



WEST VANCOUVER MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Rep Hockey Manual



Revision Date: June 2019

Table of Contents

Rep Hockey Manual	1
Rep Hockey	3
Rep Team Formation	3
Rep Coach Selection.....	3
Rep Try-Outs & Team Selection.....	3
Team Selection – Skaters	4
Team Selection – Goalies.....	5
Player Release Appeals	6
Rep Fees.....	6
Rep Player Conduct	7
Rep Team Dress Code	7
Dryland Training.....	7
Around the Rink.....	9
General Policies	9
Parents	9
Uniforms.....	9
WVMHA Equipment	9
Timeliness.....	9
Dressing Room.....	10
Players’ Conduct	10
Personal Equipment.....	10
‘24 Hour’ Rule & Parent to Coach Communication	10
On-Ice Officials	11
Administrative.....	12
Bursaries	12
Scholarships.....	12
Discipline Committee.....	12
Ombudsman	13
Behaviour and Zero Tolerance Policies.....	14
Respectful Behaviour.....	14
Zero Tolerance	15
Zero Tolerance Notification.....	15

Rep Hockey

Rep Team Formation

The decision as to whether there should be rep teams is made in the interests of the Association as a whole and cannot be based solely on the interests of a few. Accordingly, the Association is guided by the following policy:

1. Rep Teams at each level will only be declared when the Board of WVMHA, in consultation with the Director of Hockey, determines that there is a sufficient number of registrants whose skills, commitment and fitness are of such a level as to allow the team to play competitively within WVMHA's designated Tier level.
2. The number of Rep Teams at each level will be decided by the Director of Hockey based on the number of registrants who meet the requirements for Rep play.
3. Rep A1 teams will be comprised of the 'best qualified' registrants. Rep A2 teams shall only be created if:
 - There are sufficient registrants not playing A to meet the minimum team size and
 - The skills, commitment and fitness of the registrants wanting to play are of such a level as to allow the team to play competitively.

Rep Coach Selection

Rep coaches are ideally not parents. The hiring of the rep coaches is the responsibility of the Director of Hockey and it is at his/her discretion if a parent is hired. All hires are overseen by the Director of Coaching.

Rep Try-Outs & Team Selection

Playing rep is a privilege and not a right. The selection process is not perfect and making the rep team does not mean that you are there for the season. Players can be moved up and down at any time before the PCAHA deadline of January 10 in accordance with our player movement policies.

The Association charges a fee for trying out for rep in order to cover the cost of ice and costs associated with the selection process and rep prep week. To participate you must be fully registered, have paid all fees.

If you wish to play on a WVMHA rep team, you must agree to abide by all of the Rep rules of conduct and meet all of the commitment expectations including games, practices, tournaments, on-ice skill development and off-ice hockey development.

Rep team players and goalies will be selected based on commitment to play Rep hockey, ability, fitness and desire. They need to be there because they want to be there and not because their parents want them to be. **Attendance of all team activities is a requirement for acceptance to Rep team play.**¹

Required Participation	Atom	PeeWee	Bantam	Midget
Required Game Attendance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Required Practice Attendance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Required skills clinics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Required goalie clinics	Minimum 50%	Yes	Yes	Yes
Required Off-Ice Development	Recommended	Yes	Yes	Yes

- Once teams are selected, players may still be transferred to other teams (including movements up and down).
- Players and goalies who did not indicate on their registration form that they want to try-out for a Rep Team and wish to do so, must obtain permission from the Director of Hockey.
- Except with approval from the Director of Hockey, any player failing to attend all scheduled ice times for try-outs or who registers late without valid reason is not eligible for Rep selection.
- Registered players attending Junior, Academy or Major Midget try-outs are exempted from attending try-outs where a scheduling conflict occurs by giving notice to the Director of Hockey prior to September 1.
- Players that miss two or more try-out sessions due to injury and or sickness require a “Doctor’s note” to be eligible to continue the try-out process.
- Selection of initial Rep team rosters will be determined by September 30 with allowance for returning Junior or Major Midget players if applicable.
- Being selected as a rep player in a division for one year, does not entitle the player to a place on the rep team the following year.

Team Selection – Skaters

- Selection will be made over several on-ice sessions by a WVMHA designated group of evaluators.

¹ Exceptions may be made on an individual basis for athletes participating in other high-level sports or activities. **Such exceptions must be confirmed with the Director of Hockey prior to final team selection.**

- Where appropriate, WVMHA may contract for external expertise to assist in the evaluation process.
- All Players, Atom to Midget, have the opportunity to try-out for Rep. The Director of Hockey may re-assign a player to a C Team at any time during the try-outs, without there being a requirement for game play assessment, if in his/her sole opinion, the player is not suitable to play at the Rep level.

Team Selection – Goalies

- A maximum of two goalies can be selected per team but rep teams will elect to carry only one goalie if there is only one qualified candidate. Registering as a goalie does not automatically result in being able to play as a goalie.
- Goalies who registered but are injured either before the try-out process commences or during the try-out process such that it is impractical for them to be properly evaluated and who have a medical certificate to confirm the injury, may be evaluated at the goalie clinics when they are fit. If the goalie coaches and/or Director of Hockey feel that they are of Rep calibre, then prior to November 1, the goalie may be evaluated for a Rep team.
- Qualified goalie coaches and the Director of Hockey will assess skills and rank the goalies qualified to play rep.
- Goalies are only eligible to play Rep if they have attended try-outs. A skills qualified goalie who has not attended try-outs may be asked to play Rep in his/her division on the lowest level Rep team in the event that there are insufficient goalies who have attended try-outs to meet the minimum requirements of 1 goalie per team.
- Selection to be made only after receiving an objective assessment from a qualified goalie coach. The assessment and team placement recognizes all aspects of goaltending including:
 - Athletic Ability including; conditioning, strength, agility and quickness.
 - Goaltending technique including: general ability, positional play, technique, and vocalization to team.
 - Attitude and coachability for prior and current year including: commitment, attendance, mental strength, drive to improve, team player.
- The team head coaches and the Director of Hockey shall not override the assessment report of the goalie but can modify the goalie's seniority based on their knowledge of the goalie's historical effort, attitude and commitment.

- Age will not be a factor in goalie selection unless it is determined that two goalies are equally skilled. If equally skilled, the older goalie will be given priority.
- Where two or more goalies are competing for the same placement and where there is no clear difference in skill level, a qualified goalie coach will provide input on the relative skill level of the goalies in game situations.

Player Release Appeals

In the case of Players: Parents or players with questions or concerns regarding player releases to House must wait 24 hours before contacting the Director of Hockey. The Director of Hockey in consultation with the head coach shall respond in writing within 24 hours. If the issue is not resolved, an appeal may be filed in writing to the Ombudsman. Should a further on ice review be required, it will occur on the team the player has been moved to.

In the case of Goalies: Parents or goalies with questions or concerns regarding goalie releases to House must wait 24 hours before contacting the Director of Hockey. The Director of Hockey in consultation with the head coach shall respond in writing within 24 hours. If the issue is not resolved, an appeal may be filed in writing to the Ombudsman. Should a further on ice review be required, it will occur on the team the player has been moved to.

Rep Fees

A try-out fee is charged by the Association for players attending rep try-outs. This is to cover the additional ice and coaching costs for the “Rep Prep” week.

Additional fees may be charged by rep teams to cover the costs of coaching, tournaments, practice jerseys, dryland training, additional ice times and skills coaches and other miscellaneous expenses.

Coach’s fees are paid directly to the coach by the parents on the team. The fee is normally paid in three approximately equal payments; 1/3 early October, 1/3 late December and the balance in mid-February. The team manager is responsible for collecting the appropriate amount from each parent. (The amount may vary for each payment as the number of players on the team roster can change).

The manager should not have to chase parents for these fees and the Association will take away ice privileges from players who are in default. The team manager will refer overdue payments to the Association President who may suspend the player until the payment is made.

In addition to the team fees, families may be required to purchase team track suits or other WVMHA apparel.

Bursaries are available to families requiring financial assistance to cover team fees.

Rep Player Conduct

Rep players are **representative** of the Association and have a special obligation to act at all times in a manner that respects and advances the reputation of the Association. Players are expected to be respectful and disciplined both on and off the ice. Failure to comply will result in suspensions and/or removal from the rep team.

All players, team officials and parents must recognize that they are representatives of both our Association and our greater community. We are all ambassadors of WVMHA and it is critical to our success that we take pride in who we are and maintain our integrity and an honourable reputation both within minor hockey and the greater community.

See also to our **Zero Tolerance for Bullying, Harassment and Abuse** policy located below in the “Zero Tolerance” section of this document.

Rep Team Dress Code

A dress code for rep players and coaches will be mandated by the Director of Hockey in consultation with the Board of Directors at the beginning of each season. The dress code may be comprised of WVMHA apparel that may need to be purchased at the beginning of the season.

Players and coaches must conform to the dress code when attending games. Failure to do so may result in sanctions by the team coach and/or the Director of Hockey as appropriate.

Coaches may mandate the wearing of colour-specific practice jerseys and socks (to be purchased at the beginning of the season) to facilitate team practices.

Dryland Training

If you want to play competitive hockey, it is critical that you participate in the WVMHA organized hockey specific dryland program. **Participation in a WVMHA organized program is a requirement for playing rep hockey.**

Off-ice physical development is provided at additional cost and is not included in the Association registration.

The game of hockey is both physically and mentally demanding, and hockey specific off-ice training will assist players in becoming better hockey players and reduce the likelihood of injury.

Around the Rink

General Policies

Parents

- **Parents, unless they are team officials, are not permitted on the bench or the ice at any time!**
- **Parents should not discipline or critique other players;** any on-ice or off-ice behavioral issues must be brought to the coaches' or manager's attention and can **only** be dealt with by team officials, the Director of Hockey or WVMHA board members.
- Read and know the **Parent's Code of Conduct**
<http://www.wvmha.ca/parents/parents-code-of-conduct/>

Uniforms

- Game socks are not to be worn during practices;
- Game jerseys are not to be worn during practices;
- Only WVMHA-issued socks and jerseys can be worn during games;
- Black helmets are **mandatory** for rep players.

WVMHA Equipment

- Our **blue rink dividers** are to be stored behind the players' benches after every use and **should not be used as seating or playthings;**
- Our **rink divider boards** must be neatly stacked near the south-east entrance corner of the rink.
- Our cross-ice nets must be handled with care.

Timeliness

- Arrive at the rink at least **15 minutes** before practice – or earlier as per coaches' discretion.
- If you can't make a game or practice please let the team manager or coach know.
- Players are to be **fully dressed and ready at least 5 minutes before practice starts.**

Dressing Room

- **No cell phones or cameras** in the dressing room.
- Dressing rooms must be **supervised** at all times by team officials or designated parents. Players should not enter unsupervised dressing rooms.
- Our dressing rooms are **nut aware**. Please avoid bringing or consuming foods with nuts or nut products in the dressing rooms.

Players' Conduct

- Players shall read the **Players' Code of Conduct** and abide by it.
<http://www.wvmha.ca/parents/players-code-of-conduct/>
- **Players are not to go on the ice without a Coach.**
- Players shall be respectful of coaches and teammates at all times.
- Players should remember to volunteer to pick up pucks and equipment at the end of practice.
- Players should be mindful of thanking their coaches after each practice.

Personal Equipment

- **Neck guards are mandatory for all ages.** Players may not participate in on-ice activities without a neck guard.

'24 Hour' Rule & Parent to Coach Communication

Rep Teams - Parents who are not rostered as team officials on REP teams should never initiate communication directly with the coaches except during pre-defined team meetings between the parents and the coaches.

24-hour Rule: if you have something to say to the coach, or they have something to say to you (that could be contentious) you must wait 24 hours after the event or the game before discussing it. By this time, you have better perspective and a lot of arguments naturally are eliminated in the process.

In all situations the Team Manager is the conduit for confrontational communication. Managers need to understand their role as a non-partisan representative of the team.

Any concerns or issues that need to be addressed by the coaches should be raised with the team manager who will review it with the team head coach. If that doesn't get it resolved, then the team manager should inform the Director of Hockey of the situation who will either try to resolve it or bring it the Board for review and/or dispute process/intervention if necessary.

On-Ice Officials

Do not shout at or abuse the on-ice officials. They have the authority to have you removed from the arena and you set a very poor example to the kids. Their calls may not always be perfect but they are learning as well and shouting at them is not an option.

There is no such thing as 'just a small penalty so let the kids play'. Hockey Canada requires that all penalties be called strictly in accordance with the rules.

Any ejection or suspension handed out to a parent by a referee or the League will be at a minimum matched by the Association. Any reports of referee abuse, even if unsanctioned, will be investigated by the Board and may result in suspensions.

Administrative

Bursaries

Bursaries are available to cover registration fees and/or rep team fees for families in financial need. Applications for bursaries are to be made in confidence to the WVMHA Treasurer or President. Bursaries are awarded at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors. As a general guide, families that qualify for KidsSport assistance (<http://www.kidsportcanada.ca>) also qualify for WVMHA bursaries.

Scholarships

Scholarships for graduating Midget players are awarded on an annual basis at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee. Scholarship criteria and application guidelines are posted online at: <http://www.wvmha.ca/community/scholarships/>

Discipline Committee

When policies are violated, or where in the reasonable opinion of team officials discipline is required, it is the responsibility of the teams to take appropriate disciplinary actions and make reparations as necessary and to report to the Board. In the case of drugs, alcohol, bullying, abuse or vandalism, the President of WVMHA must be immediately advised.

The Board may convene a discipline committee and may impose supplemental discipline. The committee is normally comprised of three Board members who are appointed by the President on a case-by-case basis. It is the responsibility of this committee to review any issue that may potentially require a suspension of a player and/or a parent and make that recommendation to the Board for approval.

It is critical that you attend a meeting if the Committee requests that you do so in order that whatever issue has occurred can be dealt with speedily and fairly.

If you do not agree with the Committees findings as approved by the Board, you should take the matter to the Ombudsman. However, in the interim, the ruling of the Committee as approved by the Board shall be in full effect.

Ombudsman

The Association has an Ombudsman who will adjudicate issues that have not been solved at the team, division or process level. The Ombudsman will review and consider any complaint made or any problem arising with respect to the affairs of the Association and attempt to resolve the complaint or problem on an informal basis and where he or she considers it necessary or appropriate, refer the complaint or problem to the Directors with a recommendation for disposition.

Please try to resolve any problems or issues by working with your team manager and coaches first and before taking the matter to the Ombudsman.

Behaviour and Zero Tolerance Policies

Respectful Behaviour

WVMHA is committed to cultivating a safe and productive sports environment and a culture of respect. We expect the highest standards from our players, coaches, team officials, parents and volunteers at all times.

We take pride in being ambassadors for our organization and our community whenever we are at a rink — home or away.

We expect all our players and coaches to demonstrate respect for:

- Themselves;
- Their teammates;
- Their coaches;
- Parents;
- Volunteers;
- The game and all of its rules;
- Opponents;
- Referees;
- Any facility we occupy, especially our arena;
- Our equipment (both personal and association equipment);
- Guests in our arena;
- Our neighbours in the community.

Examples of respectful behaviour expected of WMVHA members include (but are not limited to):

- Players picking up garbage in the dressing rooms and being respectful towards arena staff;
- Players not complaining about penalty calls either verbally or via body language;
- Parents and players demonstrating moderation in celebrating goals in blowout games;
- Parents not cheering opposing team injuries;
- Coaches not yelling at or berating players or referees;
- Players “taking a knee” in practice when summoned by coaches and not engaging in distracting/unsafe behaviour.

Zero Tolerance

There is zero tolerance for drugs, alcohol, bullying, abuse or vandalism. Zero tolerance means that behaviour involving any of the above will not be tolerated at any event related to WVMHA and will be immediately sanctioned.

Zero Tolerance Notification

Any occurrence must be immediately reported **and the President of WVMHA must be immediately advised should incidents occur involving drugs, alcohol, bullying, abuse or vandalism.** See Reporting Procedures below.

REFER TO OUR ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR DETAILED INFORMATION:

https://www.wvmha.ca/my_files/Policies/WVMHA-Zero-Tolerance-Policies.pdf