



# N.W.M.H.A.

New Westminster Minor Hockey Association  
P.O. Box 456 New Westminster, B.C. V3L 4Y8  
[nwmha.ca](http://nwmha.ca)

To all NWMHA Rep Tryout Families:

We understand that the decision to participate in the "A" division hockey program is significant, and one that warrants careful consideration. The added commitments, both time and financial, should be thoroughly weighed prior to entering the tryouts.

We encourage your family to reflect on the following points before finalizing your decision to participate in the tryout process:

**1. \*\*Commitment\*\***

"A" division players are required to demonstrate a strong level of commitment to attending and actively participating in all team activities. These include games, practices, tournament, team building events, and dryland training opportunities. Hockey should be regarded as a primary focus throughout the season.

**2. \*\*Behavior & Conduct\*\***

Possessing the necessary skills isn't enough. Players represent the City of New Westminster, both at home and abroad. Their behavior both on and off the ice must adhere to elevated standards. Conduct-related concerns could influence the selection process and potentially result in reassignment during the season.

**3. \*\*Financial Considerations\*\***

"A" division hockey incurs significant additional costs compared to "C" division hockey. Parents and players should anticipate expenses for travel, additional ice time, dryland training, required team apparel and more. It is not unusual for team fees to be an additional \$500 or more, and they are due at the onset of the season.

In addition to team fees, "A" division teams will likely travel during the season and may participate in out-of-town tournaments and Provincial Championships. Families will incur travel costs and may be responsible to fund the costs of meals, mileage, and hotels for volunteer non-parent coaches.



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In preparation for the upcoming tryouts, we'd like to outline NWMHA's expectations and guidelines for both players and parents throughout this process. This time of year can be emotionally charged, so by providing clear expectations we are hoping to minimize conflicts and alleviate stress. Our expectations are as follows:

## 1. **\*\*Communication\*\***

- a. Avoid communicating directly with coaches or evaluators during the tryout process. The suspicion of any such communication before final roster is set will be investigated and could affect your child's standing.
- b. All communication about the process must go through the Division Manager until the team is finalized. Coaches may communicate the schedule once selected, but parent-coach communication should involve the Division Manager.
- c. Individual player communications are not provided by the Division Manager. Communications will be sent to all players simultaneously via email.
- d. Spectators are not permitted during tryouts.

## 2. **\*\*Equipment\*\***

- a. Players must remove pant shells and non-NWMHA helmet stickers before stepping on the ice, and these should remain off during the process. In general, items that make the player uniquely identifiable to the evaluators are prohibited. Players wearing items considered to be prohibited will be temporarily removed from the ice until their equipment has been corrected.
- b. Players should wear NWMHA socks if possible.
- c. Players will be assigned tryout pinnies, and the assigned pinnie will need to be worn at all tryout events. Failure to bring the assigned pinnie to at tryout session may cause the player to be disqualified from the session.



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## How do the evaluations work?

### Stage 1: Division Talent Assessment Camp (Policy 2.1)

In accordance with our [Policies](#), NWMHA uses professional independent evaluators during Stage 1 (Division Talent Assessment Camp) to select the top 18 to 20 players and top 2-3 goalies shall according to criteria defined by the Assessment Committee. While the Policy specifies up to four ice times (consisting of skill evaluations and game-like play) for each division during Stage 1, some players may be released after any of the sessions. The Division Manager will contact you after each of the four evaluation sessions to advise if you have advanced or not. More details are available under Policy 2.1.

### Stage 2: "A" Team Final Selection Process (Policy 2.2)

Run by the A1 head coach for each division, the second stage of the tryouts will continue to emphasize skill assessment, but will include more game situational drills and game analysis. The players will also be assessed for attributes such as leadership, confidence, knowledge of the game, coachability, and other such criteria as deemed relevant by the Head Coach. The "A" team Head Coach will further clarify the selection criteria to the parents/guardians and players in writing or in person.

Players who have advanced to Stage 2 must play at least 2 games before being released. However, a returning player (i.e. played A1 in the same division the previous year) may be assigned to the A1 team without playing two games.

Players released from this final stage will either be assessed/assigned to an A2 team (if applicable under Policy 2.2.1), and/or assigned to a C team.

At the June 2023 meeting, the NWMHA Executive voted to replace existing Policy 2.2.1 with the following:

#### **Policy 2.2.1 Number of Rep Teams:**

The number of Rep "A" teams for each division shall be determined annually by a committee composed of the President, Registrar, Coach Coordinator, and Division Manager.

This committee considers the following factors in determining the number of Rep "A" teams in each division:

- The number of players interested in playing Rep "A" hockey.
- Their skill, commitment, and fitness.
- The ability to meet minimum team sizes for the Rec "C" teams.
- The availability of qualified coaches, goaltenders, and ice times.

The committee may consult with non-biased external evaluators to arrive at their decision.

Should the committee not reach unanimous consensus, the Executive as a whole will be consulted. Decisions by the Executive will be made based upon a simple majority vote of members in attendance.



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## **Policy 2.5.1 Taxi Squad**

Depending on the final size of rep team, the last 5 players released from the rep tryouts will be invited to be on the taxi squad. Taxi squad players will be invited to a minimum of one "A" practice per week and may also have the opportunity to be called up to play for the "A" team as the need arises (in accordance with PCAHA rules and limitations). 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,

Justin Bourne  
President, New Westminster Minor Hockey Association