

Policy 7. Tryouts and Team Selection

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Current Policy

The executive of the Dorchester Minor Hockey Association will establish team sizes for all DMHA teams and communicate that information to the head coaches each season prior to the commencement of the representative team tryout process.

The number of players permitted for each team will be determined based on all available information and circumstances, including, in particular, registrations in each division. In general, representative teams should have 13-15 skaters plus 1-2 goalies in the Novice to Bantam divisions and 17-19 skaters plus two goalies in the Midget and above divisions. All reasonable efforts will be made to make teams in each age category or division relatively equal in numbers. Coaches shall comply with the team sizes established by DMHA.

The executive shall establish the dates and fees for representative (BB and AE) team tryouts and local league evaluations each season. The dates and times will be set in coordination with the ice scheduler and will be posted on the DMHA website in the association calendar. No tryouts or evaluations shall be conducted outside of the selected dates.

Before tryouts, a registration list consisting of the names of players who indicated that they wish to try out for representative teams will be given to each representative team coach in the applicable age division. Any late registrants will be told by the registrar to contact the coach to get on this list. The head coach for each representative team will contact or otherwise notify all players who notified him/her of the intent to try out for the team of the dates and times of tryouts.

No player may participate in any tryout unless the applicable tryout fee has been paid in full. The head coach is responsible for collecting tryout fees prior to tryouts and remitting those fees to the association within one weeks of the completion of tryouts.

Updated Policy

The executive of the Dorchester Minor Hockey Association will establish **ideal team sizes for all DMHA teams based on the philosophy of the association. These expectations will be communicated to head coaches prior to the commencement of the representative (A/BB) team tryouts processes. Coaches shall comply with the team size established by DMHA.**

The selected DMHA rep (A/BB) head coaches shall choose a minimum of thirteen (13) skaters for the U10 to U13 age groups and a minimum of fourteen (14) skaters for the U14 to U18 age groups, plus a minimum of one goalie. Coaches will have the option of selecting more players as deemed necessary for their team based on registration numbers, competitiveness, and/or needs of the team. In exceptional cases a coach may apply for an alternate team size to the DMHA executive. Selection of two (2) goalies will be determined by number of goaltenders in age group and/or by special application to DMHA executive by the head coach. Local League team sizes may vary slightly and will be based on registration numbers. DMHA will aim to never exceed the maximum team size of 15 skaters and 2 goalies for local league teams.

All representative coaches shall utilize the Affiliate Player (AP) process to the full extent (see DMHA Affiliate Player policy) during the hockey season to continue the development of players. Specifically, but not limited to, when team size are less than 15 players and 2 goalies.

The executive shall establish the dates and fees for representative team tryouts and local league evaluations each season. The dates and times will be set **based on the OMHA Seasonal Calendar and prescribed tryout timelines**, in coordination with the **DMHA ice allocator** and will be posted on the DMHA website in the association calendar. No tryouts or evaluations shall be conducted outside of the selected dates.

Representative (BB and AE) head coaches may select the players who will comprise their respective teams each season, with the goal of selecting the best team at the particular level based on the available and interested players who try out. Head coaches are responsible for selecting off-ice and on-ice helpers and/or evaluators to help with the try-out procedure. On-ice helpers must be certified coaches or trainers or must meet the criteria for on-ice helpers set out in the DMHA policies and procedures. Where possible, the BB and AE coaches in a division should work together during the tryout process to ensure fair and efficient selection of players to each team and to enable each team to ice the best combination of players possible.

The coaches and their helpers are responsible for ensuring that all players receive equal opportunity to demonstrate their skills and suitability for a team. In addition, the coaches and their helpers shall ensure that the tryout and selection process is, and is reasonably perceived to be, fair, objective and transparent.

Coaches may release players from tryouts for a particular team in accordance with this policy during the tryout period established by the executive for the team, with final releases to be made by the last date of the tryout period.

All registered players who wish to try out for a representative team, and who pay the prescribed tryout fee, shall be entitled to attend a minimum of two (2) tryout skates with the top representative (BB) team before being eligible to be released from that team, provided that those skates must occur in the first three tryout ice times assigned to that team, or as agreed in advance by the head coach. A player need not try out for the BB team in order to try out for the AE team, but players are only entitled to a minimum of one (1) AE tryout skate before being eligible to be released from the AE team. If a player cannot attend a tryout skate for any reason, he/she must contact the head coach prior to the tryout that will be missed. A player must attend at least one (1) of the representative team tryout skates to be considered for a representative team, unless otherwise approved by the executive in consultation with the coach, the player and the player's parents/guardians because the player missed tryouts due to injury, illness, or a transfer from another centre.

Discussions that take place amongst coaches, helpers and the executive regarding tryouts and player evaluations are confidential, and will not be shared with parents or others outside of the evaluation process. The head coach shall notify all players who

All upcoming U14 aged players must attend a body checking clinic prior to attending the tryouts. U15 and above aged players new to rep hockey must also have attended a body checking clinic prior to tryouts. Attendance is mandatory. It is strongly recommended that players looking to "AP" to a U14 and above team also attend a body checking clinic. If a player attended an outside third-party body checking clinic, proof of completion must be sent to the DMHA registrar at dmharegistrar2@gmail.com. Checking clinics will be determined annually by the board and posted in DMHA's website once the checking clinic dates are announced.

Before tryouts, a registration list consisting of the names of players who indicated that they wish to try out for representative teams will be given to each representative team head coach in the applicable age division. The DMHA Registrar will coordinate try out list additions in consultation with the head coach. The head coach for each representative team will contact or otherwise notify all players on the tryout list of the dates and times of tryouts. No player may participate in any tryout unless the applicable tryout fee has been paid in full. The head coach is responsible for collecting late try out fees prior to tryouts (submitted in person) and remitting those fees to the association within one week of the completion of tryouts.

Representative (A/BB) head coaches may select the players who will comprise their respective teams each season, with the goal of selecting the best team at the particular level based on the available and interested players who tryout. Head coaches are responsible for selecting off-ice and on-ice helpers and/or evaluators to help with the tryout procedure. On-ice helpers must be certified coaches or trainers or must meet the criteria for on-ice helpers set out in the DMHA policies and procedures.

The coaches and their helpers are responsible for ensuring that all players receive equal opportunity to demonstrate their skills and suitability for a team. In addition, the coaches and their helpers shall ensure that the tryout and selection process is, and is reasonably perceived to be, fair, objective and transparent.

Coaches may release players from tryouts for a particular team in accordance with this policy during the tryout period established by the executive. Final releases are to be made by the last date of the tryout period and communicated within 24 hours of the last tryout in an appropriate manner to the player and parents/guardians.

try out of their release from or selection to the team by 11:00 pm on the final day of the tryouts for the particular team. If releases are staggered, then the coach shall make every effort to notify all players who are released at a certain stage and/or who will continue with the process on the same day.

When a player is released from a tryout or team, feedback about the release shall only be sought from the head coach of the team. If requested, the coach should give reasons for the release but, in doing so, a comparison to any other specific player shall not be used.

If a player tries out for and is selected for a representative team (BB or AE) team but refuses to accept placement on that representative team, the player will be removed from the representative system and placed on a local league team in his/her age group or division. A player may withdraw his/her name from consideration for a representative team before the final releases/selections are made for that team without penalty, except that a player who withdraws from representative consideration, plays on a local league team and AP's to a representative team may play no more than 5 games for the representative team without prior approval of the executive.

All registered DMHA players released from representative teams after tryouts shall be assigned to local league teams. The executive shall set the date by which the assignment of players to the local league teams must be completed. Prior to the formation of local league teams, players will practice in their respective age groups for the purpose of conditioning and evaluation.

If more than one local league team is entered in a specific age group or division, the coaches of the local league teams in that division and the local league convenor and/or his/her designate(s) shall evaluate the players over at least two on-ice evaluation sessions and shall then cooperatively create equally skilled and balanced teams, ensuring that all players receive the best possible and equal opportunity to compete. Teams within each division may be re-balanced by the executive if required. Any player movements after the initial selection process will only take place after discussion with the coaches and parents affected by the moves, and executive decisions on player movements will be binding.

All registered players who wish to try out for a representative (A/BB) team and who pay the prescribed tryout fee, shall be provided with the opportunity to attend a minimum number of tryout skates with the representative (A) team before being released from that team, provided that those skates must occur in the first three tryout ice times assigned to that team, or as agreed in advance by the head coach. This is according to the team age level, as per the OMHA Player Pathways, as outlined in the following chart:

AGE LEVEL	MIMUM TRYOUTS OFFERED
U10A	3
U11A/BB	3
U12A	3
U13A/BB	3
U14A	3
U15A/BB	3
U18A/BB	2

If a player cannot attend a tryout skate for any reason, he/she must contact the head coach prior to the tryout that will be missed.

A player must actively participate (on-ice) in at least one (1) of the representative (A/BB) team tryout skates to be considered for that representative (A/BB) team, unless otherwise approved by the executive in consultation with the coach, the player and the player's parents/guardians because the player missed tryouts due to injury, illness, or a transfer from another centre.

Discussions that take place amongst coaches, helpers and the executive regarding tryouts and player evaluations are confidential, and will not be shared with parents or others outside of the evaluation process. The head coach shall notify all players who tryout, indicating either their release from or selection to the team within 24 hours on the final day of the tryouts for the particular team. If releases are staggered, then the

A committee made up of the 3rd Vice President Hockey Operations, the Coach Development Coordinator and the Player Development Coordinator or another executive member as appointed by the President, in collaboration with the Local League Representative, shall review the U7 and U8 programs before the start of the season. Each year, this committee will make recommendations of DMHA's program, including team composition, to the executive with the primary focus on player development.

DMHA adopts Hockey Canada's recommendation that players develop and play within their age category. However, a player may seek exceptional status in order to be selected by and play for a representative team in the next highest division by submitting a written request to the DMHA executive by no later than June 30, or 60 days prior to the start of tryouts, whichever is earlier. DMHA will consider any such request within two weeks of the receipt of the request, and may exercise its discretion to grant non-precedent setting exceptional status for one season only based on exceptional (ie. significantly advanced for his/her age and playing at a level consistent with the top players at least one age group above) player ability and maturity level, as well as the overall impact of any movement on the teams involved and the association as a whole, subject to the following conditions:

1. The coach of the team for which the player wishes to try out must consent;
2. All registration and tryout fees must be paid in full before the tryout begins;
3. The player must be in the top three skaters in his/her position (ie. forward or defence) or one of the top two goaltenders by demonstrated skill level as compared to the other players trying out for the representative team as assessed by independent evaluators assigned by DMHA and the coach of the team;
4. If the player tries out for but does not make the representative team for which he/she tries out based on the above criteria, he/she may not try out for or be selected for the representative team in his/her age group, but may try out for the AE team in either that age group (in which case, points 1 and 2 above apply) or the player's own age group. If the player is not selected for the AE team for which he/she tries out, then he/she will be assigned to local league evaluations for his/her age group.

coach shall make every effort to notify all players who are released at a certain stage and/or who will continue with the process on the same day.

When a player is released from a tryout or team, feedback about the release shall only be sought from the head coach of the team. If requested, the coach should give reasons for the release but, in doing so, a comparison to any other specific player shall not be used.

If a player tries out for and is selected for a representative (A/BB) team but refuses to accept placement on that representative team, the player will be removed from the representative system and placed on a local league team in his/her age group or division. A player may withdraw his/her name from consideration for a representative team (A/BB) before the final releases/selections are made for that team without penalty, except that a player who withdraws from representative consideration, **plays on a local league team shall follow the DMHA AP policy and procedure.**

All registered DMHA players released from representative (A/BB) teams after tryouts shall be assigned to local league teams. The executive shall set the date by which the assignment of players to the local league teams must be completed. Prior to the formation of local league teams, players will practice in their respective age groups for the purpose of conditioning and evaluation.

If more than one local league team is entered in a specific age group or division, the coaches of the local league teams in that division and the local league convenor and/or his/her designate(s) shall evaluate the players over at least two on-ice evaluation sessions and shall then cooperatively create equally skilled and balanced teams, ensuring that all players receive the best possible and equal opportunity to compete. Teams within each division may be re-balanced by the executive if required. Any player movements after the initial selection process will only take place after discussion with the coaches and parents affected by the moves, and executive decisions on player movements will be binding.

A committee made up of the 3rd Vice President Hockey Operations, the Coach Development Coordinator and the Player Development Coordinator or another executive member as appointed by the President, in collaboration with the Local League Representative, shall review the U7 program before the start of the season.

Subject to the above, requests to allow players to play on other (ie. not representative) DMHA teams for which the player is not strictly ineligible may be considered at the discretion of the executive in response to a written request made no less than 14 days prior to the start of the tryout process. The executive shall, in the exercise of such discretion, consider the registration numbers, the player's ability and suitability, the best interests of the teams that may be affected and the maintenance of the reputation, integrity and spirit of DMHA.

Each year, this committee will make recommendations of DMHA's program, including team composition, to the executive with the primary focus on player development.

DMHA adopts Hockey Canada's recommendation that players develop and play within their age category. However, a player may seek exceptional status in order to be selected by and play for a representative (A) team in the next highest division by submitting a written request to the DMHA executive by no later than **March 15th or 15 days prior to the start of tryouts, whichever is earlier.**

The following conditions shall be reviewed in order for a player to be considered and granted exceptional status:

- 1. All registration and tryout fees (for both age categories) must be paid in full before the tryout begins;**
- 2. The player's ability must be significantly advanced for his/her age and playing at a level consistent with the top players at least one age group above.**
- 3. Be one of the top three (3) players in the older age group or one of the top two (2) goaltenders in the older age group by demonstrated skill level as compared to all players trying out for the representative team as assessed by an independent evaluator assigned by the DMHA Executive.**
- 4. The independent evaluator will be an individual without conflict with either age category and appointed by the non-conflicted DMHA Executive members.**
- 5. The player will be permitted two tryouts at the older age group before being released.**
- 6. If the player tries out for but does not make the representative team for which he/she tries out based on the above criteria, he/she may try out for or be selected for the representative team in his/her age group. The player will be permitted one tryout at the player's own age group before being released.**

Subject to the above, requests to allow players to play on other (i.e. not representative) DMHA teams for which the player is not strictly ineligible may be considered at the discretion of the executive in response to a written request made no less than 14 days prior to the start of the tryout process. The executive shall, in the exercise of such discretion, consider the registration numbers, the player's ability and suitability, the best interests of the teams that may be affected and the maintenance of the reputation, integrity and spirit of DMHA.

<u>Board and Membership Feedback:</u>	