



# **NVMHA Rep Team Selection Policies and Procedure**

Revised August 2024

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## A. INTRODUCTION

The Rep player selection process by its nature dictates that not all applicants will be selected. This may be a stressful time, not only for the players and their parents, but also for the coaches and other volunteers who each year must co-ordinate this facet of our association's program. The goal of this policy is to help all participants understand the process, as well as their individual rights and responsibilities.

## B. REGISTRATION FOR REP TRYOUTS

1. Players wanting to attend the Rep tryouts must register by checking the appropriate box on the NVMHA registration form and pay the appropriate tryout fee by July 31. Players are expected to attend all tryout evaluation sessions for their division.
2. Beginning in the 2016-17 season, players in U13 through U18 division, who wish to tryout for an A1 team must declare this upon their registration for Rep tryouts by choosing the A1 Declaration check box on the registration form and paying the appropriate fee.
3. If a player wishes to change their registration or declaration for Rep tryouts at any time they must contact the Registrar to amend their registration not later than July 31st.
4. After July 31<sup>st</sup>, the Registrar will forward requests for Rep tryout and A1 declaration to the Director of Hockey Operations for approval before processing.

## C. A1 DECLARATION POLICY - U13 THROUGH U18 DIVISIONS ONLY

1. The A1 Declaration Policy is intended to help the NVMHA become more efficient at evaluating a group of players with the skill and commitment levels necessary to pursue the commitment of the A1 program. In turn this will also have a positive impact on the non-declaration Rep tryout as this process will also have a condensed group of athletes of similar caliber who can be evaluated in the same manner. The policy also provides efficiencies in team selection by reducing the time it takes to select teams for all levels and ensuring all players receiving a fair and equal opportunity to be assessed for the highest team they desire.
  - 1.1 This format also gives the players who only wish to play at the A1 level the opportunity to self-release or opt out of the rest of Rep tryouts and go directly to the C level hockey program if they are not successful in making an A1 team. Players who self-release may do so in their division only with the understanding that they will not be able to be an affiliate player (AP) or practice with any A1 team in that division or higher for that season. Players who self-release will be permitted to AP or practice with A2-4 Rep teams and will be permitted to tryout again the following season for any Rep team they choose. The decision to self-release must be made prior to September 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - 1.2 A player who is released from the A-1 working group and completes Phase 2 of the Rep tryout process may be considered for affiliation or permanent positions on the A1 team if they become available at the discretion of the head coach.

- 1.3 Before participating in the Rep tryout sessions, players must be fully registered with the NVMHA, have paid all required fees (including, if applicable, any A1 tryout fee), and have met all requirements of the PCAHA, BC Hockey, Hockey Canada and the IIHF in order to play Rep hockey with the NVMHA.
2. Per the NVMHA Rep Tryout - Declared Positions Policy - any player registering for Rep tryouts must elect to tryout for either goalie, forward or defense. A player's preference for forward or defense is not binding at the U11 level and any skater in the U11 Rep program may be asked to play forward or defense depending on the needs of the team.
3. For Rep tryouts in U15 and above, every player (other than a goaltender) who has not played body contact hockey OR has not taken a body checking clinic in the past must either complete an NVMHA sponsored body-checking clinic or provide evidence of clinic completion to the satisfaction of the Director of Hockey Operations.
4. Players who have not completed the requirements in this section will not be allowed on the ice for a Rep tryout session (or, if applicable, an A1 tryout session).

#### D. GENERAL PROCEDURES REP TRYOUTS

1. Rep tryouts consist of several on-ice sessions that progressively evaluate the players' skills and abilities.
2. A schedule for the Rep tryout sessions will be prepared by early August and will be published in the NVMHA Newsletter and posted online on the NVMHA website.
3. In preparation for the tryouts, the Registrar will provide a list of players registered for Rep tryouts (by division) to the Director of Hockey Operations.
4. The Director of Hockey Operations will review the list of Rep tryout players and assign players to groups of approximately equal size for the initial evaluation sessions. The groups will be arranged in a consistent manner based on previous Rep hockey experience with the intention to form tryout groups that are comparable in overall ability.
5. At the start Rep tryouts, each player will be issued a numbered jersey for identification by the Division Director or by a person designated by her or him.

#### E. ATTENDANCE AT REP TRYOUTS

1. All players trying out for Rep hockey must attend all Rep tryouts applicable to that player, which usually are scheduled to commence approximately 10-14 days prior to Labour Day weekend.
2. Players who do not attend all tryouts will forfeit their opportunity to play Rep hockey (or, if applicable, to play on an A1 team) for that season and will immediately be registered for C level hockey in their division or, if applicable, to the Non-A1 Declaration Tryout process for their division, except as provided in this section.
3. A player who has registered for Rep hockey but is unable to attend a Rep tryout session due to sickness or injury must refer to the NVMHA Rep Tryout Absence with Medical Permission Policy

for detailed process. a. 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 and the Director of Hockey Operations once medical approval to return to play has been received.

4. A try-out position may only be held for an injured player if the doctor's certificate indicates that the player is expected to return to hockey by October 1.
5. If a tryout position is held for an injured player who has registered for Rep tryouts with NVMHA and followed the process outlined in the NVMHA Rep Tryout Absence with Medical Permission Policy, then the player must pay the applicable Rep tryout fees prior to stepping on the ice.
6. A player returning from injury will be assigned a working group based on their previous level played, as decided by the Director of Hockey Operations.
7. If the player is not medically cleared to participate on ice prior to October 1 they will be placed in C level hockey upon return to play and will be evaluated for Rep hockey by the Director of Hockey Operations and Rep coaches in that division.
8. 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 Player Safety, 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 Hockey Operations, in consultation with the Division Director and Player Safety.
9. A player who has registered for Rep hockey at the U18 or Juvenile level may miss a Rep tryout session due to conflicting attendances at major U18 or junior team tryouts.
10. 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 addressed to the Director of Hockey Operations, Player Safety and Division Director. The Director of Hockey Operations in consultation with the Player Safety and Division Director, shall determine whether to approve the request.

## F. PROCEDURE AT REP TRYOUT SESSIONS

1. The tryout process will include any of the following:
  - Skills assessment of inter squad games by independent evaluators;
  - Skills assessment by an independent third-party evaluator (i.e. WHL combine)
  - Practices
  - Exhibition games
2. The Director of Hockey Operations will ensure that there are qualified coaches on the ice to lead all Rep tryout sessions.
3. Players must wear all protective equipment, including a CHA approved neck guard, during tryouts. Any player found not wearing all required protective equipment will be sent off the ice and must not be permitted to return until he/she has put on the missing approved equipment.

4. Players must wear their assigned Rep tryout jersey during all on-ice sessions. Unless otherwise notified by the Director of Hockey Operations and Division Director. **Note: Players are not permitted to wear NVMHA Rep socks during the tryout process.**
5. During the first three sessions (for players participating in the Non-A1 Declaration Tryout process) or the first two sessions (for players participating in the A1 Declaration Tryout process) and during any third party skills assessment, no player may skate at any more than his or her assigned session, unless requested to do so by the Director of Hockey Operations.
6. The Director of Hockey Operations shall endeavor to set up the viewing areas in such a manner as to discourage contact or discussion between parents or players and the independent evaluators
7. It is extremely important during the evaluation that the independent evaluators and others involved in evaluating the players be neutral in their public comments and actions to avoid misunderstandings with players or parents.

## G. EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

1. The goal of the Rep Tryout process is to evaluate players fairly and consistently for the purpose of tiering.
2. Player shall be assessed based on their performance in the Rep tryout sessions, based on:

Phase 1 (Phase 1a/1b)		Phase 2
<b>Goaltenders</b>	<b>Skaters</b>	<b>All Players</b>
Athleticism	Skating	Hockey Sense
Rebound Control	Passing/Receiving	Attitudes
Positional and Angles	Puck Control	Desire and Work Ethic
Anticipation	Shooting	Coach-ability
Compete/Work ethic	Competitiveness	Competitiveness
End of Season Evaluations (prior season)	End of Season Evaluations (prior season)	Conduct On and Off the Ice (attitude)
		Checking
		Sportsmanship
		Teamwork/Fitness
		Positional Play

## H. EVALUATION PROCESS - CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Notwithstanding anything said below with respect to the evaluation process, under no circumstances will a Rep coach be involved in the evaluation of his or her own child. The

evaluation of any such player shall be performed by the Director of Hockey Operations and/or by an independent evaluator or evaluators as appointed by the Director of Hockey Operations

2. 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.

## I. EVALUATION PROCESS

### 1. Non-A1 Declaration Tryouts

1.1 This section governs the tryout process for players who are not participating in the A1 Declaration Tryout process described in section below.

1.2 In Phase 1 players will be evaluated by independent evaluators that consist of NHL, WHL and Junior hockey scouts and/or coaches. The Director of Hockey Operations will ensure that more than one independent goaltender assessor will attend phase 1 to assess the goaltenders. Each player will have a minimum of 4 ice times assigned to be evaluated. 1 ice time will be based on individual skills assessment and the other 3 ice times will be evaluated in game competition. Upon completion of these ice times the evaluators scores will be entered into the computer by independent data entry staff. Each individual's score will be combined with their score from end of season evaluations from the prior season, if applicable. The results in each division will be tabulated highest rank to lowest rank per position.

#### 1.3 Creation of Work Groups

1.3.1 Size of Work Groups - Once rankings are complete, they will be sent to the Director of Hockey Operations and Player Safety for review to ensure no players were missed and to double check for possible clerical errors. At this point players will be grouped into Working Groups (WG) based on rankings.

1.3.2 WG 1 will enter phase 2 with 12 forwards, 8 Defense and 3 goalies.

1.3.3 WG 2 to 4 will head into phase 2 with 9 forward, 6 Defense and 2 goaltenders. Any players outside of these numbers will be assigned to C level hockey at the conclusion of phase 1.

1.3.4 There can be exceptions to these numbers due to injuries and or players trying out for Major U18 or Junior as approved by the Director of Hockey Operations in consultation with the Player Safety who maintains records of player absences.

### 2. A1 Declaration Tryouts

2.1 The section governs the tryout process for players who wish to be considered for inclusion in an A1 WG 1 at U13 through U18 divisions.

- 2.2 The Director of Hockey Operations shall appoint independent evaluators for each division, they will include at least two independent goaltender assessors who will only assess goaltenders.
- 2.3 The independent evaluators shall view each of the first 2 Rep tryout sessions. Each independent evaluator shall provide objective evaluations of the players which shall be compiled after each tryout session.
- 2.4 At the conclusion of the first two tryout sessions and any required independent third-party skills assessment, the players shall be assigned to either the A1 WG 1 for Phase 1.b or the Non-A1 Declaration Tryout process. The assignment is based on the rankings that emerged from the evaluations submitted by the independent evaluators and recorded and tabulated by independent data entry personnel combined with the individual's score from end of season evaluations from the prior season, if applicable.
- 2.5 After the initial A1 declaration ice times stated as Phase 1a, WG 1 will proceed to phase 1b and shall consist of a maximum of 4 goaltenders, 18 Forwards, and 12 Defense. The WG size will be determined annually by the Director of Hockey Operations.
- 2.6 Phase 1b will consist of 3 more ice times with the combination of either practice and/or intra-squad games that will be conducted and evaluated by the Director of Hockey Operations and /or the Rep Coaches within that division.
- 2.7 At the conclusion of phase 1b WG 1 will release players and enter phase 2 with a maximum of 12 Forwards, 8 Defense and 3 Goalies.
- 2.8 Players not selected will be placed in WG 2 for phase 2. Phase two players will play a minimum of two exhibition games prior to release.

### **3. A4 Program**

- 3.1 Decision on viability for an A4 Rep team in U13 through U18 divisions is based upon number of players registered for Rep tryouts within the division.
- 3.2 If a division is to only have three Rep teams, no A4 WG shall be created for that division.
- 3.3 If a division is to have a fourth Rep team, there shall be an A4 WG and the size of which will be determined similarly to the A3 WG.

### **4. Changes to Maximum WG Size**

- 4.1 Any variation in the maximum player numbers for any WG shall be approved by the Director of Hockey and Player Safety.
- 4.2 For certainty, where a player has been called up from a lower WG for further evaluation the maximum size of the higher WG will be increased accordingly.
- 4.3 As well, at the discretion of the Director of Hockey Operations and in consultation with the Player Safety and Division Director, if there is a combined WG (i.e. 3/4), there may be an interim WG with a larger number of players to enable further evaluation for a



short period of time before the formation of the separate WG (i.e. 3 and 4) are able to be made with an appropriate number of players.

## **5. Explanation of WG Assignments**

5.1 The assignment of players to a WG shall be communicated by the Division Director no later than 4 days after the last scheduled ice time of Phase 1.

5.2 Parents may request an explanation or review of the evaluation by making a request in writing to the Player Safety.

## **6. Evaluation Process**

### **6.1 Working Groups**

6.1.1. Once WGs are created, the players in each WG shall attend further tryout sessions for their assigned WG.

6.1.2. The head coach assigned for that group will make decisions as to which tryout sessions a player participates in.

6.1.3. If no head coach has been assigned for a working group, the Director of Hockey Operations and/or interim coach will lead the working group.

6.1.4. The head coach for each group or, if no head coach has yet been assigned for that group, the Director of Hockey Operations, or their delegate, may release players to a lower group and may, call up players from a lower group in order to effectively assess players.

### **6.2. Minimum Participation in Working Groups**

6.2.1 Note that any player that is assigned to a WG will be entitled to 2 exhibition games before being released.

6.2.2 Goaltenders splitting 2 games will be considered as a two-game minimum.

6.2.3 The minimum games policy does not apply to a player is brought up from a WG below. In these cases, the player can practice and play exhibition games at the coach's discretion and can be returned to their original work group at any time with no guaranteed minimum number of games.

6.2.4 If a player is injured and unable to participate in 2 games prior to the team selection deadline date, then that player will be evaluated upon return to play in accordance to the time frame allowed as stated in section D, but is not guaranteed any particular amount of games before a decision is made by the coach in consultation with the Director of Hockey Operations.

6.2.5 All other absences will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the DHO and Player Safety.

### **6.3. Movement Between Working Groups**

- 6.3.1. With respect to players who have not properly indicated their intent to tryout for an A1 team and has not paid the applicable A1 tryout fees and/or did not attend all A1 tryout sessions (unless exempted from them), the head coach of an A1 team or, if no head coach has yet been assigned for that group, the Director of Hockey Operations, may invite players from a lower WG the A1 WG for further assessment.
- 6.3.2. However, because it is important to maintain the integrity of the A1 Declaration Tryout process, such an invitation may be made only with the consent of both the Director of Hockey Operations and the Player Safety, each of whom may grant or withhold their approval in their sole discretion.
- 6.3.3. In considering whether to approve such request, the Director of Hockey Operations and Player Safety shall consider all relevant factors, including, without limitation, the reasons that the player did not previously indicate their intent to tryout for an A1 team and/or attend all A1 tryout sessions. If a player who accepts the invitation to participate in the A1 working group must pay the A1 declaration fee.
- 6.3.4. A player who has not paid the A1 tryout fee may not participate in any A1 tryout event unless and until the A1 tryout fee has been paid.
- 6.3.5. For certainty, a player who has not properly indicated their intent to tryout for an A1 team is not obligated to accept an invitation to be called up to the A1 WG. Acceptance of an invitation to the A1 WG must be made within 24 hours of the invitation being made

### **6.4. Releases From Working Groups**

- 6.4.1. Any release of players from a Phase 2 WG shall be communicated by way of an in-person meeting involving the player and the coaches' responsible for that WG or, if no head coach has yet been assigned for that group, the Director of Hockey Operations, and one other knowledgeable individual such as Player Safety or a NVMHA Board member.
- 6.4.2. The head coach or Director of Hockey Operations, as applicable, shall endeavor to conduct such meeting with a reasonable amount of privacy, to the extent possible given the nature of the facility in which the meeting takes place. If logistics do not permit such a meeting, then releases can be communicated over the phone as soon as possible.
- 6.4.3. The coaches of the A1, A2, and A3 teams, in consultation with the Director of Hockey Operations, will complete all releases in order to have their teams at the approved roster size in accordance with the following deadlines:
  - A1 team – by the 10th day after commencement of Phase 2 of Tryouts
  - A2 team – by the 15th day after the commencement of Phase 2 Tryouts

- A3 team – by the 4th day after the date on which the A2 releases are completed.
  - If there is an A4 team at any division, Director of Hockey Operations shall specify a deadline for releases by such team and may make minor adjustments to the above deadlines for A1, A2 and A3 teams as necessary.
- 6.4.4. In general, players released from the A1 WG will be assigned to the A2 WG, players released from the A2 WG will be assigned to the A3 WG, and players from the A3 WG will be assigned to C level hockey or A4 WG where applicable. If A4 WG is applicable, any releases from A4 WG will be assigned to C level hockey.
- 6.4.5. The C hockey program relies on the Rep program to release players to C level hockey 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 Hockey Operations.
- 6.4.6. If a team has not made its final releases by the deadlines noted above, or any extension granted to those deadlines, then the Director of Hockey Operations may make releases to bring the team to the approved roster size.
- 6.4.7. Each head coach (or, if applicable, Director of Hockey Operations) shall forthwith upon releasing a player (either to a different Rep WG or to the C level hockey program) notify the following persons of the names of the released players:
- Director of Hockey Operations
  - Division Director
  - Player Safety
  - Interim Manager for the division
  - Rep coaches for the division (except for players released to C hockey program)

## J. PLAYER SELF-RELEASE

1. Decisions are made as to the numbers, sizes, and composition of Rep teams (and C level hockey 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 C hockey programs.

As a result, the following restrictions have been imposed to minimize these situations:

### 2. **Non-Declaration Rep Tryout**

- 2.1 Any player who self-releases and leaves the NVMHA Rep Tryouts after commencement of Phase 2 will not be entitled to AP, practice or called up to for any Rep team equal or

higher to the one they were assigned to for that season. They will still be able to AP and/or practice with any team below the group they self-released from.

- 2.2 Similarly, any player who self-releases to the C hockey program more than seven days after selected to a Rep team may not be entitled to AP or practice with any other Rep team in any division for the remainder of the season. The player will be assigned to a C level hockey team in accordance with the C hockey program balancing guidelines and will not have ability to request what teams they are placed on.

### **3. A1-Declaration Rep Tryout**

- 3.1. Players who wish to only play at the A1 level and are released at any phase may self-release and go directly to the C hockey program.
- 3.2. The player who self-releases to the C hockey program in their division only may not affiliate or practice with any A1 team in any division for the remainder of the season.
- 3.3. Players who self-release to the C hockey program will permitted to affiliate or practice with an A2-A4 Rep team for the current season.
- 3.4. Decisions to self-release to the C hockey program must be made prior to September 30.
- 3.5. Tryout fees are non-refundable once Rep tryouts have commenced.

## **K. PLAYERS RETURNING FROM JUNIOR, U15 OR U18 AAA**

1. The NVMHA seeks to support those of its players who are interested in playing at the Junior, U15 or U18AAA, while also recognizing the importance of fairness and commitment to the players who are committed to and fully participate in the NVMHA Rep tryout process.
2. A returning NVMHA player who registers with the NVMHA but who has also been carded with a Junior, U15 or U18AAA, and is later released from the Junior, U15 or U18AAA, may on request be placed on a NVMHA U15 or U18 Rep team based on age in accordance with the procedures set out in this section.
3. To be eligible, the player must have participated in at least one of the initial three tryout sessions (unless excused in accordance with section D above).
4. The player may apply to the Director of Hockey Operations and Player Safety for permission to participate on a NVMHA U15 or U18 Rep team in which case the Director of Hockey Operations will consult with the U15 or U18 Rep Coaches to decide on placement.
5. If the application is received prior to final releases being made from a U15 or U18 Rep team, the player may be considered for inclusion on that team in accordance with the criteria set out in section F above and attend Phase 2.
6. If the application is received after final rosters are set, the Director of Hockey Operations, with approval of the NVMHA Board, may authorize an increase in roster size to accommodate the returning player on a Rep team.

7. In deciding on any such application, the NVMHA Board shall consider the number of players rostered on the Rep team, effects of any long-term injuries suffered by players on the team, the impact on playing time and overall hockey experience of those already rostered on the team, and the historical commitment of the returning player to the NVMHA Rep program.
8. A player added to a team pursuant to this section must be an addition to the roster size, subject to the permitted maximum roster size of 19 (PCAHA Rulebook).
9. No player shall be released from a U15 or U18 Rep team due to the addition of a player pursuant to this section, with the exception of goalies, as teams can only roster 2 goalies subject to the permitted maximum roster size of 19 (PCAHA Rulebook).

## POLICY REVISIONS

Revision Date	Description of Revision
August 15, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation and Selection Criteria (Section G) revised to include end of season evaluations from the prior season</li> <li>• Evaluation Process (Section I) revised to include that individual scores from the independent evaluator assessments will be combined with each individual's score from end of season evaluations from the prior season, if applicable.</li> </ul>