



**Policies and Procedures of the Abbotsford Minor Hockey Association**

**P-7**

**Rep Hockey Policy**

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Version 1.0

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Rep hockey program in the AMHA encompasses players in Atom (9-10 years old), PeeWee (11-12 years old), Bantam (12-14 years old), Midget (15-17 years old).
- 1.2. The AMHA tries to follow the Hockey Canada and BC Hockey Long Term Athlete Development program model as close as possible with a few alterations for delivery and implementation to take into account the nuances of our Association and league requirements.
- 1.3. The key element to Rep hockey is the presence of “Body Checking” (also referred to as “Hitting” or “Checking” at the Bantam and Midget levels.
- 1.4. “Body Contact” (also called “Non-Hitting or “Non-Checking” is the type of hockey Recreational hockey plays. “Body Contact” hockey is a high level game played without body checking. Body contact hockey is played at all levels of hockey under Hockey Canada Regulations.
- 1.5. “Body Checking” versus “Body Contact” definitions
  - 1.5.1. “Body Checking” is an individual defensive tactic to legally separate the puck carrier from the puck It results from a defensive play extending the body toward the puck carrier moving in an opposite or parallel direction. The action of the defensive player is deliberate and forceful in the opposite direction to the offensive player’s movement. It is not based only on the movement of the puck carrier.
  - 1.5.2. “Body Contact” is an individual defensive tactic to legally block or impede an offensive puck carrier. It results from the defensive player restricting movement of the puck carrier anywhere on the ice through skating, angling and positioning. The defensive player may not hit the offensive player by going in the opposite direction to the player or by extending toward the offensive player to initiate contact. There must be no action to push, hit or shove the puck carrier into the board.

## 2. Number of Rep Teams

- 2.1. The AMHA Board of Directors each season will make a decision on the number of Rep teams in each division based upon recommendations from the Executive Director, Hockey Director with input from the Registrar.
  - 2.1.1. The recommendation can be made at any time, but no later than September 13th of each season to coincide with the PCAHA Team Declaration deadline of September 15th.

- 2.1.2. After Phase 1 of the AMHA tryouts, the Hockey Director will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors based upon the skill level of any division to add or eliminate a Rep team(s) at any division.

### 3. Rep Tryout Policy

- 3.1. **Overall Rep Tryout Objectives** - AMHA would like to assess each player wishing to play at a higher level, on their skills and abilities at the time of evaluation in a fair and transparent manner.
- 3.2. Each year the AMHA will produce a “**Rep Tryout Procedure Guidelines**” document which outlines the tryout procedures. This document will be updated and posted online at the AMHA website for all members to read prior to Rep Tryouts starting.
- 3.3. **Player Evaluation Objectives** - The “Rep Tryout Procedure Guidelines” document each year will outline the Player Evaluation Objectives.
- 3.4. **Player Evaluation Procedures** - The “Rep Tryout Procedure Guidelines” document each year will outline the Player evaluation procedures.
  - 3.4.1. This process will outline a separate section for Goaltenders.
- 3.5. All identified coaches for each division are required to be in attendance during their division tryouts. These coaches may or may not be asked to supply player evaluation.
- 3.6. Player assignment should be done with the utmost dispatch. At no time will “lobbying to have another look” directed towards a coach, member of the evaluation staff, Staff Member or Board Member be accepted. Should a player or parent disagree with their placement, parents are required to follow the rep Tryout Guidelines protocol.
- 3.7. **Final Team Selection** - The “Rep Tryout Procedure Guidelines” each year will outline the final team selection criteria.
- 3.8. Upon selection to a Rep Team additional fees such as, but not limited to:
  - 3.8.1.1. Carding fees are mandatory as per the current year’s approved carding fee;
  - 3.8.1.2. Rep Coach payment fees for non-parent coaches;
  - 3.8.1.3. Additional travel;
  - 3.8.1.4. Skill Development coaching;
  - 3.8.1.5. Team Fees;
  - 3.8.1.6. Apparel
  - 3.8.1.7. Amongst other approved expenses.
- 3.9. Sixteen (16) first year players must be selected to play within the Rep Teams for the Atom, Pee Wee, Bantam Divisions only. One (1) of the first year players must be a goalie. With respect to the final release only, if the second year player’s skills exceed the skills of the first year player, the Board of Directors may change the number of first year players in the Rep system. Midget players will be selected for Rep teams on their own merit, the 16 first year player rule will not apply.
- 3.10. If a carded player indicates that he/she does not wish to play for this team, he/she will not be allowed to go to the next lower Rep team or a “Rec” level team

for his/her division, but will go to the “Rec” level for the age division above, unless otherwise approved by the AMHA Board of Directors.

- 3.11. **Releases** - The “Rep Tryout Procedure Guidelines” will outline the various stages where Player Releases will occur, and how they will occur.
- 3.12. Rec player movement
  - 3.12.1. In the case of an injury where the player is not going to be able to return to his/her team, the team must advise the Hockey Director and Division Director of the situation. The Team Officials will be informed by the Division Director of the decision and removal of the player from the team roster may occur. Permission to replace such player may be approved by the Board of Directors at this time.
  - 3.12.2. The Registrar must be notified of any such decisions on the date that they are finalized. No player involved in such a move is permitted to attend any games or practices with the Association until the Registrar has completed the paperwork to finalize the movement with PCAHA, BC Hockey, Hockey Canada as per their guidelines. The player is therefore ineligible to play for any team until final approval is given by the Registrar.
- 3.13. **Coach Assignments** - The “Rep Tryout Procedure Guidelines” will outline coach assignments for both parent and nonparent Rep coaches each year.
- 3.14. **Injuries and Sickness** - The Rep Tryout Procedure Guidelines” will outline all injury and sickness procedures each year.
- 3.15. **Appeals** - The “Rep Tryout Procedure Guidelines” will outline the Appeal Process each year.

#### 4. Evaluation Team

- 4.1. The Hockey Director each year will have the sole authority completely independent from the Board of Directors each year to assemble an evaluation team as he/she sees fit and is required by the AMHA. The “Rep Tryout Procedure Guidelines” each year will outline specifics about the evaluation team.

#### 5. Player Evaluation Eligibility

- 5.1. All players must be registered with AMHA and be in ‘good standing’.
- 5.2. Registration & Rep fees must be paid before the player is permitted on the ice.
- 5.3. All parents/guardians must sign the Parent/Supporter Code of Conduct.
- 5.4. A minimum of one (1) parent must attend the Rep Parent Meeting prior to their child participating in Rep Tryouts.
- 5.5. Injuries – if a player cannot participate due to a medically excused injury, a Dr.’s note must be submitted to the Director of the Division. \*\* see injury section for further details.
- 5.6. Special Circumstance Application
  - 5.6.1. Application may be made to the Board of Directors prior to August 1st. Application must include documentation of the situation and if applicable any “mitigation strategies” the family is willing to put forth

to minimize the impact on the evaluation process. As guideline the following may be used:

- 5.6.1.1. Immediate Family Wedding: local - 1 day, out of town 3 days.
- 5.6.1.2. Bereavement: Immediate family 5 days, extended family 2 days.
- 5.6.2. Application may be made to the Board of Directors for any new player to AMHA moving into the association after the Rep release wishing to play rep hockey will first be registered on a Recreational team. The player will then report to the lowest rep team for a minimum of 2 practices, if the coach deems his skills to be equal to those on his team he will AP the player to his team and have the player play in 2 games and be evaluated by an independent evaluator. The Coach, Evaluator, Division Director and Hockey Director will determine whether the players skills warrant him/her staying on the team, if at any time the players skills exceed those on the team he/she is on the Coach above or Division Director may move the player up and go through the same evaluation process. Any new player to AMHA joining a rep team after Oct 15 will not displace another player, the team will have to play with an extra player.

## 6. **Affiliate Player Policy**

- 6.1. Players registered with the AMHA are assigned to teams at the discretion of the AMHA for the overall benefit of the Association. The purpose of the Affiliate player policy is to benefit the needs of the Association by permitting all player and teams to compete at the highest level possible, and to provide as many opportunities to players as such.
  - 6.1.1. In the Atom Division, the A1 can only affiliate from A2, A2 only affiliate from A3, and A3 can affiliate from all of Recreational hockey. The lowest Rep team is the only team that can affiliate from Recreational.
- 6.2. To this end, it is not feasible for all Affiliate players to attend 100% of the time.
- 6.3. In order to be eligible to be an Affiliate Player (Atom/Peewee/Bantam) you must have tried out for Rep hockey.
- 6.4. **Affiliate Player Policy:**
  - 6.4.1. Affiliate player selection shall be done under the supervision of the Hockey Director. The Hockey Director will make recommendations with the Division Director in each division.
  - 6.4.2. Upon conclusion of Rep Tryouts, the Hockey Director will recommend to the Division Director and the Division Director will

assign 5 Affiliate players (3 Forwards, 2 Defensemen, 1 goaltender) to each Rep Team based upon the evaluators.

- 6.4.3. Commencing November 1st, each Head Coach of a Rep team “may” apply to the Hockey Director and Division Director for additional Affiliate players to be added to their roster.
  - 6.4.3.1. Additional Affiliate Player timelines will be in order starting with A1, or in accordance to the following schedule:
    - 6.4.3.1.1. November 1-3 - A1 teams
    - 6.4.3.1.2. November 4-7 - A2 teams
    - 6.4.3.1.3. November 8-11 - A3 teams
- 6.4.4. The bottom Rep team has the ability to affiliate 12 players, while each other team can have only a maximum of 10 after the November additional Affiliate player period. These affiliate players will be selected based upon the evaluator rankings in tryouts.
- 6.4.5. When a player has been asked to be an affiliate they have the right to accept or decline the invitation.
  - 6.4.5.1. In the event the player accepts the invitation, both player and parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be required to sign the Affiliate Player Commitment agreement.
  - 6.4.5.2. In the event the player declines the invitation the higher team moves onto the next affiliate player as per this policy.
- 6.4.6. In the case of Pee Wee Players being called up to Bantam, due to the impact of “Body Checking” all Pee Wee players must have completed a “Checking and Contact Confidence Clinic” and have approval of both the Hockey Director, and Division Director prior to being offered an affiliate player spot.

#### 6.5. **Use of Affiliate Players:**

- 6.5.1. An affiliate players first commitment is to their regular team, but in the case of a conflict coaches must exercise common sense in coming to a suitable resolution. In the event a suitable resolution cannot be made amongst the coaches, the Division Director will make the decision for the coaches, with input from the Hockey Director and President.
- 6.5.2. If their regular team has a game it is up to the coach to let the Affiliate player play up. Affiliate players are to be used on an “as need basis” and all requests for affiliates must be copied to the Division Director.
- 6.5.3. In the event the Affiliate player has a practice with their regular team, the regular team’s coach will have the discretion to let the player play up.
- 6.5.4. Coaches should not hold players back from being called up. Coaches should exhaust all means necessary to have the “trickle up effect”. If a team loses a player to a team above, they try to bring

up a player from a team below. This holds true for practices and games.

- 6.5.5. As part of the Affiliate player process, Affiliate players are to expect that Playing Time may be different from that of their regular team. Families assume this risk in being an Affiliate player.

## **6.6. Coaches and Affiliate Players:**

- 6.6.1. Once a player has been Affiliated, Coaches cannot hold back players from being called up to a higher team with the exception of games and/or discipline. To this end, both coaches must have open dialogue on affiliate player call ups.
- 6.6.2. Coaches who call up an Affiliate Player are encouraged and expected to play the Affiliate Player in a reasonable amount of ice time (situationally dependent in all games). Goaltenders due to position specificity may not see any ice time.

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## **7.1. Affiliate Call Up Procedure:**

- 7.1.1. The use of Affiliate Players is part of the Coaches responsibility in respect to managing their roster. Coaches must manage the Affiliate player call up process, **not managers**.
- 7.1.2. In the case of A1 and A2 teams, the Coach of the higher team places a call to the coach of the lower team and is required to ask “who deserves to be called up from the list of affiliates”? The coach of the lower team answers this question based upon the players work ethic, play, and behavioural factors. The coach from the team above chooses a player based upon the merits listed from the lower team coach.
- 7.1.3. In the case of A3 (or the lowest Rep team if the association has an A4 team) a list of Affiliate Players who are playing in Rec hockey will be made. The coach of this team can request the Affiliate Player from the Recreational team similar to the process in 6.6.2 but there may be safety considerations considered as well.
- 7.1.4. Once the discussion amongst the coaches has been had, the Coach or the manager can make the calls to the affected players.

## **7.2. Special Circumstances:**

- 7.2.1. In the event that a team drops to 12 skaters, an agreement between both teams may be made for an affiliate player to be used and miss a practice with their regular team.
- 7.2.2. in the event that the affiliating team has less than 12 skaters, the affiliating team may use affiliate players in order to bring the affiliating team to 12 skaters, even if this requires the player to miss a practice with their regular team. Additional affiliate players may be used to bring the team to full strength as permitted by this policy.

- 7.2.3. In the event that an affiliating team has one goalie, an agreement between both teams may be made to use an affiliate goalie and miss a practice with their regular team.
- 7.2.4. In the event that an affiliating team does not have a goalie, they shall be permitted to call up an affiliate goalie regardless of the status of the affiliate goalie's regular team. As much notice as possible shall be provided to the affiliate goalie's regular team to permit them to make alternate arrangements if necessary.
- 7.2.5. If a circumstance arises where the use of an affiliate goalie leaves a team without a goalie, that team shall use an affiliate goalie or a replacement per PCAHA rules.
- 7.2.6. Affiliate players are limited to 10 league and/or playoff games per season. Goaltenders are exempt and must follow the appropriate rule from the PCAHA Rulebook.
- 7.2.7. In certain circumstances, where the use of an affiliate player is, in the opinion of the Division Director(s) of the affected divisions, a benefit to the Association, the Director(s) may permit or direct the use of an affiliate player.