

Gander Minor Hockey Association
Rep Team Tryout Policy
2025-26



Policy 7: Rep Team Tryout Policy

Rep team selection is based on a ranking of the player's skills as determined by an approved Try Out Committee, during divisional tryouts. This ranking shall be used to place players on Rep teams. Players are expected to play with their assigned teams except under exceptional circumstances.

7.1 Tryout Committee: The tryout process will be run by a Tryout Committee consisting of the Vice President, Chief Director, Divisional Director, Rep 1 team Head Coach (once appointed after the first grading) and a moderator. This group will be responsible for the organization and delivery of the tryouts and will review the final selection rosters before they are released.

7.2 Coach rankings: Prior to the start of tryouts, a group of house league coaches (per division) will rank all players within their division. This list will be used to cross reference the independent evaluator results once the tryouts are completed. A committee of 3 executive members will be assigned per division (independent of any players trying out) to resolve any inconsistencies between the 2 lists. Inconsistencies will only be addressed if there is a blatant discrepancy.

7.3 Timing, Duration, and Format: Tryouts will consist of up to a minimum of 4 hours of evaluated ice time for each division carried out over a designated period within the constraints of ice-time availability and try out registration, unless otherwise approved by the Executive. Players will be charged a tryout fee (flat fee To Be Determined by GMHA Executive each year). Receipts can be provided. The format of the tryouts for each division will adhere to the following but is subject to change based on the decision of the Tryout Committee.

The following guidelines are in place when registration warrants more than 3-hour time slots. (i.e).

Scenario One: If registration allows it possible to having 3 Rep Teams, our protocol will be as follows:

- **U11 & U13:** 1 hour skills/1 hour game/1 hour game - FIRST GRADING - 1 hour game (1 hour game optional)-FINAL SELECTION
- **U15 & U18:** 1 hour tactical skills/ 1 hour game/1 hour game - FIRST GRADING, - 1hr game/1hr game (optional)- FINAL SELECTION.

Scenario Two: If registration only permits us to ice 2 Rep Teams, our protocol will be as follows:

- **U11 & U13:** 1 hour skills/1 hour game/1 hour game/1 hour game (1 hour game optional)-FINAL SELECTION
- **U15 & U18:** 1 hour tactical skills/ 1 hour game/1 hour game/ 1hr game/1hr game (optional)- FINAL SELECTION

Goalies:

Goaltenders will receive 1hr of exclusive Goalie evaluation, besides attending the above Schedule.

7.4 Evaluators: Three (3) evaluators will be appointed for each division by the Divisional Director. These evaluators will be responsible for the forward/defense players. Two (2) evaluators, appointed by the Goalie Director, will be responsible for the goalies. All evaluators will be submitted for approval by the Executive. The Chief Director will meet with all evaluators and review the evaluation process, grading sheets and evaluation criteria before tryouts. The Chief Director/Divisional Director will also ensure there is appropriate bench supervision available during tryouts.

7.4a Criteria for Choosing Evaluators

- Evaluators will not have a child in the division they are evaluating. Where possible the Executive will show preference for evaluators who do not have children in the GMHA.
- Evaluators should be able to demonstrate a strong knowledge of hockey skill and game play. Prior experience doing evaluations or coaching are an asset.
- Evaluators must be able to commit to attending the majority of hours of the evaluation process.
- Goalie evaluators must have experience and knowledge of goaltending skills and game play.

7.5 Running of on Ice Drills and Games

7.5a Skills and Drills:

- The house league coaches will provide a Practice Plan for each evaluation hour based on skills and drills as approved by the Chief Director.
- A component of the practice plan for one of the practices must include goalie-specific skills as per Hockey Canada goalie evaluation forms.
- The Chief/Goalie Director will be responsible for reviewing the Practice Plan with coaches before the evaluation begins.
- The coach running the practice, other coaches and assistants on the ice may have children in the division.

7.5b Games: The Director of the division will assign players to teams and lines, with review by the Chief Director. When creating teams and lines the following criteria apply:

- Players will be placed in their requested position, i.e. forward or defense.

- Teams should have a mix of players but be roughly equal in skill where possible.
- Lines must change after every game
- A copy of the Lines will be provided to bench staff prior to game by the Divisional Director.
- After the first grading, the balancing of lines may continue throughout the tryout to make the games as equal as possible.
- A coach may not be on the team bench with their child, but may coach the opposing team.
- Coaches will change the lines with a shift change on a 2-minute buzzer (2-minute buzzer does not apply to U18).
- Goalies must receive as close to equal ice time as possible and may be rotated from team to team.
- There will be a face off at every stoppage of play.
- Penalties will be served as per HNL rules.

7.6 Evaluation:

The Chief Director will provide evaluators with the evaluation form (Appendix A), and guidance on the evaluation standards and criteria. Evaluations will be conducted as follows:

- Evaluators are not to discuss the evaluations with any coach or parent outside the Tryout Committee during the evaluation process. Evaluation forms are not to be taken home but to be kept secure by the Ice Convener between tryout skills sessions/games.
- Evaluators are required to fill out the entire evaluation sheet for ALL players. After the initial 3 hours of evaluation (first grading), the Try Out Committee will collect the evaluations and calculate the overall ranking for all players. The final hour(s) of evaluation will be captured on new evaluation sheets by the evaluators. These scores will be added to existing scores to produce a final score for each player. The Tryout committee will examine the scoring and contact evaluators for clarity if necessary.

7.7 Selection Process:

For U11, the top 20 players, based exclusively on the evaluated ranking, will be presented to the head coach (Rep one coach is appointed after the first ranking). The head coach must retain the top 10 players and the remaining five players are chosen from rankings 11-20.

For U13-U18, the top 10 players (6 forwards and 4 defense), based exclusively on the evaluated numerical rankings, will be presented to the head coach (Rep one coach is appointed after the first ranking). The remaining three forwards shall be chosen from those forwards ranked 7-12 and the remaining 2 defense shall be chosen from those defense ranked 5-8.

For all divisions, goalies shall be selected based on evaluated ranking. If there is a 5% or less difference in ranking scores, coaches' discretion can be used in the selection process.

To be eligible for ranking the following guidelines shall apply:

1. When there is a first grading, the player must attend the skills session, at least 1 of the 2 hours of games before the first grading and a minimum of the first game before the final grading.

2. If there is no first grading, a player must attend the skills session and at least 2 of the 3 hours of games. In situations where the 'optional' hour is used, a player must attend the skill session and 3 of the 4 hours of games before final selection.
3. Goalies must attend the 1 hour exclusive goalie session, in addition to following the guidelines set above.

If a player cannot attend part of, or all the tryouts because of injury or other exceptional circumstances, as deemed by the Executive, they must provide a written explanation to the Chief Director, who will consult with the Executive. If the Executive approves a tryout exemption, the player will be given a ranking based on any current year's evaluation (if any exists), a review of the previous years evaluation, and recommendations of previous years coach(s) (this may include written recommendations from other minor hockey associations). If no previous information exists, the player will be placed at the bottom of the ranking.

Final team roster may consist of 15 skaters and up to 2 goaltenders. Requests to carry more than 15 skaters, to a maximum of 18 skaters and 2 goalies, must be made by the head coach at the time of team selection and subject to approval from the tryout committee. When sufficient players aren't available, the minimum roster size shall consist of 10 skaters and 1 goaltender.

7.8 Feedback:

Players are entitled to the score they received from the evaluation process but are not entitled to their overall ranking in the division. Rankings are not subject to appeal. Feedback can be provided from the evaluation process and this feedback is only meant to provide useful information on the development of the player. Under NO circumstance will a parent or guardian approach an evaluator with questions or concerns regarding their child's ranking. Any questions should be directed to the Tryout Committee.

Policy 8: Rep Team Commitment

8.1 Attendance

Players are expected to attend at least 80% of all games and practice sessions. Unless excused by respected team staff.

8.2 Provincial Tournaments

Players are expected to participate in their respective provincial tournaments. If a player cannot attend part of, or all of the provincial tournament, because of injury or other exceptional circumstances, they must provide a written explanation to the Executive. A family vacation is not considered an exceptional circumstance. Failure to participate in provincials may result in the player not being eligible for rep team tryouts for the following year.

8.3 Withdrawal from a Rep Team

Any player who relinquishes their commitment to a rep team for an unreasonable circumstances (eg. doesn't agree with team placement, conflicts with other players/team members, etc) will forfeit their right to try out for a rep team the following season. The GMHA executive will review such circumstances on a case by case basis to determine just cause.