



# RICHMOND JET MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## REP HOCKEY POLICY

## **1) INTRODUCTION:**

1. Rep hockey is the culmination of player skills, attitude and desire coupled with the coaching experience, training and dedication to form a Richmond team to play against the best players from other Associations. The Rep teams play in a league that ensures competition against players of equal ability. It permits players to improve their skills and character and to play at a higher individual and team skill level.
2. The Rep process is a yearlong activity, which begins with the coach and player selection process. Rep tryouts can be a stressful time not only for the players and parents, but for coaches, evaluators and volunteers who each year must coordinate this facet of our association's program. The policies and procedures for the Rep hockey system will allow participants (Coaches, Parents and Players) to know what is expected of them, and in return what they can expect from the RJMHA Rep Hockey Program.
3. It must be understood by all involved, that in any selection process not all applicants will be able to qualify.
4. Before deciding to enter the Rep system, all participants (Coaches, Parents and Players) must carefully consider the following factors:
5. All participants are expected to put in an enormous amount of time for training, practicing and playing games. There are additional expenses for travel, additional game and practice ice, tournament costs and other miscellaneous expenses such as team jackets, an additional pair of team socks and street clothes to satisfy the RJMHA dress code. All Rep coaches, team officials, players and parents are required to set a high standard of conduct and good sportsmanship towards referees, other players, team officials, and parents. This applies not only to a player's own team, but to all teams within our association and other associations with whom a player has contact. All participants must agree to abide by terms and conditions as set out in this Policy.
6. Depending on the number and calibre of players in each age division (Atom, PeeWee, Bantam, Midget and Juvenile), and the availability of ice, RJMHA will determine the number of Rep teams to be selected each year. Under no circumstances should two rep teams in the PeeWee and above Divisions be placed in the bottom tier of an applicable division. Should this happen, the lower team will be disbanded, and players assigned to C Division.
7. PCAHA Rep Policies are the governing policies.

## **2) REP TRYOUT PROCEDURES**

### **A: REGISTRATION:**

1. Players must be registered with RJMHA and insured prior to participating in the "Rep" tryouts. Players wanting to try out for A1 must declare this on their registration. The A1 declaration is intended to help RJMHA become more efficient at evaluating a group of players with the skill and commitment levels necessary to pursue the commitment of the A1 program. It also provides efficiency in team selection by reducing the time it takes to select teams for all levels
2. Players trying out for Junior hockey teams must register with RJMHA and attend a minimum of one session to preserve the potential for a spot on a Rep team, should the player be released from Junior.
3. Only those players who have indicated on their registration forms that they wish to try out for Rep, and who have paid the Rep tryout fee, will be contacted and given tryout ice times. The rep policy will be available on the RJMHA website.
4. A player registering for tryouts must elect to try out for either a goalie or a player.

#### **B: TRYOUT PROCESS:**

1. In preparation for the tryouts, a list of players will be prepared by the Registrar from all those who applied for Rep on the registration form, for each age group Atom through Juvenile. The players will be divided into reasonably even sized squads on an alphabetical order based on the players last name. Every attempt will be made to have an equal number of goaltenders, defensemen and forwards per squad.
2. All Divisions (except Juvenile):
  - a. Round 1 will include skills assessment, practices and inter squad games
  - b. Designated independent evaluators will be given squad rosters identified by pinney number only to use for evaluation of players in skills and game situations and will evaluate the players from the stands. Benches will be run by assistant coaches or outside personnel
  - c. Players will be divided into squads and each squad will participate in a series of inter-squad games. Each player on each squad will be assigned a jersey or pinney and number to wear for each game

- d. All goalies trying out for Rep will also participate in a separate goalies-only session. They will also have two evaluations during exhibition games by goalie evaluators.
- e. Once working groups are formed, Round 2 sessions will include game and practice evaluations as determined by the respective Rep coaches.

3. Juvenile:

- a. All Juvenile players registered for Rep tryouts will attend the first stage of evaluations (Round 1).
- b. Round 1 sessions will include game and/or practice evaluations.
- c. Round 1 will consist of up to three (3) ice times per player.
- d. For the subsequent stage of evaluations (Round 2), the players will be divided into an "A1" and ". A2" Working Groups
- e. Round 2 sessions will include game and practice evaluations as determined by the respective Rep coaches.

**C: PLAYER EVALUATIONS:**

- 1. It is recommended that players and goalies attend tryouts with neutral colored jerseys, RJMHA socks and white or black stick tape and a black helmet, ie no prior association colors or logos. Players may be asked to change jersey prior to stepping on the ice or cover stickers on their helmets prior to stepping on the ice.
- 2. During the first round of evaluations, skaters will be evaluated by independent evaluators as to their skating ability, puck control, ability to give and receive a pass, shooting skills and ability to adapt to physical play (body checking/contact). A list of player skills which may be evaluated is attached Appendix A. A list of goalie skills which may be evaluated is attached as Appendix B.
- 3. Goalies will be assessed for their skating ability, quickness and agility, positioning, puck handling, flexibility (overall body control), and general ability in "stopping" the puck (high, low shots, catching glove, use of blocker, use of stick, etc.)
- 4. All players will be evaluated for their attitude, enthusiasm, heart/desire to play, leadership skills, confidence and concentration, knowledge of the game, ability to read and react to playing conditions, coach-ability, and such other attributes deemed important by coaches and evaluators.
- 5. All coaches and evaluators are asked to be sensitive to the need to remain neutral in conversations with parties not directly involved in the evaluation process.

6. Evaluations will consider player and parent adherence to the Rep Tryout Policy.
7. Creation of Working Groups
  - a. After the first round of evaluations (round 1), players will be divided into working groups based on their ranking. .
  - b. Working Group 1 should consist of a maximum of 20 players and 3 goaltenders\*.
  - c. Working Groups 2 – 4 should consist of a maximum of 15 players and 2 goaltenders, any players outside of this will be assigned to "C" Division.
  - d. Families will be notified of their Working Group by email from the applicable Director

\*Numbers are dependent on registration

#### **D: TEAM SELECTION:**

1. Each Rep Head Coach, after the initial releases, must immediately declare the total number of players that will be carried for the season. A Coach shall not be permitted, without prior approval of the Executive, to vary from his/her declared number during the season, with the exception of players not registered prior to the third Monday of September or such other date as determined by the board. Players taken after the third Monday of September or such other date as determined by the board must be in addition to the declared roster size.
2. The Executive reserves the right to rule on the minimum or maximum roster size depending on the circumstances.
3. The Rep coaches within a division are expected to communicate and cooperate in the team selection process. .
4. Players who start Rep tryouts after Round 1 may only be added to a team "in addition" to the declared roster size (i.e. it is not the intention to release any player after they have been told that they have been selected to a particular team.) in accordance with PCAHA policies.

#### **E. RELEASES:**

1. Players will be released during Round 2 and from time to time thereafter until all Rep teams are set. The release of players can be a traumatic experience and coaches (and applicable Director, Division Managers) must handle this with tact. Every effort should be made to provide positive feedback regarding a player's strong points, while being specific in providing feedback on those areas of a player's game requiring improvement.
2. After Round 2 each player will meet with one of the Rep coaches (to be coordinated by the Division Manager). Players will be interviewed in a private location and the Division Manager or their alternate must be present. At no time should a coach ever announce that a player has made a team prior to final releases. Parents or guardians must be in attendance at release meetings for players in the Atom and Peewee Divisions.

3. All players released will be given a copy of his or her written evaluation at the time of release.
4. The Board may set dates for initial and final releases of players from the Rep tryout process. As a guideline, Rep coaches shall make their first releases within three days after the completion of Round 2.
5. Rep teams Atom through Midget shall be at declared roster size by the third Monday in September or such other date as the Board may determine. Juvenile teams shall be at declared roster size by October 31<sup>st</sup> or such other date as the Board may determine.

#### **F. CONFLICT RULE:**

1. Where an identified conflict of interest exists, such as a parent coach possibly selecting his child to a team, the placement of the player shall be with the consensus of the Head Coaches, the applicable Director and/or Coaching Committee. The coach-in-conflict shall be absent from the room during the deliberations.

#### **G. PLAYERS ELECTING TO “DROP DOWN”:**

1. Players may request in writing to RJMHA, care of the Division Manager, to try out for a specific Rep team within a given division but must such a request PRIOR to being selected for a given team. A player may elect to drop down to a lower Working Group but may not specify a particular team within a level.
  - a. Example: A player chooses not to try out for the “A1” team due to academic or financial considerations; or because other commitments during the season preclude being available to devote the necessary time to fulfill the player’s commitment to the team. The player can elect to drop to a lower Working Group.
2. In ALL cases where a player elects to “drop down” subsequent to being chosen for a specific team, the player will be required to submit his/her reasons in writing to RJMHA for consideration, care of the applicable Director. Rep tryout fees and rep fees will not be refunded under such circumstances.

#### **H. INJURY RULE:**

1. In the event of an injury, where a player cannot begin or complete the tryout process, the player will be assessed by the Coaching Committee and/or designated delegate, after the earliest medical approval date.
2. If the player has completed Round 1 or subsequent, then a decision regarding placement of that player on a team will be made by the time of final releases by the Coaching Committee, in consultation with the Rep coaches.
3. A spot may be held for an injured player, if the player has a doctor’s certificate indicating that the player will be able to play hockey by October. 15<sup>th</sup> of the current season.

## I. PLAYERS UNAVAILABLE AT TRYOUT TIME:

1. Players unavailable to attend the designated tryout due to conflict (vacation, etc.) will be afforded a minimum of 1 ice time one level higher than previously played with no guarantee of another ice time. Player(s) will be assessed by independent evaluators, be required to pay the full tryout fee and may remain, move up or down based on the evaluation. Such ice time will take place prior to being assigned to a Working Group.
  2. After the start of Round 2, players who have not participated in Round 1 are required to submit a request for evaluation to the Board of Directors explaining the reason for their absence. If granted, such players will be afforded a minimum of one (1) ice session one level higher than previously played with no guarantee of another ice time. The Director of Hockey Programming will make a determination as to the number of ice times and the means of player evaluation. Such players will be required to pay the full tryout fee and may remain, move up or down based on the evaluation
  3. Transfers or New to the Association will be afforded the same as I (1)
- 
2. In the event of a family emergency, the Coaching Committee, in consultation with the Rep coaches, will determine the minimum number of ice sessions that the player will be permitted to attend.

## J. AFFILIATE PLAYERS:

1. Coaches should specify an adequate number of goaltenders, defense and forwards.
2. Being designated an affiliate player is a privilege, not a right. Player performance and attitude are important factors in the selection of affiliate players. It also follows that being called up to play with the team is also a privilege and not a right.
3. The recall of players should be rotated, particularly since, after Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, an individual player is only eligible for a maximum of ten league and/or playoff games, so having a number of experienced players is recommended.
4. Consideration for affiliation will be given to the following players:
  - a. Last release(s) depending on whether multiple releases were made at the same time
  - b. Players who have dropped themselves to "C"
  - c. Players from the age division below.
5. Coaches are encouraged to affiliate players including those who have been released from the rep program.
6. Teams will select affiliate players in the following order: Junior, Major Midget, Juvenile, Midget, Bantam, PeeWee and Atom. Junior teams get to pick first and Atom teams last. Within the

divisions the "A1" coach will have the right to pick their affiliate players first, the "A2" coach picks second, and the "A3" coach selects next, etc. By way of examples, the A1 team selects affiliate players from the A2, A2 selects affiliate players from A3 and A3 selects from 'C' teams in the same Division, and from any teams in lower Divisions; and the A2 team may select affiliate players from the A3 and 'C' teams in the same Division, and from any teams in lower Divisions.

7. Coaches wishing to AP a player from a lower team must receive permission from the players' coach prior to adding the player to the roster as AP. The player must give priority to the team the player is rostered with. When a coach requests a player to AP for a game, the player's coach must be notified and give his/her approval prior to any game.
8. In Atom, players on the call up list are called Casual Players not Affiliate players. Atom A teams shall not draw from lower divisions.
9. Juvenile is considered one category; therefore, the A1 team is not permitted to select Affiliate players from the A2 team.

#### **K. MISCELLANEOUS TRYOUT REGULATIONS:**

1. During Rounds 1 and 2, no player may skate any more than the assigned sessions, except for goalies.
2. Players must wear all equipment including a CSA approved neck guard. Any player found not to be wearing all required protective equipment shall be sent off the ice and shall not be permitted to return until the missing approved equipment has been put on.

#### **L. APPEAL PROCEDURES:**

1. The Board shall appoint a Rep Appeals Committee consisting of the Coaching Committee and any other designated Board Member(s).
2. A player may appeal within 48 hours of notification of release. The notice of appeal must be in writing and directed to the Rep Appeals Committee.
3. The Rep Appeal Committee will only entertain an appeal based on the premise that the prescribed evaluation process has not been adhered to.
  - a. The Rep Appeals Committee will reach and communicate their decision no later than 72 hours after receipt of the notice of the appeal.
  - b. The decision of the Rep Appeals Committee is FINAL, and no further appeals shall be permitted.

### **3) Coaches**



## 1. Selection of Head Coaches

- a. The Coach Coordinator is authorized to establish and select a Coach Selection Committee for the purposes of interviewing and recommending candidates for RJMHA's Hockey Teams to the Executive Board for RJMHA. This Committee shall have a maximum of six (6) Members and a minimum of three (3), including the Coach Coordinator, and be drawn from Members of RJMHA and the public.
- b. Rep Team (non-parent) Head Coaches shall be approved by the Executive Board of RJMHA by secret ballot or other mutually agreed-to procedures on recommendations from the Coach Coordinator and the Coach Selection Committee. The Coach Selection Committee shall strive to have their final selections for Rep Team Coaches ready for approval by RJMHA's last Executive Board Meeting in June.
- c. A Rep Head Coach shall not name, nor have persons act as his Assistant Coach(es) and/or his Manager, until after the team has been selected, unless such persons are not parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of players trying out for the team.
- d. Once a Rep Head Coach (non-parent) is announced, an information meeting will be set to have players and families meet the coach and have the coach present their philosophy and plan for the season.

## 2. Parent Coaches

- a. For A3 – A4 teams parent coaches may be selected. The selection of the parent coach will occur after Round 2 is complete. Prior to the selection of the parent coach, a coach designate will lead the working group.
- b. It is important to note that the term coach designate means that these positions are not official until the conclusion of player evaluation and team formation in the fall. The integrity of the player selection process takes precedence over the placement of coaches.

## 4) NOTICE TO PARENTS AND PLAYERS

The decision to enter the "REP" hockey program is an important decision and should not be taken lightly. We encourage you to consider the following before finalizing your decision.

A tremendously high level of commitment is expected from all Rep players with respect to attitude, attendance at games, practices, training sessions and all other team activities.

All players (and parents of players) tryout out for Rep should read and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the RJMHA Rep Hockey Policy.

There is a discipline on parents and players that requires a minimum amount of time and financial obligation that may include but not limited to:

- Attending two games (one home and one away) per week
- Attending development
- Attending one to two practices per week
- Being at all games and practices at least 45 minutes before the scheduled ice time (or as specified by the coaches)
- Attending approximately three tournaments during the season (to be included in team fees)
- When your division is hosting a tournament, parents are required to volunteer time either before or during the tournament to help in organizing and running the event.

For "A1" level players in Peewee Divisions and above, hockey must be your highest priority sport throughout the season

Travel may be required to attend one or more out-of-town tournament and possibly the Provincial Championship during the season.

Additional costs may be incurred for items such as travel, extra ice, etc. This includes additional travel costs for non-parent coaches. Money is raised either through fund-raising activities or direct payment by parents – usually decided by the parents. Failure to pay team and rep fees may result in the player being suspended or released from the team until such fees are paid in full.

It is not sufficient to possess the necessary skills and ability required at any level. Players are ambassadors for the Association and the community of Richmond, and as such are required to observe high levels of conduct both on and off the ice, at home and away. Players who have the ability, but do not demonstrate acceptable codes of conduct may not be selected or may be subsequently released from a team.

It is the responsibility of every player trying out for Rep to ensure that they are in sufficiently good condition prior to the tryouts to perform to their best ability. All players will be assessed at the tryouts and will be evaluated on their performance at those sessions.

We look forward to seeing you in the coming season – and wish you a successful year.

Appendix A: Skills Evaluation Template (To be confirmed)

<b>Skill Area</b>
<b>Skating</b> Acceleration, speed, mobility, balance, stride, cross over, pivots
<b>Shooting</b> Power, accuracy, quick release, shoot in motion, goal score
<b>Puck Handling</b> Heads up, smooth and quiet, good hands, protection
<b>Passing</b> Passing-Receiving, passing choices, on back hand, unselfish
<b>Positional Play</b> F-Deception, change of pace, creativity, determination, go to net D- Gap control, angling, finish check, positioning
<b>Checking Skills</b> Angling, body position, balance & control, defensive side position, strength
<b>Desire/Work Ethic</b> Constant desire to excel, good work ethic, never gives up
<b>On-Ice Awareness</b> Ability to see the play develop, anticipation, understands systems

Appendix B: Goalie Skills Evaluation Template

<b>Skill Area</b>
<b>Stance</b> Balance Mechanics B Fly
<b>Mobility</b> Skating Shuffling T Pushing Balance
<b>Positioning</b> Depth Adjustments Square to Puck Post Mechanics
<b>Saves</b> Selection Execution Rebound Control
<b>Game Situations</b> Rebound Control Read & React
<b>Attitude</b> Focus/Concentration Anticipation Desire Work ethic

## APPENDIX C

### REP PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP FUND

- a) \$10 of Rep fees will be set aside for Rep Teams Pee wee and above in a Rep Provincial Championship Travel Fund, for teams participating in Provincial Championship.
- b) The following is a general guideline of amounts to be paid to teams participating in Provincial Playoffs"

- Lower Mainland no funds
- Vancouver Island \$1,000.00
- East/West Kootenays \$1,250.00
- Cariboo \$1,250.00
- 100 Mile House and South \$1,000.00
- Okanagan \$1,000.00
- North of 100 Mile House \$2,500.00
- Northwest Territories \$2,500.00
- Yukon \$2,500.00