



POLICY #7: REP TRYOUTS POLICY

VERSION: 7

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 30, 2025

1. Introduction

Rep (Representative) hockey is the highest calibre of hockey available in any given association. Rep teams typically have players who represent the more skilled and talented players in their age group. VMHA wants to ensure that our players trying out for rep hockey are evaluated fairly and given opportunities to play hockey at a level that is commensurate with their athletic skills, abilities, and aspirations.

VMHA aligns with other PCAHA member associations and offers Rep programs for U11, U13, U15 and U18 players. Participating players are selected through a formal tryout process which is governed by this policy and is conducted in the manner set forth and shared with the membership each year by the Rep Committee.

2. Player Selection

Players will be evaluated over the course of several ice times by independent evaluators who have no connection to the team(s) being formed along with any Independent Head Coaches that have been contracted for the season.

Parent Coaches with children on their team will not play a role in deciding player selections. Team assignments will be decided using player evaluations by a Selection Committee that has been organized by the Coach Coordinator or designate. The Coach Coordinator will not participate in any part of the selection process for a division in which the Coach Coordinator has a child or family member being assessed for a team.

Independent and/or parent coaches are prohibited from making team decisions as criteria for player participation in any programs (including VMHA led rep prep camps), tournaments, or programs the coach may be involved with. Neither shall they make an implicit or expressed agreement to attend pre-determined Tournaments as a condition of team membership. Player placement decisions will be based solely on the "A" Hockey Selection Process shared each year by the Rep Committee prior to the start of tryouts.

Parents and players have the right to understand the rationale for their team assignments. However, lobbying for a particular assignment is not accepted as a reason to re-visit placement decisions. Placement decisions will be supported by documented assessments and process

transparency.

3. Primary Selection Process Elements

The following section identifies the overarching requirements the Rep Committee will adhere to when developing the “A” Hockey Selection Process.

Assignment of players to playing groups: Rep Committee will endeavour to create even playing groups. Groups will be managed in a manner that will allow players to be evaluated in all positions.

Number of ice times: Each player will be scheduled for a minimum of three ice times prior to any movement or training camp assignments UNLESS a player is deemed unsafe to participate.

Parent support: The rep tryouts are a sensitive time for all parents. It is also a period that requires volunteer support and parents will be required to be involved in some roles. As such, parents may only be asked to support in ways that do not include them in the selection process EXCEPT for the Division Managers identified to assist with the tryouts who DO NOT have children participating in the division they are overseeing.

Parent coach involvement: Parents who are being considered as potential Head or Assistant coaches will not be involved in any manner for player selection and should not be granted any additional access over and above any other parent until the team is formed. Parent coaches do not receive any honorarium or financial incentive to act as a parent coach on a team their child is on.

Rep Committee Member Conflict of Interest: At no time will a member of the Rep Committee participate in any decisions or meetings regarding a division they have a child participating in the tryout process for. They will not be present for any discussion nor receive any documentation regarding the division. A replacement from the Board of Directors will be identified in the event that there are less than two members of the Rep Committee available for oversight of any one age division.

Player participation: All players wishing to participate in the rep program must attend all scheduled ice times during the tryout process (Please refer to section 4 – 6 for exceptions).

Missing sessions due to vacation time will not be accepted as an excusable situation to receive a bye onto one of VMHA’s “A” teams. The dates of the ‘A’ Selection process will vary from year to year, beginning in late August, or in limited cases and for U11, early September. Every effort will be made to post times to VMHA members as soon as possible. Times will be posted online at [VMHA Rep Program](#) and emails will be sent to all players registered for tryouts. Players will not be evaluated outside of the posted tryout dates and official tryout sessions.

Phases: VMHA tryouts will occur over two official phases. Phase 1 will be a period of time involving only VMHA players. Phase 2 will involve VMHA players being assigned to tryout groups for all offered teams and will include practices and exhibition games. Please note within each phase there may be sub phases (i.e. in Phase 2 there will still be some releases that take place earlier in the process). For U15 and older, every player (other than a goaltender) who has not played body checking hockey in the past must have completed a VMHA body checking clinic or provide written proof of completion of a body checking clinic from another qualified organization.

Financial incentives: No parent, friend or relative of any player participating in the rep tryout process shall offer any sponsorship, financial offering, or other benefit to a team or coach of a team during the tryout process.

Selection Committee Composition: The Selection Committee is chaired by a member of the Rep Committee and will be composed of a minimum of a Head Coach within the division and a minimum of three external evaluators. All players will be scored independently by evaluators, but the selection committee will discuss player performance. The Rep Committee will oversee all proceedings of the Selection Committee.

Tryout Assignments: The Selection Committee, chaired by the Rep Committee, will assign players to either a rep team tryout group or to the Recreational "C" Division. The A1 team will be permitted to have a maximum of 5 additional skaters and one additional goaltender over what their expected final roster number will be in their group. Deviations from these numbers must be approved by the Rep Committee and only in the instance of scores being too close to separate the player being added from the final position. The top 15 players and top 2 goalies based on scores in Phase 1 will be automatically placed into the A1 group. The remaining assignments will be selected by the Head Coach (if a non-parent independent coach) with consultation with the Rep Committee and external evaluators. In the event the A1 coach is a parent coach, all players assigned to the A1 group will be selected by the Rep Committee in consultation with the external evaluators. Any player ranked in the top 25 following Phase 1 and not selected for the A1 group will automatically be assigned to the A2 group. All teams will be selected by either an independent head coach, or in the case of teams led by parent coaches, by the Rep Committee in consultation with the Selection Committee.

Final Team Assignments: An Independent Head Coach with approval from the Rep Committee will select their final roster. For teams that do not have an Independent Head Coach, the Rep Committee will finalize the roster with input from external evaluators. Players can only be

moved down one team level except for a behavioural/disciplinary reason and approved by the Rep Committee (Please refer to disciplinary policy). Final roster decision dates will be provided by the Rep Committee during the pre-season meeting.

4. Illness/Injury Exception Requirements

A player that has become injured or deemed too ill to make the sessions will need written confirmation from a physician that their ailment prevents them from trying out and should include an official return to play date, if possible, to avoid a second note being required to allow them back on the ice. In this case (when Phase 1 Sessions are missed) the player will be able to join the lowest tiered team tryout group. If the player is not able to participate prior to teams being finalized, the player shall be released to the 'C' division and be assigned to a 'C' division team unless the Rep Committee identifies any extenuating circumstances to be considered.

5. Custody Exceptions

Players not able to attend Phase one of the Selection Process because they are staying with a parent that lives out of town as part of a court ordered custody agreement will be granted an exemption into Phase Two of the Selection Process if that custody agreement prevents them from being in Vancouver during Phase One of the Selection Process. Such a player will begin evaluation in Phase 2 in the training camp identified by the Rep Committee on a case by case basis. The parent(s) of a player in this situation must first register for the entire A Hockey Selection Process, notify the Coach Coordinator and provide court documents to show that their child qualifies for this exception when requested.

6. Players Trying out for Another Sanctioned Program Simultaneously

Players trying out for any sanctioned Junior Hockey team, CSSHL Academy program or British Columbia Elite Hockey League (BCEHL), Female U18 AAA, U18 AAA, U17 AAA and U15 AAA, and are released, will be eligible for consideration by both the A1 and A2 Head Coaches. Players at this level who believe there is a good chance they will be released should make every effort to communicate with the Coach Coordinator so that player assignments of the A1 and A2 teams can handle a last-minute addition. The Rep Committee will evaluate these scenarios and applications for in year transfers on a case-by-case basis and provide appropriate placement. All players must attend one session during the Phase 1 tryout period unless they provide written confirmation of overlap for the other program tryout sessions.

If the application is received prior to final releases being made from a VMHA rep team, the player may be included in the remainder of the evaluation process for potential inclusion on that team.

If the application is received after final releases have been made but before October 31, then

the Rep Committee may authorize the addition of that player to a team. In deciding on any such application, the Rep Committee 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.
- 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 VMHA rep team because of the addition of a player pursuant to this.
- If the coach anticipates a player being released prior to October 31 and wanting to return to VMHA, they can leave a space open on their roster. i.e., roster 16 instead of 17.

7. Self-Release

Decisions regarding team numbers, sizes of rep teams and of 'C' teams are based on the number of players who have registered. Players who participate in rep tryouts, then withdraw from the rep program, can have significant impact on both the rep and 'C' programs. Players are discouraged from going through the rep tryout process if they do not have the time commitment to participate. Rep Committee will convene on self releases to determine if any disciplinary actions are required.

8. Appeals

Appeals to VMHA will only be considered in the event the 'A' Hockey Selection Process communicated each summer has not been adhered to. Appeal requests based upon any other reason, including difference of opinion on a player's skill level, will not be accepted.

Appeals must be received via email sent to the Vice-President 1. Verbal appeals will not be accepted. The appeal must include the rationale of how the process is believed to not have been followed to be accepted.

The window to submit a formal written appeal will be from 24 hours following receipt of the notice of placement to either a training camp or a final team roster and 72 hours following receipt. Appeals received following 72 hours will not be accepted.

A fee of \$100 will be payable prior to the commencement of an appeal. Appeal fees will be given to VMHA charitable partner.

A player remains with the camp/team assigned until the appeal process has been completed. They are expected to attend all scheduled team activities.

The following steps will be followed for any appeal received that is deemed eligible by the Rep Committee:

1. An Appeals Committee will be formed within 48 hours of the appeal being received. It will consist of three members with no significant relationship with the player or family of the player who is appealing, who were not in the decision being reviewed, and who are free from bias or conflict.
2. The Appeals Committee will gather information from the Rep Committee, Independent coaches, external evaluators and/or anyone else involved in the decision as well as the player with support from a parent if desired. All scores and comments will be provided for the Committee's review.
3. The Appeals Committee will assess all information to determine if the 'A' Hockey Selection process as communicated was followed and if there were any deviances that resulted in the specific player being negatively impacted as a result. Their role is not to determine if they agree with the process or decide if they would have made a different decision, only to determine if there was a breach that caused a situation where the player appealing was placed on a roster for a different camp or final roster than they were.
4. A decision will be reached within 72 hours of the Appeals Committee being formed or the receipt of the appeal, whichever occurred last.

9. Version History

Version 6 – August 2023 (Combined version inclusive of Rep Hockey Program Policy)

Version 7 – January 2025