



N.W.M.H.A.

New Westminister Minor Hockey Association
P.O. Box 456 New Westminister, B.C. V3L 4Y8
nwmha.ca

To all NWMHA Rep Tryout Families:

We at NWMHA realize that the decision to enter the "A" division hockey program is an important decision and one that should not be taken lightly. The additional commitments of both time and money should be considered before entering tryouts.

We encourage your family to consider the following before finalizing your decision:

1. A tremendously high-level of commitment is expected from all "A" division players with respect to attitude, attendance and all other team activities. Players must be ready to commit to this level of involvement.
2. For "A1" level players, hockey must be the highest priority sport throughout the season. Commitment to the team is imperative.
3. It is not sufficient to simply possess the necessary skills and ability required at any particular level. Players are ambassadors of the City of New Westminister, 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 reassigned to another team. Please remember that you have signed up for a competitive sport and for the opportunity to represent the Community.
4. In addition to the commitment of time, "A" division hockey requires sufficient additional costs over "C" division hockey and parents and players should expect additional costs for items such as travel, extra ice, dry land training, apparel, etc. Money is raised either through fundraising activities (encouraged) or direct payment by parents – this is usually decided by the parent group at the start of the season. Rep team fees can vary from \$250 - \$500 per player. These costs are to cover tournament fees, required team clothing (tracksuits, practice jerseys, jackets) and additional ice time (the association only pays for one practice ice time per team and rep level teams practice two times per week). Travel is likely required, attending out-of-town tournaments and possibly the Provincial Championship during the season. Volunteer, non-parent coaches also have their travel expenses (hotel and meals) covered by their teams.



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In advance of our tryouts beginning, we want to share NWMHA's expectations and guidelines for players and parents through-out the process. This is a very emotional time of year in our association and the stress level amongst players, parents, coaches, and executive members can be very high. Our hope is that this advanced warning of expectations and rules during the tryout process will hopefully reduce the potential for conflict and alleviate some stress.

Our expectations are as follows:

Communication

1. Communication between parents and coaches or evaluators during the tryout process is **strictly** forbidden. Any suspicion or accusation regarding a parent approaching a coach or evaluator in any manner (face-to-face, electronically, at the rink, outside of the rink or otherwise) until the final rosters are set will be thoroughly investigated. Any communication between a parent and coach or evaluator until the roster is finalized can be interpreted as an attempt to manipulate the process and, if proven, may affect your child's standing in the process.
2. All communication regarding the process during tryouts must go through the Division Manager, until the team is set. Once a coach has been named and is in charge of the team, the coach may directly communicate with families to inform them of the schedule, but any parent-coach communication is expected to go through your Division Manager.
3. The Division Manager is unable to provide you with individual details of your players scores, placements or otherwise. ***Please refrain from asking.*** Communication will be provided to all of the players at the same time and will be communicated through email.
4. There will be no spectators during tryouts.



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Identifying Equipment

1. Pant shells and non NWMHA helmet stickers MUST be removed before stepping on the ice and must remain off through-out the entire process.
2. Any player wearing pant shells or helmet stickers will be immediately removed from the ice until the pant shell or sticker is removed.
3. NWMHA socks are preferred.
4. Tryout jerseys will be assigned to each player at the start of the tryouts by the Division Manager. It is the players' responsibility to look after that jersey and have it present for each session. Players are not able to skate without their assigned jersey and will therefore forfeit that round if forgotten.

Who does the Evaluations? NWMHA uses outside evaluators to help with Round 1. For the past number of years RPM has sent 2 employees to do the evaluation for each group. They are responsible in helping to create the list of kids that move forward in the tryout process. The head coach will also be able to do his own evaluation at the same time. However this list is not used by RPM to create the list for kids to move forward. At the beginning of tryouts the coach can discuss with the evaluators what type of team he is looking for and his expectations.

Round 1: Generally, involves a minimum of 1-2 ice times run by volunteers with all skaters being evaluated by outside evaluators. At the completion of round 1, some players will be released from the tryout process. The Division Manager will notify all players whether they will be moving on in the tryout process or being released.

Round 2: Depending on numbers, there may be a second round of tryouts with additional releases (notification is sent out by the Division Manager).

Final Round: The A1 coach leads the remaining 16-20 players through the final tryout process. The A1 coach will make the final releases from the A1 team. Note: team size differs from year to year but cannot be less than 12 skaters and 1 goalie or more than 17 skaters and 2 goalies.

Players released from this final stage will either go to the A2 team final tryouts or, if there is no A2 team, then they will be assigned to a C team.



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Taxi Squads

Depending on the final size of rep team, the last 5 players released from the rep tryouts may be invited to be on the taxi squad. Taxi squad players are invited to 1 practice per week and have the opportunity to be called up to play for the rep team as the need arises (to a maximum of 10 times). There are no additional fees for taxi squad players unless they are asked to play up for a tournament or wish to purchase team clothing.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that our tryout process is fair for all participants and wish each of you the best of luck.

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

The NWMHA Executive