

Player / Coach Selection Process

1. Player Selection Objective

- a. To provide a fair and impartial assessment of each players total hockey skills during both skill sessions and scrimmage sessions.
- b. To ensure that players have a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a team that is appropriate for their skill and development level for the current season.
- c. To form teams to maintain competitive play where the players can develop their skills and have fun playing hockey.
- d. To provide coaches with the opportunity and flexibility to build a team based in part on their own coaching philosophy and knowledge of the players skills, abilities and attitude.

2. Player Selection Team

- a. The Selection Committee will consist of the Division Director, Player & Coach Development Director, President, Vice President and Coach (es)
 - i. Division Directors will post player's dressing room number in the front lobby for the player and parents prior to the start of each session (the sweater number will be posted in the dressing rooms). Ensure all sweaters are collected at the end of the session.
 - ii. The Selection Committee will stay separated from any other observers and parents and will not share any results or comments with any player, parent or other observer. Any questions, comments or complaints will be referred to the Vice President or the Player Coach Development Director. Any family relation to any player(s) shall be disclosed prior to the start of the try out process.
 - iii. All Selection Committee members will attend a discussion in the WMHA office, after each tryout session.
- b. On Ice Coaches/Helpers
 - i. All on ice coaches/helpers are required to wear a CSA approved helmet.
 - ii. Ensure a proper warm up at the beginning of each ice session.
 - iii. Encourage the players to perform to the best of their ability.
 - iv. Do not share any of their personal insight with players, parents or other observers during the tryout process

3. Player Selection Process & Team Selection

The following are some of the skills coaches may look for while picking a team

Skills (Break-down)

Forwards and Defense

All Levels

1. Skating: Forward and backwards, cross-overs, two foot turns, stopping both directions, balance, speed, quick acceleration
2. Puck Handling: Ability to handle puck with head-up, difficult to remove puck, accurate passing, looking for pass
3. Shot: Accuracy, quick release and speed of shot, head up when shooting

Atom and Up

1. Hockey Sense: Ability to read the play (anticipation), playing the position, right play at the right time
2. Work Ethic & Attitude: The effort displayed in both drills and scrimmages, attention to coaches instruction and feedback
3. Defensive Play: Back checking, good position in defensive zone, even and odd man defensive positioning

Bantam and Up

1. Body Contact: Proper body position in both giving and receiving a check, angle checking, legal and safe, one on one battles

Goaltenders

All Levels

1. Skating / Balance: Stance, movement forward and backward (C cuts), lateral movement both shuffle and t-glide, acceleration to free puck
2. Positional Play: Good angles, right depth for play, well set in time for the shot, square to shooter, ability to anticipate next play, good post save response
3. Puck Control: Control of rebounds, ability to freeze puck when required, handle puck well outside of net, stops rims, sets put for defense, strong accurate passes to team mates
4. Quickness / Reactions: Quickness of hands and feet, ability to react quickly to broken play
5. Focus / Concentration: Emotion control, maintaining composure, ability to focus after bad goal, able to focus on puck through a crowd, communicates well with team mates
6. Second Effort: Not willing to give up on a play (in practice and game), second effort to stop puck

A. Initiation and Novice

Hockey Canada mandated that Initiation and Novice both be called “Intro to Hockey” so players will be selected, in each division accordingly, to try and create teams that are fair and equal. A draft involving the head coaches will be carried out under the guidance of each respective Division Director. Parent requests should be made in writing to the Division Director. Only those requests that are deemed reasonable and do not affect the draft or any team’s balance will be honored. The only exception to this is, WMHA will be starting the 7 year old players in the “Intro to Hockey” program and having the 8 year old players on a team that will be tiered in a league for the 2018-19 season, as the mandate starts in the 2019-20 season.

B. Atom

Teams are tiered at this level. There will be a total of 3 skates, and in those 3 skates there will be a warm-up portion along with a scrimmage session. There will be no cuts until the 3rd and final skate of player try outs. Once the top team is selected, those players who were not chosen for that team will join with the remainder of the players for the next tiered team’s try outs and so on, if applicable.

C. Pee Wee, Bantam & Midget

Teams are tiered at this level. Players will try out by position (forward or defense). There will be a total of 3 skates, and in those 3 skates there will be a warm-up portion along with a scrimmage session. There will be no cuts until the 3rd and final skate of player try outs. Once the top team is selected, those players who were not chosen for that team will join with the remainder of the players for the next tiered team’s try outs and so on, if applicable.

Please note that because some of our players are trying out elsewhere the teams may not be finalized until players have come back and have had a minimum of one ice session. Spots may need to be reserved for players making it to late cuts at higher levels elsewhere (AA or AAA)

D. Goalies

Goalies from the Atom age group and up will try out along with the other players.

1. Head Coach / Assistant Coach Selections

The Player & Coach Development Director, in conjunction with the Division Director and along with The President and Vice President will form the Selection Committee and will choose the Head Coaches based on philosophy to coaching, teaching & instruction, communication with players & parents and experience. This will often involve an interview process. In cases of a conflict of interest with any of the Committee members, the person(s) will be excused from the interview process. All potential Coaches must fill out a Coaching Application and submit it to WMHA before being considered as a Head Coach or an Assistant Coach. All Assistant Coaches must be approved by the WMHA Selection Committee members.

2. Team Selections

- a. The selections for each team (Atom and up) will be determined by Selection Committee. It will be the goal of the Selection Committee to first choose the highest level team (for tiered Atom teams and up) and proceed down from this point. If the Coach's son or daughter is one of the last few players to be selected for the team, the Selection Committee may be required to complete this process prior to the Head Coach making any final decisions. Because the Head Coach is part of the Selection Committee, he/she will be asked to leave the room when the decision is made pertaining to their son or daughter. The Selection Committee will establish this player's ability to make the team and shall be fair and impartial during the process.
- b. Please note that because some of our players are trying out elsewhere the teams may not be finalized until players have come back and have had a minimum of one ice session. Spots may need to be reserved for players making it to late cuts at higher levels elsewhere (AAA or AA).

3. Conflicts Resulting From the Player / Team Selection Process

- a. All questions, comments and complaints will be directed, in writing, to the Vice President and Player Coach Development Director.
- b. If the conflict cannot be resolved by either of them, a written request for appeal will then be given to the President of Wetaskiwin Minor Hockey. Appeals will be taken a minimum of 24 hours after the end of the try out process. The written request shall include documenting the problem, clearly stating all the components of the situation with detail and timelines.