

Dorchester Minor Hockey – Selects Policy

1. Authority & Scope

This policy is issued under the authority of the Dorchester Minor Hockey Association (DMHA) Board of Directors. It applies to all DMHA players, parents/guardians, coaches, managers, trainers, and volunteers involved in Select program activities.

All Select operations must remain in compliance with:

- Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) regulations
- Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) regulations
- Hockey Canada regulations
- DMHA Constitution, By-Laws, and Codes of Conduct

The DMHA Board retains the right to approve, deny, amend, or revoke Select team operations at its discretion.

2. Definitions

- **Select Team (Rostered Select):** A team composed of players already registered to a DMHA Local League team, providing additional development and competition opportunities.
 - **Local League (LL):** The primary recreational league structure in which DMHA players are rostered.
 - **Good Standing:** A status indicating that a player/family is current on fees, free of disciplinary action, and meeting Local League commitments.
 - **Affiliate Player (AP):** A player registered to one team who is permitted to play with another team. APs are **not permitted** at the Select level.
 - **Bench Staff:** Includes the Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, Trainer(s), and Team Manager.
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3. Purpose

The Select program provides players with opportunities for additional competition beyond Local League play while maintaining fairness, balanced representation, and compliance with OMHA regulations.

There is no requirement for DMHA to form Select Teams. Select Teams may only be created when there is demonstrated player and coach interest after Local League teams have been sorted and rostered. Coaches may then apply to the DMHA Board for consideration and approval.

4. Formation of Select Teams

Timing of Team Formation

- Select teams cannot be organized until all Local League rosters have been finalized.
- Applications must be submitted prior to the first Board meeting following LL team formation.
- Teams must be formally approved by the DMHA Board prior to scheduling tryouts, practices, or games.

Application & Approval Process

- A written application must be submitted to the DMHA Board by the proposed Head Coach, outlining:
 - Level of interest from players/families (including LL team affiliation).
 - Proposed coaching staff and certifications.
 - Proposed tournaments and events.
 - Commitment to adhere to DMHA Select policies.
- The DMHA Board will assess:
 - Player distribution across LL teams.
 - Availability of qualified coaching staff.
 - Financial and logistical feasibility.
 - Compliance with OMHA/DMHA rules.
- Approval is at the sole discretion of the DMHA Board.

Minimum Requirements

- Minimum: 15 skaters and 1 goaltender expressing interest.
- Applications must list LL team affiliation of each interested player.
- Insufficient interest = team will not proceed.
- If balance across LL teams cannot be achieved, the Board may:
 - Deny the application, or
 - Grant an exemption if fairness is still maintained.

When Select Teams Cannot Be Formed

- If only one Local League team exists in a division.
- If adequate certified coaching staff are not secured.
- If forming a Select team would undermine LL balance or viability.

5. Program Overview

- The Select program operates as an enhancement to the Local League program, not a replacement.
- The season runs from October through late March.
- Players' primary commitment is to their Local League team.
- Players who miss a Local League practice or game will be ineligible to attend a Select practice or game on the same day, unless the absence was unavoidable and prior exception was granted.

6. Tryout Process

- Select tryouts will be held after Local League rosters are finalized.
- Each age group will hold one tryout session.
- A reasonable tryout fee may be charged to cover ice, insurance, and administrative costs.
- Player selection is based on skill, attitude, commitment, and sportsmanship. Evaluations may involve coaching staff, approved independent evaluators, and the DMHA Executive.
- Final rosters must be approved by the DMHA Executive to ensure fairness and balance across all applicable Local League teams.

7. Team Composition

- Standard rosters will include 17 players:
 - 2 goaltenders (unless only 1 goaltender is available)
 - 15 skaters (9 forwards, 6 defence)
- OMHA does not permit Affiliate Players (APs) at the Select level. If needed, two additional players may be rostered to ensure depth.

8. Player Distribution

To ensure fairness and balance across Local League teams:

- 2 Local League teams: No more than 60% of the Select roster may come from one team.
- 3 Local League teams: No more than 40% of the Select roster may come from one team, provided there is sufficient interest across all three. If there is not, player distribution rules for 2 Local League teams will apply.

- Where possible, goaltenders should be drawn evenly from each Local League team. The two rostered goalies should not come from the same LL team unless unavoidable.
- If only one Local League team exists in an age division, a Select team cannot be formed.
- If it is impossible to meet player distribution regulations, coaches may apply to the Board for an exemption.

Rationale: The Select program is designed to provide extra development and competition without undermining Local League play. These rules ensure shared opportunities and balanced representation.

9. Equal Play & OMHA Regulations

- Select teams must comply with OMHA Equal Ice-Time regulations.
 - Coaches are expected to provide fair and consistent opportunities for all players in practices and games.
 - Situational use (e.g., penalty kill, power play, final minutes) is permitted but equal play must remain the guiding principle across the season.
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10. Bench Staff Representation

- Bench staff must represent Local League teams equitably within the division.
 - The First Assistant Coach may not come from the same LL team as the Head Coach. Unless unavoidable, the Head Coach and First Assistant Coach will be appointed at the same time.
 - This ensures balanced decision-making, equitable opportunities, and avoidance of bias.
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11. Eligibility & Commitment

- Players must be registered with DMHA Local League and in good standing.
 - Local League commitments take priority. Players may not miss LL games or practices for Select activities.
 - Failure to meet Local League obligations may result in suspension or removal from the Select roster.
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12. Practice Guidelines

- Select teams may schedule up to one practice every other week.
- Select practices must not interfere with Local League practices, games, or events.
- The Select team is responsible for securing ice time and covering associated costs.

13. Games, Tournaments & Travel Permits

- Select teams U13 and up may attend up to 4 tournaments per season. U11 and down must follow OMHA player pathways.
- Select teams may play up to 2 exhibition games per month (home or away).
- All exhibition games and tournaments must:
 - Be scheduled only against sanctioned OMHA/OHF/Hockey Canada member teams of the same age category.
 - Receive DMHA Executive approval.
 - Be sanctioned via a valid Travel Permit submitted through the OMHA Portal.
 - Exhibition games within the OHF branch require approval from the Regional Director.
 - Games outside the OHF branch require approval from the OMHA Executive Director (fees may apply).
- Participation in unsanctioned games is prohibited and may void Hockey Canada insurance coverage.
- Select Coaches or Managers will work with LL Coaches and Managers to ensure there is no overlap of Tournament dates and advise the LL Convenor of any known blackout dates.

14. Fees & Financial Accountability

- Select participation requires payment of a Select Team Fee in addition to Local League fees.
- A team budget must be prepared by the Head Coach and staff in consultation with families, following DMHA guidelines.
- A Team Manager must maintain full financial transparency, with reports provided as required by DMHA.
- Allowable fees may include:
 - Tryout fees
 - Team fees
 - Practices / additional training
 - Tournament costs
 - Exhibition games
 - Team uniforms (jerseys, socks, etc.)

- Referees and timekeepers
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15. Uniform Rules

- Select uniforms must align with DMHA colours and design standards.
 - Select teams may work with the DMHA equipment manager to determine if league-owned jerseys are available for use or to purchase DMHA-approved jerseys that follow DMHA colour, design, and logo standards. Purchased jerseys may include player name bars and their chosen number.
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16. Coaching & Team Staff

- Head Coaches and staff must be approved by the DMHA Board and hold all required OMHA/DMHA certifications.
 - Staff appointments must follow the representation rules outlined above.
 - All staff are subject to the same screening and certification requirements as Local League officials.
 - All staff are assumed to have accepted acknowledgment of compliance with DMHA Select Policy.
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17. Conduct & Discipline

- All players, coaches, and families are bound by OMHA and DMHA Codes of Conduct.
 - Misconduct, abuse of officials, or repeated failure to meet commitments may result in suspension or removal from the Select program.
 - Suspensions carry across both Local League and Select participation.
 - Breaches of this policy may result in removal of Select team privileges for the season.
 - Appeals may be directed to the OMHA only where applicable under its regulations.
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18. Policy Enforcement & Review

- The DMHA Board is responsible for enforcing this policy.
 - Violations may result in sanctions against individuals or the team.
 - This policy will be reviewed annually (August) by the DMHA Board to ensure continued compliance with OMHA regulations.
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19. Approval & Effective Date

Approved by the Dorchester Minor Hockey Association Board of Directors on 2025-09-15.
Effective for the 2025-2026 hockey year.