

# **Greater Victoria Minor Ball Hockey Association (GVMBHA)**



## **Western Challenge Cup Guidelines for Coaches, Parents, and Players**

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## Tournament History

In 1999, the minor ball hockey associations of BC and Alberta founded the Western Challenge Cup (WCC), as there was no National or Western Championships for minor ball hockey competitors. This tournament would serve as a venue to challenge skilled minor ball hockey players with a chance to compete against other teams throughout BC and Alberta at a higher level.

Since the start of the WCC, the tournament has been hosted by Edmonton, Calgary, and cities throughout the Lower Mainland. This tournament has grown over the years with a participation expectancy of a minimum of 32 teams each year including teams from Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The tournament occurs over four (4) days, usually during the middle of July.

After the 2011 WCC tournament in Edmonton, there was a vote between all the associations and the result was the reclassification of the competing divisions. For the upcoming WCC tournament, please refer to the official website <http://www.wccballhockey.com/>

- U11 Division
- U13 Division
- U15 Division
- U17 Division
- U19 Division

## General Philosophy

The WCC provides an added opportunity for players within our league to challenge themselves in competition against other associations. This is a **competitive program** that provides an opportunity for players to compete and further develop their ball hockey skills with a focus on commitment to team success. Representative (REP) ball hockey is the ultimate grouping of players with excellent ball hockey skills, perseverance, and enthusiasm, guided by experienced coaching, additional training, and commitment to play against some of the best players from other associations.

REP ball hockey requires an added commitment, beyond what is expected during the house season. There will be added expense to parents and players, so it is important to consider this **before** committing to be part of a team. Any additional expenses cover costs related to exhibition games floor time, refereeing fees, team apparel, tournament fees, travel expenses (if applicable) and other miscellaneous items. Parents/Guardians and players need to consider personal schedules, before committing to be on a WCC team, as games can take place during the workday and some evenings. It is not fair to the team, coaches, the association, and other players to commit your son/daughter to a WCC team and then pull them before the tournament.

WCC head coaches will work with technical directors, the league's president, and vice-presidents to form competitive teams by choosing from the pools of registered players in our house league, and the high school league (when applicable) from each age level. The main goal is to select players to form the strongest possible team to compete at the WCC tournament.

There is **NO** requirement from coaches to hold positions for returning players in the current year's WCC tournament.

## **PARENTS AND PLAYERS ARE NOT TO SOLICIT COACHES FOR A PLACEMENT ON A WCC TEAM!**

Floor time, aka “playing time,” will be as fair as possible, but “fair play” is **not** a requirement of REP ball hockey. Coaches will take a player’s strengths and overall team performance into consideration and make decisions that are in the best interest of the team. During exhibition games and the WCC tournament, the coaching staff may choose to play players who have demonstrated the athletic ability to perform in certain game situations.

It is a privilege to represent Greater Victoria Minor Ball Hockey Association on a WCC team, so full attendance to key team events is expected. Due to the expedited season, it is important that all participants and coaches commit 100% to practices, exhibition games, team events and the WCC tournament itself. Exceptions will only be made for GVMBHA regular season or playoff games. Any players on a WCC team are exempt from a team function if they have a regular season or playoff game scheduled for the same time. Practice times for any WCC team will be limited during the GVMBHA playoffs.

Any vacation time or commitment to another sports team, club, program, should be discussed with the head coach prior to committing to a team. While we encourage players be involved in multiple sports, players choosing to commit to a GVMBHA WCC team should see this as their **FIRST** commitment after the commitment to their house ball hockey team. It is the league’s expectation that every player and coach attend all practices, games and team functions unless a previous agreement has been made with the coaching staff or the league’s executive.

### **Coaches Registration and Selection Process**

1. If someone is interested in coaching a WCC team, they must be a registered head/assistant coach with GVMBHA or a registered member of GVMBHA in the current WCC tournament year.
2. Those interested in coaching, **MUST** complete an on-line application form that will be made available on the GVMBHA website.
3. The applications will be sorted by age group. If there is more than one applicant per age group, the GVMBHA Executive may form a panel and hold interviews to decide on the successful candidate.
4. The interview panel will consist of at least two GVMBHA Executive Members. If there is any conflict for any of the panel members to sit in on the interview, then the league’s president will take his/her place.
5. If interviews are conducted, when completed, the panel will decide which coaching candidate they recommend for the head coach position at each age group.
6. It will be up to the coach’s discretion, with final approval from the GVMBHA Executive to choose his/her assistant coaches and manager. Head coaches can have up to three assistant coaches and one team manager.

### **Try-Out Process**

The goal of REP ball hockey is for players to play at the Western Challenge Cup (WCC) tournament, which is a higher level than our regular house league, and player selections should reflect that goal.

1. Only players who have registered on the GVMBHA website can participate in the open try-out session.
2. A try-out fee will be charged.
3. Once players have completed a their WCC registration, emails will be sent to players providing details about the venue, date, and time for the open try-out.
4. Upon arriving at the arena, players will be assigned a pinny with a number that will be used during the tryout process.
5. Players must wear all required ball hockey equipment. Any player not wearing all required equipment cannot try-out until he/she has put on the missing equipment.
6. At each tryout session, there may be a committee of coaches who will evaluate players as part of the selection process. This could include: the head coach, assistant coach(es), technical directors, vice-president of operations, and the league president.
7. It is the responsibility of the head coach along with the assistant(s) to determine the ball hockey drills and/or games for the tryouts.
8. During the tryout process, head coaches and evaluators will remain neutral and will refrain from making comments or make gestures that could be incorrectly perceived by players or parents. During the tryout process, head and assistant coaches will not provide specific feedback to parents about their player's performance in the tryouts until after the final team roster has been posted.
9. If a player cannot participate in the tryout process due to illness, injury or other medical issues, the head coach **MUST** be immediately notified prior to the beginning of the try-out process. A player may forfeit their opportunity to try-out and be considered for placement on the team if they cannot try-out for any reason.
10. At the final try-out session, players will be notified when the final rosters will be posted on the WCC page of the GVMBHA website.
11. The opinions, assessments, evaluation data, notes, rankings, and any other documented information compiled by coaches and other evaluators during the try- out process is strictly confidential. This information is only supposed to be used as a part of the selection process. No confidential information about any player is to be shared with anyone outside the evaluation/tryout process.
12. If the parent(s) of a released player would like specific feedback about their players performance, they can make the request to [ops@gvmbha.com](mailto:ops@gvmbha.com) but must wait 24 hours after the final team roster has been posted to make that request.

## Player Selection

The goal of REP ball hockey is for players to play at the Western Challenge Cup (WCC) tournament, which is a higher level than our regular house league, and player selections should reflect that goal.

### **Player selections for this age group will use the following process:**

1. All players interested in being considered for a WCC team, **MUST** register thru the GVMBHA website.
2. Coaches will select players to form the strongest possible team to perform at the WCC tournament. They will hold tryouts, review current season performance and whenever

possible, attend regular season games to gauge players' abilities and skill level in game situations, before making their decisions.

3. When coaches have compiled a team roster, they will email [ops@gymbha.com](mailto:ops@gymbha.com)
4. The GVMBHA Executive will review these potential rosters. Once this committee has approved the potential rosters, head coaches can then begin approaching listed players and confirm their participation in the WCC tournament.
5. If it comes to the attention of this league that coaches are soliciting player participation or making promises **BEFORE** the league's approval of potential rosters, they may be asked to forfeit their position as head coach.
6. Once the head coach has agreement and commitment from enough players to make the team, he/she will submit the final roster to the [ops@gymbha.com](mailto:ops@gymbha.com). This roster will then be posted on the WCC page of GVMBHA's website.
7. If for any reason (i.e.. a player did not accept their spot on the team or can no longer participate in the tournament), the head coach can replace this player.
8. The head coach must notify [ops@gymbha.com](mailto:ops@gymbha.com) and request approval before making any changes to their rosters. Once changes have been approved by the appropriate board members, then and only then, can the coach approach the replacement team player.

### Final Rosters for All Age Groups

1. The head coach will determine the number of players carried on their team. Generally, teams consist of 15-16 runners and two (2) goalies. It is to the discretion of the Head Coach to take up to three (3) goalies.
2. It will be up to the coach's discretion to carry any Affiliate player on their roster. Coaches will need to follow Affiliate player rules as stated by the WCC Rules and Regulations. Affiliate players need to be submitted prior to the final roster being sent to the hosting tournament. Affiliate players must have originally completed a Player Consideration on-line form prior to the beginning of the selection process.
3. In the event a player on a WCC REP team decides they do not want to continue, that team, the coaches can follow one of the following procedures:
  - i. The head coach, along with any assistant coaches can refer to all assessments, statistics, notes, rankings, and any other documented information they compiled during their selection process and select a replacement player. The head coach must then notify [ops@gymbha.com](mailto:ops@gymbha.com). The GVMBHA Executive will review the requested change to the roster. Once the change has been approved by the committee, then and only then, can the head coach approach the replacement team player.
  - ii. If the coaches have chosen to affiliate a player, they may simply promote this player to fill the empty spot on the team.