player may offer sponsorship, financial incentives, or other benefits to a team or coach during the tryout process.

6. Evaluation Process

All players will participate in a minimum of three ice sessions. In addition, goaltenders will attend a goalie-specific evaluation.

Players assigned to pools will participate in at least one exhibition game, with teams scheduling a minimum of two.

Independent evaluators and contracted coaches evaluate and determine player assignments in all phases of the evaluation process.

Evaluation Process - Overview

- A) Phase 1: Skills/Compete/Scrimmage - Internal
Players assigned to a group randomly/alphabetically
Skaters stay with their group for 3 sessions

Goalies may rotate through groups depending on final numbers
Rankings are cumulative
Players are assigned to tiered scrimmage groups or recreational at the end of Phase 1

B) Phase 2: Tiered Scrimmages - Internal

Player assigned to tiered scrimmage groups based on evaluation scores from Phase 1
Player evaluations after the tiered scrimmage(s) will determine placement to working groups or recreational
Players will be assigned to pools such as A, B, B/C combined, C, D and/or recreational at the end of the Phase 2

C) Phase 3: Exhibition Game Phase – External

A minimum of two exhibition games will be scheduled against other minor hockey associations.
Pool A will carry extra players/goalies
Pools B, C, D will be at or slightly below to roster size
Player movement can occur among pools at the recommendation of the evaluation team
Players will be assigned to A1, A2, A3, A4 and/or recreational at the end of Phase 3

Final roster sizes are expected to be as follows:

U18: 17 skaters, 2 goalies
U15: 16 skaters, 2 goalies
U13: 15 skaters, 2 goalies
U11: 15 skaters, 2 goalies

Any adjustments to roster sizes will be approved by the Director Rep Hockey and the Executive/Managing Director.

Player assignments will be communicated by email and/or in person meetings.

Players released from a pool will be assigned as follows:

Pool A to A2; Pool B to A3; Pool C to A4 and Pool D to recreational. If B/C are combined as a pool, players released will be assigned to A3, A4, and recreational depending on the number of teams in the age group. (Exceptions require approval from the Executive/Managing Director and the Director Rep Hockey).

A player may be removed from a rep roster if rep fees are not paid. A player who fails to pay after notice will not practice or play, and after seven days of continued non-payment will be assigned to a recreational team.

No player will be rostered until a commitment policy document is acknowledged.

No releases may occur after teams are rostered without permission from the Director Rep Hockey and the Executive/Managing Director. Coaches are expected to commit to all rostered players.

7. Self-Release

A player who self-releases at any time after pool assignments are communicated must apply for and receive approval to participate in rep tryouts the following season. The application must be submitted to the Executive/Managing Director before registering for rep tryouts for that season.

8. Appeals

A player may appeal a release decision by submitting written notice to the Director Rep Hockey and the Executive/Managing Director within 48 hours of the release meeting.

The notice must clearly state the grounds for appeal and include any supporting evidence. A fee of \$150 must be paid before the appeal process begins. All appeal fees will be donated to the Vancouver Thunderbird Bursary Program.

Appeals may only be made on the following grounds:

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

Absence from a rep tryout session cannot be used as grounds for appealing a player's placement.

If the appeal does not meet any of the permitted grounds, it will not proceed. Player evaluation feedback and/or a player meeting will be offered. If a player meeting is offered, the player must attend and a parent may accompany them.

If an appeal proceeds, the President and/or Executive/Managing Director will appoint a three person panel to review the appeal submission. Panel members must have no connection to the appellant to ensure there is no conflict of interest.

The Panel will review any supporting material provided and may request further information from any relevant person.

The Panel will determine whether grounds for appeal are met and, if so, an appropriate remedy. A decision will be rendered within 72 hours of appointment. The decision of the Panel is final and may not be further appealed.

9. Players Returning from Junior or U18AAA

VTMHA supports players pursuing Junior or U18 AAA opportunities while ensuring fairness for all players fully participating in rep tryouts.

A returning VTMHA player released from Junior or U18 AAA may request placement on a U18 rep team if they participated in at least one initial tryout session (unless excused under Section 2). The Director Rep Hockey will consult with U18 coaches and the Executive/Managing Director before any decision is made.

If the request is made before final releases, the player may be included in the remaining evaluation process.