

# YELLOWKNIFE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## LEAGUE TEAM SELECTION

### POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Approved: 05 September 2007

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Association has less than 400 registrants which are distributed across six divisions and among over 25 teams. Accordingly, there is a significant range of skills among the players in each division and on each team. The Association is committed to the establishment of balanced teams in each division of its league program. This policy is intended to:

- Describe the principles which will guide the selection of balanced teams;
- Describe the process of distributing players among teams so that they are competitively balanced; and
- Ensure that all parties understand the Association approach to team selection.

#### 2.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to all teams in the League Program.

It does not apply to the selection of development teams or regional teams that are established as part of the Arctic Winter Games territorial trials.

#### 3.0 DEFINITIONS

“Development Team” refers to a team of the best available players in their age-appropriate division that have been selected to pursue enhanced competitive opportunities.

“Impact Player” refers to players who, by virtue of their collective skills are able to have an impact on the outcome of a game.

“Regional Team” refers to a team which represents Yellowknife during the Arctic Winter Game trials or other such events as requested by Hockey NWT.

#### 4.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Players first:** The Association will strive to ensure that all players enjoy a positive and meaningful competitive experience.

**Equity:** The Association will strive to ensure that all teams are of equal strength, to the extent possible.

**Transparency:** The process for establishing balanced teams should be transparent to all participants.

**Collaboration:** Coaches have a collective responsibility for the overall effectiveness of their respective division in addition to the welfare of their assigned team.

## 5.0 SELECTION PROCESS

The allocation of players to the teams in each division will entail the following step-wise process.

### 5.1 General

- The number of teams will be determined in response to the number of players who register in the division. Teams will normally consist of 14-17 players, depending upon the number of registrants but will not be less than 12 players or more than 20 players.
- The Governor shall identify a Head Coach and Assistant Coach for each team after reviewing the coach applications.
- A Head Coach and Assistant Coach will be selected for each team by the Executive Committee.
- Additional team personnel will not be approved until after the teams have been selected.
- All players will be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee as outlined in the Player Evaluation policy. The Evaluation Committee will be comprised of the Governor and the two coaches from each team.
- Team selections shall occur as soon as possible after completion of the player evaluations.
- Coaches may alternate their roles between evaluators and on-ice leaders of the evaluation drills or games. One coach from each team must be part of the Evaluation Committee, at all times, unless otherwise agreed by the Governor.

### 5.2 Ranking Players

- The process of ranking and selecting players will be led by the appropriate Governor who may be assisted by member of the Executive Committee.
- The Governor and team coaches will meet for the purpose of determining: 1) a consensus ranking of all players; and 2) drafting players for each of the teams.
- All players will be ranked (1= lowest; 5= highest) according to their consensus evaluation. Players in the Peeewe Division and above may be ranked by their preferred position.

### 5.3 Order of Selection

- The order of selection by each team shall be determined by a ballot draw. However, the order of selection will be reversed as each round of selection is completed. For example:

	Team C	Team B	Team D	Team A
Round One	1	2	3	4
Round Two	8	7	6	5
Round Three	9	10	11	12

### 5.4 Protected Players

- No team will be permitted to protect players other than as indicated below.

### 5.5 Parent Requests

- The Association occasionally receives a parent request to assign their child to a particular team. The Association is committed to the equitable allocation of players to each team as competitive balance is a priority. The Association may consider such requests provided that it does not affect the overall balance of teams.

### 5.6 Coach's Children

- The children of each coach will be automatically assigned to the coach's team at the appropriate rank. The coach shall forego a player selection for the round to which his/her child has been pre-assigned.

### 5.7 Goaltenders

- Goaltenders shall be ranked and selected to teams after the players have been selected. The selection shall be undertaken in a manner which will assure balanced teams.

### 5.8 Impact Players

- Impact players will be evenly allocated to all teams; to the extent possible. If impact players have already been assigned to a team (see items 5.3 or 5.4) that team must forgo the initial round(s) of selection until all of the impact players are assigned.

### 5.9 Allocation of Remaining Players

- Allocation of the remaining players will be based on their individual ranking. Balance among the teams will be a key consideration. Player trades between coaches will be allowed only if they are approved by all of the coaches present.

### 5.10 Adjustments to Teams

- Adjustments may be made to the teams, during the first two weeks of the season, if it is apparent that the teams are not reasonably well balanced.
- Any such adjustments must be made through a meeting of the coaches which is chaired by the Governor

## 6.0 DEVELOPMENT TEAM SELECTION

Development team players shall be selected by a committee comprised of the Head Coach, and other evaluators as described in the Development Team Policy.

## 7.0 REGIONAL TEAM SELECTION

Regional Team players shall be selected under the technical rules provided by Hockey NWT or the sport governing body sponsoring the event in which the team will be participating.