



Sooke & District Minor Hockey Association (SDMHA) Representative Team Tryout Policy

Introduction

SDMHA conducts pre-season evaluations for players interested in joining one of the SDMHA Representative Teams. These evaluations are designed to ensure a fair and transparent assessment process, placing each player at the appropriate level based on their skill, effort, and overall performance. Our goal is to foster a competitive, development-focused environment that supports both individual and team success.

The tryout process is coordinated and administered by the VP of Operations and the Selection Committee, which includes the SDMHA Coach Coordinator and at least one additional Director at Large. The following policy outlines the structure, expectations, and procedures for these evaluations.

Effective Date

June 24, 2025

Purpose

This policy outlines the procedures and expectations for tryouts for representative (Rep) teams within SDMHA. It aims to ensure a fair and transparent selection process that evaluates players based on standardized evaluation criteria.

Scope

The Tryout Policy is applicable to any members of the SDMHA, including association directors and staff, teams, evaluators, on-ice and off-ice officials, players, and players' family members participating or involved with SDMHA tryouts.

Policy

Eligibility

- Players must be registered with SDMHA prior to tryouts.
- All outstanding fees must be paid in full.
- Players must meet age division and residency requirements as per BC Hockey and Hockey Canada regulations.
- Players from outside SDMHA must obtain the necessary transfer approvals.

Tryout Registration & Fees

- Players must register for tryouts by the specified deadline.
- A non-refundable tryout fee must be paid at the time of registration.
- No refunds will be provided for missed sessions unless due to injury (with medical documentation) or extenuating circumstances approved by SDMHA Selection Committee.

Tryout Process

- Tryouts will be conducted over multiple sessions, including skills evaluation, small-area games, and full scrimmages.
- Players will be evaluated by independent evaluators and out of division SDMHA coaches using standardized Hockey Canada assessment criteria.
- Evaluation criteria include skating, puck control, passing, shooting, hockey sense, work ethic, and coachability.
- Players may be released at various stages of tryouts based on their performance.
- Evaluation results are intended for the sole purpose of team selection. Results will not be released to players or parents at any stage of the tryout process.

Team Selection

- Final roster decisions will be made by the team head coach, in consultation with evaluators and the SDMHA Selection Committee.
- The top 12 positional players will be selected based on evaluation rankings, while the remaining roster spots will be determined by the team head coach, in consultation with the SDMHA Selection Committee, considering overall team needs and player dynamics.
- The team head coach may carry an expanded roster into team practices and exhibition games for further evaluation before making final decisions.
- Players released from Rep tryouts will have the opportunity to participate in recreational (House) programs.
- In addition to evaluation performance, factors such as prior attendance, disciplinary history (including suspensions), and commitment to team expectations may be considered in the selection process.
- Roster decisions will be communicated via email or in-person meetings at the discretion of the head coach.

Injuries & Absences

- Injured players must provide a medical note to be considered for a conditional evaluation at a later date.
- Players who miss tryouts due to extenuating circumstances must notify SDMHA in writing before tryouts begin.
- Late tryouts may be granted at the discretion of the SDMHA Selection Committee.

Appeals & Complaints

- The tryout process is final, and team selection decisions are not subject to appeal.
- Any concerns regarding the evaluation process must be submitted in writing to the SDMHA Exec within 24 hours of final team announcements.
- Concerns will only be reviewed to ensure procedural fairness, meaning that SDMHA will assess whether the tryout process followed the established guidelines. Disputes regarding individual player placements will not be considered.

Code of Conduct

- Players and parents must adhere to the SDMHA Code of Conduct during tryouts.
- Disruptive behavior, harassment, or verbal abuse towards evaluators, coaches, or staff will not be tolerated.
- Failure to comply may result in removal from the tryout process and potential disciplinary action.

Amendments & Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the SDMHA Executive Committee.
- Changes may be made based on feedback, operational needs, and BC Hockey regulations.

Acknowledgement

We agree to abide by those principles with the understanding that if we do not follow them we may be asked to leave any practice, game, or event and may be subject to disciplinary action by the SDMHA.

References

Hockey Canada Long Term Player Development Guidelines

Hockey Canada Player Pathway Guidelines