



VMHA REP Hockey Program 2009/2010 Season

What is Rep hockey?

Rep hockey is the culmination of player skills, attitude and desire, coupled with the coaching experience, training and dedication to form a team to play against the best players from other associations. The Rep teams play in a league, which permits players to play against players of equal ability. It permits each player to improve his/her skills and character to play at the next higher individual and team skill level. The Rep process is a yearlong activity, which includes the coach and player selection process. We must remember that rep tryouts are a stressful time not only for the players and parents, but also for the coaches and volunteers whom each year, must coordinate this facet of our associations program. The policies and procedures for Rep hockey are outlined in this booklet and will allow all participants to know in advance what they are entitled to and how all the facets of the Rep process are run.

Rep hockey may be an expensive proposition to parents and players and they must consider this before deciding to play on a Rep team. There are additional expenses for travel, additional game and practice ice, tournaments and miscellaneous expenses such as team jackets, and street dress clothes to satisfy the dress code standards. In addition to the Rep tryout fee each player that is assigned to a Rep team on the completion of tryouts will be assessed the Rep fee. This fee is meant to offset the additional association costs associated with Rep hockey, such as the additional ice time. Putting the cost aside Rep hockey can also be very rewarding for all of those involved particularly the players. They are exposed to a more structured approach to development, increased exposure through tournaments and league play, a common competitive spirit amongst team mates and competing teams, and a team atmosphere that often leaves a lasting impression on the players as they move forward with their lives.

All Rep coaches, team officials, players and parents will set a high standard of conduct and good sportsmanship towards referees, other players, team officials and parents. This not only applies to your own team but to all teams within our own association and other associations with whom you have contact. The teams that we field will be structured based on annual reviews.

Coach Selection

The Rep coaches are selected via the coaches selection committee with the following criteria. The applicant must be certified per BC Hockey requirements, the years of coaching experience, coaching levels attained, commitment to player and program development, and coaching philosophy that is harmonious with the mandate of the VMHA. The coach's above all must be committed to ensuring that all of the players within the team achieve their maximum potential while still continuing to experience the joy of playing hockey at a competitive level.

Player Tryout Procedures

Every player shall be required to pay the rep tryout fee prior to stepping on the ice. The fee is currently set at \$75.00. The fee once paid is non-refundable with the exception of a player who has not participated in any of the skates. The tryouts will consist of on-ice sessions, which progressively evaluate the individual player's skills and abilities during evaluations. In addition to the on-ice sessions each player will also be interviewed off-ice. The on-ice skill assessment sessions shall be based on skating, scoring, shooting, passing/receiving, puck control, positional play, checking, use of body/size/strength and aggressiveness, desire and work ethic, attitude, hockey sense, coachability, as well as conduct on and off the ice. The player evaluation process is outlined again later in an attachment within this package. The release of players not selected for the Rep team is one that is handled with the utmost in care and the released player is entitled to and will receive a complete breakdown of how his/her tryout went, strengths/weaknesses along with suggestions for improving performance. Any player or parent wishing to appeal a decision regarding a release is entitled to do so. It must be done in writing and be submitted with the required \$100 deposit to the Rep Program Governer. In most cases should sufficient grounds be determined a re-evaluation of the player would take place. The criteria for determining a re-evaluation include a review of the player's observation notes along with input from the independent evaluators. The goal is to ensure that the evaluation was accurate and that the player fully understands the basis on which the decision has been made.

Player Tryout Rules

1. No player may skate at any more than his/her assigned session.
2. Players missing their assigned session will not be allowed to make up the missed sessions.
3. No releases shall be allowed until after the final session of tryouts.
4. Players must wear all equipment including a C.H.A. approved neck guard.
 - a. Any player found not to be wearing all required protective equipment shall be sent from the ice and shall not be allowed to return until he/she has put on the missing approved equipment.
 - b. Any second occurrence shall result in the suspension of the player from any further participation in Rep tryouts.
5. All players are to arrive 45-60 minutes prior to their first scheduled ice session in order to register.
6. All players trying out for Rep Teams will be required to read sign and return the Rep Tryout Process and Player commitment agreement form prior to their 1st ice session.

Appeal Procedures

Any player or parent wishing to appeal a decision regarding a release is entitled to do so. It must be done in writing and submitted to the. Rep Tryout Appeal Committee along with the \$100 deposit. The appeal must be submitted within 48 hours of notification of the decision.

Player Commitment

Players must sign and agree to the player commitment letter prior to being accepted to the respective Rep program team. Parents will be asked to attend an information meeting during the final phase of tryouts to ensure that each family can make an informed decision as to whether or not they feel they can commit to the program. Players and parents are asked to ensure that they review in detail the Rep program information manual prior to committing to the program. The manual is available via www.victoriaminorhockey.ca under the Representative program page.