

FMMHA Elite Stream Tryout Process

This Directive outlines the FMMHA Elite Team process for the Fort McMurray Minor Hockey Association.

The Atom Development, Pee wee A and AA, Bantam A, will follow this process and AA and Midget A and AA teams. In the case of female hockey, if there will be more than one team in a division, this directive will be utilized by the Female Director(s) as appropriate; specifically modifications to the process will be reviewed and agreed upon by the Female Director(s) and the President.

Coordination of Rep Try-outs: The VP of Administration, hereafter “VP of Admin” coordinates and oversees the evaluation and selection of players for all A and AA teams. Concerns or complaints over the process shall be directed to the VP of Admin’s attention. The exception will be in circumstances where the VP of Admin has children involved in the selection process. In the applicable division(s), another FMMHA member and/or the Elite Director will be appointed by the President to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest by the membership.

Appeals: Members not satisfied with a decision of VP Admin on a complaint submitted to his/her attention on the selection process may submit an appeal to the President of the Association in accordance with the by-laws.

Eligibility: Try-outs for the Elite teams are open to all duly registered members of the Fort McMurray Minor Hockey Association as authorized in the Hockey Alberta Rules and Regulations.

Timing: The try-outs will start near the end of August. The try-out schedule will be posted on the FMMHA Web Site at least 4 days prior to the first try-out session. All eligible and interested players will be provided a minimum of one ice time for evaluation.

Late arrival / Inability to participate in Try-out Process

Players **MUST** attend at least one open evaluation session to be eligible to move on in the selection process. Depending on player numbers there will be a minimum of 2 open evaluation sessions offered. Extenuating circumstances beyond a player’s control **MAY** be considered on a case -by case basis. These extenuating circumstances will be required to be reviewed by the Head Coaches, the Elite Director and the VP of Admin as well as approved by the President.

Any player who wishes to play on a development team or in the elite stream, must attend the Elite Stream tryouts. *With the exception of players trying out for the Bantam and Midget AAA Zone 2 teams in Fort Saskatchewan, who **will not** be penalized and shall be added to the try-out list if they are released from the AAA team.* Coaches will ensure regular player positions are left vacant up to the final selection date of the AAA teams to allow for the return of players to the Fort McMurray Elite Stream teams.

All players who want to be considered for a spot in the elite stream will tryout together. Players who seek to play ‘elite’ should in essence be striving to play AA. Thus, a player who makes AA cannot turn down the AA spot to play A. *Players who do not wish to make a commitment are better served in house league.* The idea is for FMMHA to develop two teams

- a AA team comprised of the top (highest ranked according to evaluations) 15 to 17 + 2 goalies and the next ranked players; 16 to 18 through 34, plus next 2 goalies filling the A roster. Essentially all of the A team is then affiliated to the AA team.

Affiliates: Any player who agrees to become an affiliate, must move up when required. This may include practices, drylands, and games; both home and away. Coaches must give as much notice as possible to allow the cooperating coach time to pull players up from their affiliate list. When needed, affiliates will play with the affiliated team. This will have a trickle effect on the corresponding teams. For example; Bantam AA needs an affiliate player from Bantam A – that player goes up to AA and the House League affiliate goes up to A.

Tryout fees: \$150 for Peewee, Bantam and Midget Divisions. This will be split 50/50 between both teams. Atom Development fees will be \$75.00. ALL PLAYERS MUST BE REGISTERED WITH FMMHA FOR THE SEASON AND NOT HAVE ANY OUTSTANDING FEES.

Fitness Evaluations: Midget AA for 2018-19. Off ice fitness evaluations will be considered for the tryout.

Rosters: Final rosters will consist of 17 players and 2 goaltenders. This allows for maximum development and assists with potential injuries. Coaches may choose to use the 17 player roster as he/she wishes. For example – not all players may always dress.

Peewee Bantam and Midget Evaluations Process:

**** NOTE WELL – These numbers are meant to be a guide and will be impacted annually by the number of players who show up to tryout. *With permission by the board* – Coaches/evaluators may wish to alter the number of players and goalies or number of Blue/Gold Games vs ice times.**

- **Open:** The first ice session is open to all eligible players who have paid their registration, have no outstanding fees and have paid their try out fee. This ice time will focus on basic individual skills such as skating, stick handling, shooting and passing. The team coaching staff and other appointed assistants who do not have children on the ice will carry out these evaluations. The players will be split into two separate ice times; Last names starting with A-L & M-Z.
- **Top 40:** The Top Forty (40) players and six (6) goaltenders will be invited to the next ice session. The “Top 40” selections are to be forwarded to the VP Admin, or an appointed delegate for review and agreement a minimum of one day prior to the next ice time. NOTE - Players not chosen inside the top 40 will be invited to attend their respective WBHL Divisional Evaluations. Any players released after the first ice time may be eligible to be carded by the development team (‘A’ Team). Evaluations will focus on basic individual skills.
- **Top 36:** The Top Thirty-Six (36) players and 4 goaltenders will be invited for the remaining try-outs. *Again, with the coaches’ discretion and board approval – player and goalie numbers may change.* Top “36” will go as follows:

- The Top 36 will be split in 2 “teams” of 18 plus 2 goalies for two separate ice times. This allows maximum exposure for all players to be fairly and accurately assessed. The “Top 36” selections are to be forwarded to the VP of Admin, or an appointed delegate for review and agreement a minimum of one day prior to the next ice time.
- Players not chosen to the Top 36 will be required to attend the WBHL evaluations to be tiered in their division. Goaltenders who are not selected to the final roster will be required to attend the WBHL goaltender evaluations to be tiered in their division.
- Practice tempo and complexity increase. Additional factors are added to the evaluations such as work ethic, ability to work on team, discipline and responding to direction.
- **Blue vs Gold Games:** Teams will be finalized to maximum permitted roster after two or three scheduled “Blue vs Gold” games. **Peewee and Atom – 2 Blue Gold Games, **Bantam and Midget – 3 Blue Gold Games. Rosters may change for each game at the discretion of the Coaches and Evaluators.
- **Evaluation Committee:** An evaluation committee consisting of the Elite Director and no less than three (3) independent individuals who have limited or no knowledge of the team being evaluated, appointed by the VP Admin or a delegate and approved by the President will evaluate players during the two/three Blue vs Gold Games.

Evaluations will include basic skills plus game playing abilities. **For the Bantam and Midget Divisions, the games will be played with body checking.**

The following basic requirements will apply during the Blue-Gold games:

- Coaches will make every effort to give every player an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to play in all situations. As well, the coaching staff will evaluate players on attitude, aptitude, demeanor, sportsmanship, and work ethic.

Team Selection for all Elite Teams (Atom Development, Peewee A & AA, Bantam A & AA and Midget A & AA)

Following the conclusion of each Blue vs. Gold Game, the VP of Administration (or an appointed delegate) and the Elite Director will meet with the evaluation committee and compile the results of the evaluations. ***NOTE WELL - All players will participate in all ice times unless there are extenuating circumstances and is approved by the VP of Admin and President.* (This does not include possible Bantam or Midget Players who are still attending and in the running for AAA).

The VP Admin, the Elite Director or an appointed delegate will chair a meeting of the evaluation committee at the conclusion of each Blue/Gold game to discuss and resolve any discrepancies in the ranking and to take into consideration intangible factors. A final ranking will be produced of all players and goaltenders. The final ranking will be approved by the VP Admin or appointed delegate prior to posting on the Fort McMurray Minor Hockey Association

website. Any postings on the website will be done in alphabetical order so as not to indicate ranking.

Players released from AAA and Junior tryouts could potentially force player movement, as returning players must be evaluated by coaching staff. **However, as per Hockey Alberta the final Elite Stream Team rosters will be set to a maximum of 19 including goalies.** Head Coach(es) may select a roster less than this maximum # of players and may do so with the approval of the President.

NOTE: Players may be added to the maximum permitted roster or deleted from the roster at anytime up to the Hockey Alberta Deadline - January 10, 2019. The President must approve any roster changes from the team selection timelines above after September 17, 2018 until January 10, 2019. *Each team is required to fill their roster lists to a maximum.*

Atom Development Team Evaluation Process:

NOTE – these numbers are meant to be a guide and will be impacted annually by the number of players who show up to tryout. With permission by the board – Coaches/evaluators may wish to alter the number of players and goalies or number of Blue/Gold Games vs ice times.

- **Open:** The first ice session is open to all eligible players who have paid their registration, have no outstanding fees and have paid their try out fee. This ice time will focus on basic individual skills such as skating, stick handling, shooting and passing. The team coach and appointed assistants who do not have children on the ice will carry out these evaluations. The players will be split into two separate ice times; Last names starting with A-L & M-Z.
- **Top 30:** The Top Thirty (30) players and six (6) goaltenders will be invited to the next ice session. The “Top 30” selections are to be forwarded to the VP Admin, the Elite Director, or an appointed delegate for review and agreement a minimum of one day prior to the next ice time. NOTE - Players not chosen inside the top 30 will be invited to attend their respective WBHL Divisional Evaluations. Evaluations will focus on basic individual skills.
- **Top 24:** The Top Twenty-Four (24) players and 4 goaltenders will be invited for the remaining try-outs. The “Top 24” selections are to be forwarded to the VP Admin, or an appointed delegate for review. The Head Coach will be off ice to complete evaluations with the exception of the scored/timed drills session. Players not chosen to the top 24 will be invited to attend the WBHL Tier 1 group evaluation of their respective Division.
- **Top 24 Ice times:** Once the Top 24 is selected there will be 3 more ice times – the first of which will be with the Coach running 3 vs 3, 4 vs 4 scrimmages and using ice time to allow him/her to best assess player abilities. Practice tempo and complexity increase. Additional factors are added to the evaluations such as work ethic, ability to work on

team, discipline and responding to direction. The final 2 ice times will be Blue/Gold Games.

- **Blue vs Gold Games:** Teams will be finalized to maximum permitted roster after two scheduled “Blue vs Gold” games. Rosters may change for each game at the discretion of the Coaches and Evaluators.
- **Evaluation Committee:** An evaluation committee consisting of the Elite Director and no less than three (3) independent individuals who have limited or no knowledge of the team being evaluated, appointed by the VP Admin or a delegate and approved by the President will evaluate players during the three Blue vs Gold Games.

Evaluations will include basic skills plus game playing abilities.

* See above for remaining process, as is the same throughout all divisions.

Confidentiality

The results of the evaluations will be confidential at all times. Any list of invitees or selected players list shall be published in alphabetical order. Any participants to the selection committee meeting shall abide with the confidentiality of the proceedings.

Evaluation results will only be provided as part of the appeals process outlined in this directive. Results, other than the results for the requesting member's child, will not be provided.

Discipline

A player may be suspended from the try-outs for the following reasons:

- Behavior in arena (on or off the ice) that is disrespectful of Association, team, teammates or coaches;
- Attempt to injure or injuring another player in a practice or game due to obvious disrespect of rules and regulations or directives provided by coaching staff
- Any use or possession of banned substances including alcohol and vapes
- Bullying incidents at or off-ice related to try-outs or Minor Hockey

A parent may be suspended from attending try-out session for behavior not in accordance with the parent code of conduct including:

- Abuse of on ice team official, evaluators or other member of the Association
- Failure to abide and accept the try-out process and procedures
- Severe or repeated violation of the Parent's Code of Conduct may lead to the exclusion of a player from the team

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be part of the evaluation and selection process:

Skating

- Quickness, Acceleration, Agility, Balance, Mobility
- Front, Back, Pivots, Turns, Strides

Hockey Skills

- Puck control, Passing, Receiving, Puck Protection, Puck movement...
- Shooting: Accuracy, variety, quick release, goes to net, accuracy
- Checking: angling, stick check, Body Check & Pins, Physical Presence
- Hockey sense: Positioning, playmaking, understanding of game, read and react

Work Ethics & Fitness

- Effort, desire to win, competitive, concentration, motivation, intensity

Coachability

- Attitude, Motivation, Effort, Team Cohesion, Team first attitude
- Mental toughness, Pressure situations, Leadership
- Cooperation, Learning skills, Character

Intangibles

The following intangible factors shall be considered in the final selection of a team in comparing players that are considered to have the same skillset and other necessary attributes, for example coachability.

- In such circumstances, preference will be given to 2nd year players in the division and 3rd year for Midget.
- Players that do not have a recorded history of recurring and frequent suspensions and other discipline incidents. A “top 19” player having a recorded history of recurring and frequent suspensions, Player Code of Conduct infractions and other discipline incidents may be added to the affiliated list and be given an opportunity to clearly demonstrate positive changes in their behavior. However, the player may be excluded from the team selection altogether if it becomes obvious during the try-outs that no changes in behavior have occurred.

Underage Players

Players are permitted to try-out for a Division above their age group. However, an underage player may only be selected for an Elite Team team if he/she is considered to be an **impact player**. More specifically, *a player would need to be ranked as one of the top 3 forwards or top 2 defensemen*. An underage goaltender would only be considered if he/she is the top

goaltender of the Division by a wide margin. **NOTE-At the time of selection of the Top 24 for Atom or Top 36 for other divisions, should an underage player not be ranked in the top 6 forwards or top 4 defense or the top 2 goaltenders, this player will not be selected to the Top 24/Top 36 and will return to the elite stream evaluations of their age group or WBHL evaluations at the discretion of the player and his/her parents.

The selection of an underage player selection must be approved by the President of the Association upon joint recommendation by the Head Coach, evaluation committee, Elite Director and VP of Admin, or appointed delegate.