

**2023**

**Competitive Team Tryouts / Player Selection  
Information**



**Bedford & District Minor  
Hockey Association**

**Last Update**

**8/9/2023**

# Competitive Team Tryouts / Player Selection Information



Dear Players & Parents

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Competitive Level Hockey Tryouts. BDMHA is looking forward to another great season of hockey, camaraderie and fair competition. The following document is not new and has been used in prior seasons. We are sharing as a guide to the overall historic process at BDMHA. We have hosted a series of coach and manager sessions to gain some feedback into how best to make any necessary tweaks going forward. The discussions were based on what we should keep doing, start doing and stop doing. A number of those elements will be incorporated into this seasons evaluation and others are more mid-term planning in nature to incorporate at next season's. Everyone is invested in continuous improvement and trying to make things as smooth as possible. We appreciate your patience and understanding and would be happy to discuss any issues anytime.

At this time we plan the following:

- U11 – our goal is to have 6 competitive teams again this year as was the case the last several seasons.
- U13 – 7 teams were iced in 2022-2023 and 6 in 2021-2022. The final number and mix will depend on final registration numbers, player movements, player capabilities, and development philosophy.
- U15 - 6 teams were iced in both 2022-2023 and 2021-2022. Some results last year would indicate a fresh look at number of teams and/or level mix. Again, this is dependent on final registration numbers, player movements, player capabilities and development philosophy.
- U18 – A number of factors for consideration annually at this level. Competing programs (ex High School, U16AAA minor), along with divergent priorities ex part-time jobs, make this planning slightly more fluid.

Our fall tryout schedule is starting on September 15<sup>th</sup> with our U13AAA group. The schedules will be posted on a global document and we will post schedules on each divisional page as well. The schedules are posted in advance and any final changes will be posted by September 8<sup>th</sup>. All other related tryout materials and information will be posted to the association's web site by September 8<sup>th</sup> (7 days before tryouts commence). Any changes would relate to assessing the number of teams, or team mix and would be communicated at that time, if necessary.

Before COVID-19, we held our Spring ID sessions and players were assigned to groups 1, 2, 3, 4 at the conclusion of these spring sessions. These groupings were established to streamline the fall evaluation process. Due to COVID-19, and other factors beyond our control, we have been unable to host our spring ID sessions for the last few seasons. These Spring ID sessions resulted in players being ranked into groups 1, 2, 3, 4 with group 1 being the top group and so on. For the upcoming season, all initial groups will be balanced. There will be skills/battle/tactical game application sessions, then intersquad sessions with several groups (as registration numbers dictate). After these sessions, there will be a resorting of groups from, for example, 4 balanced groups to 3, ranked groups, for example, A1, A2, A3 (or some other label).

At the U15 level, we usually have some (approx. 20+/- last 2 seasons) players who have opted to play non-contact hockey but wish to try out for competitive as well. These players, essentially, are trying out for one of our B-level teams as the B league is non-contact. We may have to make some scheduling tweaks at the U15 level given this factor as these players cannot participate in contact intersquad games as they didn't complete the checking clinic.

As for the overall schedule, Hockey Nova Scotia has established their "Seasonal Structure Chart" for the 2023-2024 season which can be found on their web site. At this time, they have established that U13AAA, U15AA and U18AA can commence tryouts on September 15<sup>th</sup> with all other levels commencing on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. They have also established that league play starts on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Our plan would be to start each level as early as allowable. Other factors at play are potential conflicts with U15Major tryouts, U16AAA and High School with these impacting the timing of commencing and completing U15 and U18 competitive tryouts.

Good luck to everyone during evaluations. Try your best to relax and remember to always work hard!

*Brian Furdas*  
*Vice President of Competitive Hockey*  
*Bedford and District Minor Hockey Association*



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## 1 YOUR COMMITMENT TO COMPETITIVE HOCKEY

Our coaches strive to deliver a fair play program that provides an opportunity for all players to develop. For this to happen, we expect players to attend practices and team sanctioned events. Parents are also an important part of the team and we need each to do their part to ensure the success of the team.

**If for any reason you and your child can not commit to the timing and fundraising commitments outlined below, please advise the VP of Competitive Hockey so they may allow another child the opportunity to play in the competitive stream.**

### 1.1 OTHER SPORTS

We understand that many players are involved in other sports or activities and we encourage this whenever we can. However, hockey is a team sport and your coaches and teammates expect all parents and players will be committed to their BDMHA hockey team. Please understand that players who regularly miss practices will also miss out on development opportunities which could lead to the potential for reduced playing time during meaningful games as outlined by the Fair Play Policy.

### 1.2 SCHEDULING FOR COMPETITIVE LEVEL TEAMS

- Early morning practices starting as early as 6:00 am on weekdays / weekends
- Possibility of up to 5 away tournaments and costs associated with them (gas, hotels, meals, etc.)
- 3 or more ice sessions per week with the possibility of dry land training

### 1.3 FUNDRAISING

For every team there is a fundraising expectation of approximately ***\$1,000.00 per player***. Any parent that does not contribute to the team's financially agreed upon objectives and fundraising efforts may have their child's playing privileges revoked.

## 2 TRYOUT OBJECTIVES

The key premise upon which the Association bases its tryouts is that each player plays at a level compatible with their skill, ability, attitude and experience level. The BDMHA tryout process shall strive for the highest level of independence and competence. It recognizes that the responsibility to effectively evaluate players for placement on competitive teams is challenging. It is difficult to satisfy the expectations of all stakeholders in the evaluation process. Evaluation, by its very nature, is subjective because it is based upon the opinions of those evaluating. The intention of the Association is to bring as much quality, consistency, fairness and transparency to the process as is reasonably possible.

Hundreds of hours have been dedicated by the volunteers to provide a fair process to choose the BDMHA teams. Please respect their time and feel free to thank them for providing the opportunity to ice competitive teams and develop young athletes.





## 2.1 BDMHA SHALL STRIVE TO MEET THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES WHEN CONDUCTING PLAYER EVALUATIONS

- To create an environment where each player has an opportunity to be selected for the level appropriate to their skill, maturity and ability where they may continue to grow and develop as a player;
- To establish an evaluation and selection process that provides consistent and comprehensive evaluation based upon the demonstrated skills and ability of each player;
- To ensure that all players and parents understand the expectations upon which players will be evaluated;
- To ensure all evaluators are objective, unbiased, free of conflict of interest, and trained in player evaluation; and
- To provide ongoing review and improvement of the player evaluation and team selection process, ensuring that the process continues to meet the demands placed upon BDMHA.

## 3 EVALUATION PROCESS

Players are evaluated by independent evaluators using a point rating system. The scoring guide ranges from 0.5 to 10 (including fractional points, i.e. 2.5) with 10 being the highest ranking.

Evaluation scores are tabulated after each session to determine the ranking of the players. In the event of ties or where scores are very close, the Evaluation Team will discuss the rankings to ensure that the scoring guide is being applied consistently and that the proper decisions are being made.

Evaluation scoring shall be based on the player's performance during the current evaluation process. Consideration of past performance & commitment shall only be permitted when the Evaluation Team is ranking players throughout the tryout process, and where two or more players are scored similarly or in cases where the player was unable to participate due to injury, illness or compassionate reasons. In these cases, the Evaluation Team shall also refer to the past evaluations of players submitted by coach of the player's previous team, to determine any skills, abilities or intangibles that may assist in ranking one above the others. All evaluation data will be held in confidence by BDMHA from season to season.





## 4 EVALUATION STAGES

The tryout process will be based on the concept of evaluating players under various conditions. To accomplish this outcome the process has various stages leading to the final selection of teams. The following information is intended to provide participants with greater insight into all aspects of our process as we prepare for the tryouts being held in September.

The tryout process will be comprised of the following stages:

**Stage 1:** Spring Tryouts and Groupings (U11, U13, & U15) - Evaluation of the player's overall skills and abilities demonstrated in intra-squad competitive games; Not applicable to the 2023-2024 season and will be re-evaluated for the 2024-2025 season.

**Stage 2:** Evaluation of the player's overall skills and abilities demonstrated during individual skills, battle drills and small games/tactical sessions; or depending on many factors, including how many teams are iced in a division, ice availability etc. Stage 2 can be changed year over year to mirror Stage 3 which are intra-squad competitive games instead of skills/battles and small area games/tactical sessions; For the 2023-2024 fall evaluations, stages 1 and 2 will be blended.

**Stage 3:** Evaluation of the player's overall skills and abilities demonstrated in intra-squad competitive games; and

**Stage 4:** Evaluation of the player's overall skills and abilities demonstrated in an exhibition game versus an opponent external to BDMHA.

*Please view the Divisional Tryout Flowcharts Posted on the BDMHA Website  
for a breakdown of player movement through each stage*

### 4.1 STAGE 1: SPRING TRYOUTS AND GROUPINGS EVALUATION

Players will be divided to create multiple balanced teams based upon their skill which is largely based on the level that they played last season. Evaluation feedback from their prior coach and the knowledge base of Bedford's Hockey Development Professional will also be used to assign and balance teams when required.

This stage will consist of:

- Participation in inter-squad games including both goalies and skaters;
- Goalies and skaters will be evaluated in the game environment;
- Upon completion of this stage, skaters will be reassigned into 4 groups of reduced numbers based upon their evaluation rating including movement to recreation (C Level);
- Although rare, direct team assignment can occur at this time – i.e. goalie(s) and / or skater(s) assigned to PeeWee AAA and all remaining tryout stages are completed;
- Upon completion of this stage, goalies will be reassigned into 2 groups of reduced numbers based upon their evaluation rating; and
- Rating scores will **NOT** carry forward to next stage; both goalie's and skater's scores are discarded.

## 4.2 STAGE 2: INDIVIDUAL SKILLS/BATTLE DRILLS AND SMALL GAME/TACTICAL EVALUATION

- Sessions will include both goalies and skaters hereafter in this stage are referred to as “players”
- U11, U13 and U15 - Players will participate in their assigned group based upon the results obtained in the Spring Tryouts;
- U18 - Stages will be amended such that there are balanced groups in their Stage 1 sessions, then a sort with ranked groups for the Stage 2 sessions and so on through Stage 3 and, if needed, Stage 4, with the latter stages including intrasquad and exhibition games.
- Players will be evaluated in game like battle drills 1 vs 1 and small games i.e. cross ice 2 vs. 2 and 3 vs. 3 games, where they will compete against others; the make-up of these sessions will be determined annually in consultation with the Hockey Development Professional.
- Upon completion of this session, players will be reassigned to groups based upon their evaluation rating for the purposes of participating in the following intra-squad games;
- Rating scores from the Individual Battle Drills and Small Game Evaluation WILL carry forward to the next stage through a weighted average scoring system.

**For Fall tryouts for the 2023-2024 season, Stages 1 and 2 will be combined and their scores reset/dropped after the initial sort and prior to the Stage 3 sessions.**

**NOTE:** In cases where it has been decided not to conduct small area games and battle drills in that division (decision made at start of Fall tryouts) , the Stage 3 format (below) will be used instead to replace Stage 2, therefore having two (2) Stage 3 type sessions.

## 4.3 STAGE 3: INTRA-SQUAD GAME EVALUATION

- Inter-squad games will include both goalies and skaters hereafter in this stage are referred to as “players”
- Players will participate in the assigned groups based upon their ratings from the previous stage, Stage 2;
- Players will be evaluated in the game environment playing against players of like skills;
- Upon completion of this stage, players will be reassigned to groups of reduced numbers based upon their evaluation rating including movement to recreation (C Level);
- Direct team assignment can occur at this time – i.e. player(s) are assigned to a specific team and all remaining tryout stages are completed; and
- Rating scores from the Intra-Squad Game Evaluation will be combined and averaged with previous stage, Stage 2, and WILL carry forward to the next stage through a weighted average scoring system.

## 4.4 STAGE 4: EXHIBITION GAME EVALUATION

- Exhibition games will include both goalies and skaters hereafter in this stage are referred to as “players”
- Players will participate in the assigned groups based upon the average ratings from the previous 2 stages, Stage 2 and Stage 3; (only Stage 3 for 2023-2024 season given no spring Stage 1 was held)
- Players will be evaluated in the game environment against an outside opponent; and
- Upon completion of this stage, players will be assigned to a level i.e. AAA, AA, A, B or C (recreational)

## 4.5 STAGE 5: COACH'S SKATE

- At certain levels, where deemed appropriate to do so, we may host either a Coach's Skate or bring in the prospective Head Coach to review the final exhibition sessions as part of the Evaluation Team's final discussion on player placements.
- Any Coach's Skates or Head Coach input into team composition will be under a clearly defined set of parameters as outlined by the Evaluation Team. It will include proper consultation with our Hockey Development Professional and will include a pre-selected list of those players deemed to be "on the bubble" by their scores to that point in the process.

## 5 EVALUATION CRITERIA

All stages will use the same 4 evaluation criteria with each criterion receiving a rank from 0.5 to 10 (including fractional points, i.e. 2.5) with 10 being the highest ranking. Scores are then averaged.

The 4 main evaluation criteria are:

- Skating
- Puck Skills
- Hockey Sense
- Battle/Compete

### 5.1 SKATING

- Skating - acceleration, speed, mobility/agility; balance; forward stride; backward stride; crossovers and pivoting.

### 5.2 PUCK SKILLS

- Passing - forehand passing; backhand passing; forehand receiving; backhand receiving; touch passing; and pass control;
- Puck Handling - head up/awareness; quick hands; and puck protection; and
- Shooting - velocity; accuracy; quick release; shooting in stride (in motion); and shot selection (wrist, snap, slap, backhand).

### 5.3 HOCKEY SENSE

- Offensive Play - creativity; determination; driving the net; play in traffic; deception; decisions with puck/low turnovers; positional play; transition to offence and offensive support (playing without puck); and
- Defensive Play - angling; gap control; checking; tracking check; positional play; forcing turnovers; net play (defence); board play; and transition to defense.





### 5.4 BATTLE COMPETE

- Work ethic; consistency; competitiveness; intensity; and aggressiveness/willingness to battle; hockey sense; stamina; and discipline offence and offensive support (playing without puck);





## 6 ON-ICE EVALUATION SESSIONS

BDMHA through its HDP shall designate specific drills for use in player evaluation during the 'Individual Battle Drills and Small Game Evaluations' sessions. These plans will be created to maximize the exposure of the participants in key skill areas so as to enable the independent evaluators to better rate each player. The Evaluators and Evaluation team follow the pre-planned sessions and specific timelines established for each drill.

BDMHA shall designate individuals as on-ice instructors and "line-changers" for the purpose of executing the various evaluation stages so that players can be fairly evaluated. Unless cleared of a conflict of interest, and specifically selected to be part of an evaluation team, these individuals shall not participate in, or influence, evaluations. All session plans shall be developed by the BDMHA Development staff. The role of the on-ice instructors is to lead and conduct the drills as detailed by BDMHA.

## 7 GOALIE EVALUATION

As part of the Spring Tryout process, goalies (excluding Midget) have already had an initial evaluation and placed into 2 groupings for the Fall Tryouts. Goalies will not participate in a separate session before the Fall Tryout sessions start as was done in previous years. All goalie evaluations during any of the Spring or Fall tryout sessions are led by independent goalie specialists combined with a second independent evaluation from our HDP.

As with skaters, goaltenders will also be given session scores based on performance. The evaluation team will record Shots, Goals, SVS%, Skating Ability, Positioning, Tracking and Compete which is weighted and averaged throughout the entire process.

## 8 PLAYER IDENTIFICATION

Players will be assigned a specific sweater number and color for each session including any inter-squad or exhibition games. These sweater numbers and colors will be used to evaluate players and players shall be informed that they are not to change sweaters with another player. Players will be required to return the sweaters immediately following the specific session.

## 9 PLAYER SELECTION BY POSITION (EXCLUDING U11)

For the purposes of scoring and rating players, BDMHA requires that all players competing for positions on competitive teams identify the position for which they wish to compete (i.e. defence, forward) prior to tryouts (except U11). BDMHA also realizes that many players, especially those at the younger age divisions, are still developing and their original choice of a position may have been premature. In some cases, these players may fair very well at another position and find increased enjoyment. BDMHA, given its objective to place players at the appropriate level based upon their skill and ability, feels compelled to afford such opportunities when identified by the Evaluation Team.

If the Evaluation Team feels that a player at one position (i.e. defence) may be better suited or be more skilled to play another position (i.e. forward) than a player who has identified themselves as a forward for the purposes of tryouts, the Evaluation Team reserves the right to ask the player and family if they would like to consider playing another position for the purposes of team selection. This decision will be solely that of the player and family and they may choose not to move to another position.



# Competitive Team Tryouts / Player Selection Information



Special Note regarding Forwards and Defence: BDMHA reserve the right to meet with up to four players and their families regarding a change in position in one Division.

## 10 TEAM SELECTION

Every attempt will be made by the Association to institute a system for both Recreational and Competitive teams that is fair, consistent, and as transparent as is reasonably possible. A successful selection process is essential to the overall function of the Association.

### Recreation Teams:

The Vice President Recreation shall be responsible for implementation of a selection process that ensures the Association's Recreation teams are balanced competitively from the onset of the hockey year. The Vice President Recreation, along with the Hockey Development Professional and in consultation with the Recreation Coaches shall make adjustments as required to Recreation teams after the selection process is completed in an attempt to achieve this competitive balance. These adjustments shall normally occur within thirty (30) days of the completion of team selection process.

### Competitive Teams:

- 1) The Association will, to the best of its ability, provide for each participant, the opportunity to participate at a level commensurate with their ability while recognizing that there are a limited number of players able to play at competitive levels.
- 2) The movement of players outside of their respective age group or division will be discouraged and will only be effective in exceptional or special circumstances with the approval of the Executive Committee.
- 3) The Team Selection process will be coordinated by the Division Vice President who will coordinate the ranking of the players in accordance with their abilities from the highest to the lowest as scored by the Evaluation Group. In consultation with the HDP, players will then be assigned to teams based on the collected evaluation scores, along with previous year coaching feedback, as well as knowledge of the HDP.
- 4) The Division Vice President, in conjunction with the HDP will select an Evaluation Group, preferably non-parents with past coaching experience. It is recommended that the Division Vice President choose members for the divisional evaluation group from individuals who do not have players in the association or, if such individuals are not available, individuals who do not have players within that division. In choosing the evaluation group the Division Vice President should consider:
  - a) The hockey knowledge of the candidate Bedford & District Minor Hockey Association
  - b) The candidate should be prepared to put forward an optimum amount of time for the duration of the Team Selection Process.
  - c) The President, Vice President Operations and/or the Past President will monitor the Team Selection Process and provide guidance to the Division Vice President as needed.
  - d) The following policies governing team selections have been adopted by the Association and will be adhered to wherever possible:

## 11 BDMHA EVALUATION TEAM

BDMHA will form an Evaluation Team that will organize, coordinate and oversee the tryout evaluation process. This Evaluation Team will consist of:

- i) VP Competitive;
- ii) Hockey Development Professional (HDP);
- iii) Evaluators, includes Goalie Specialists; and
- iv) Divisional Coordinators.
- v) Other internal and external personnel deemed appropriate.

### 11.1 ROLE OF THE VP COMPETITIVE

The role of the VP Competitive during tryouts will be:

- To manage the tryout process and to ensure the integrity of the process is maintained at all times;
- To ensure all evaluators are objective, unbiased, free of conflict of interest, and trained in player evaluation;
- To coordinate the assignment of evaluators for all on-ice sessions;
- To collect all player evaluations and rankings and develop rating lists to guide player selection;
- To coordinate and assign volunteers to manage the bench during all scrimmages and games;
- Responsible to ensure that bench volunteers are briefed on the need to ensure that ice time distribution is equitable and that players are placed in lines on a rotational basis (i.e. next three out regardless of position or who plays with them);
- To provide prompt communication to players and families on session timings, player groupings, and player movements after each session. All communication will be carried out using the website and when required E-mail and / or Twitter; (or other social media platforms via the Communication Coordinator or Association Administrator)
- To retain all player evaluation information and records throughout the process; and
- To provide ongoing review and improvement of the player evaluation and team selection process.

### 11.2 ROLE OF THE HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL (HDP)

The role of the HDP during tryouts will be:

- Designate specific drills for use in player evaluation during the 'Individual Skills/Battle Drills and Small Game/Tactical Evaluations'. This segment of the evaluation process, in terms of on-ice drills used, etc. can vary annually and is at the primary discretion of the Hockey Development Professional.
- To solicit, collect and keep records from coaches of individual player prior year performance;
- Shall offer consideration of past performance where two or more players are scored similarly or in cases where the player was unable to participate due to injury, illness or compassionate reasons. In these cases, the Evaluation Team shall also refer to the past evaluations of players submitted by coach of the player's previous team, to determine any skills, abilities or intangibles that may assist in ranking one above the others; and
- Performs the Role of Evaluator.



## 11.3 ROLE OF THE EVALUATOR

Bedford & District Minor Hockey Association utilizes independent Evaluators. An independent Evaluator is one who does not have any child or relative involved in the tryouts for any team within the specific division. These Evaluators may be parent or non-parent coaches from other divisions within the Association or experienced Evaluators with no involvement with the Association other than to evaluate or coach. All Evaluators are assigned by the Association. The role of the Evaluator during tryouts will be:

- Review the session plans or approach to be prepared to evaluate the attributes associated with the specific stage of the tryouts in which they are involved;
- Review the evaluation criteria for the stage being evaluated;
- Arrive early to obtain their assignments and locate a suitable position in the building from which to evaluate;
- Ensure that each assigned player receives a full evaluation and review all notes to provide a representative score;
- Respect the confidentiality of the process at all times and do not discuss any evaluations with anyone outside of the actual process;
- Do not share their comments or opinions with any players / parents or other interested observers; and
- Any questions, comments or complaints direct the individual to the VP Competitive.

## 11.4 ROLE OF DIVISIONAL TRYOUT COORDINATOR

The Divisional Tryout Coordinator carries out an important administrative role during tryouts consisting of:

- To coordinate the assignment of volunteers who will be tasked to manage the registration of players at the door;
- To note any absences and contact the player as well as to notify the evaluation team;
- To coordinate the issue of tryout sweaters to all participating players for each session and to ensure the player number lists are passed promptly to the Evaluators prior to each session;
- To coordinate any additional equipment requirements (i.e. equipment, pucks, etc.);
- To coordinate and assign volunteers to supervise the dressing rooms prior to and after each on-ice session;
- To provide onsite guidance and support to players and families with general process questions; and
- Any questions, comments or complaints that are not easily addressed, or if the Coordinator is unaware of the answer, direct the individual to the VP Competitive.





## 12 CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

BDMHA has established 'Conflict of Interest' guidelines to improve transparency within our tryout process. These guidelines deal specifically with how coaches/parents may become involved in player evaluation when they have children or relatives involved in those same tryouts.

Those shall be considered in a conflict of interest if they have children and/or relatives playing in the division for which they applied to coach who are trying out for a competitive team, regardless of what level (i.e. AAA, AA, A or B).

Once in a conflict of interest, the coach may not participate, directly or indirectly, in any evaluations in the division for which the player (child and/or relative) in question is trying out until that player has been chosen for a team by independent evaluators, after which their conflict of interest will be removed.

Coaches who have a conflict of interest in a specific division will be asked to participate in player evaluation in another division where they are not in a conflict.

Divisional Coordinators will not be part of collecting of results, the evaluation scoring process or any decisions related to rankings or placements. As such, Divisional Coordinators will only provide an administrative functional that is not directly or indirectly tied to any tryout results therefore are not considered in a conflict of interest even if they have children or relatives competing for positions within their specific division.

## 13 TRYOUT ABSENTEEISM & INJURED PLAYERS

The success of our tryout process is based upon the premise that our independent evaluators are able to observe and fully evaluate all participating players during the various stages of the process. This is necessary to enable our evaluators to suitably rate each.

As players grow and develop at varying rates, it is not unusual to see changes in a player's ability over the course of the summer or from season to season. For this reason, it is very important to have the opportunity to compare players in a common forum to ensure we place each at the most appropriate level. For this reason, **our expectation is that all players will attend all tryout sessions.**

We also understand that from time to time, there are valid circumstances that preclude participants from attending. For this reason, we have established this policy to guide our actions in these situations.

In all cases, it is critical that the parent/guardian notify VP Competitive as soon as they become aware that the player will be absent and when the player is expected to return. Failing this may have an adverse impact upon the player's overall evaluation.

It is also important to note that while we will make every effort to properly evaluate players who encounter these situations, there are significant challenges associated with evaluating and ranking players who are absent and, as such, every effort should be made to attend sessions.





## 13.1 SICKNESS OR INJURY

If any participant becomes sick or injured and cannot attend one session: *The player shall be ranked for the sessions in which they participate and their score shall be pro-rated for the session they are unable to attend.*

If a player becomes sick or injured and is unable to attend multiple sessions but will be able to attend a portion of the tryouts: *The player shall be ranked for the sessions in which they participate and their score shall be pro-rated for the session they miss. In addition, the evaluation team will attempt to determine additional background information (i.e. past performance) to assist in making an appropriate ranking.*

In cases of a significant injury (one that causes the player to miss multiple sessions), a note from the attending physician approving the player's return to play is required before the players can rejoin the process.

## 13.2 COMPASSIONATE REASONS

In addition to sickness or injury, we recognize that there are specific activities that are significant to our players in addition to family matters that may arise and which take precedence. The following situations shall be considered for compassionate reasons:

- A family tragedy;
- Attendance at a regional or national event (i.e. sporting championship) that arises from the player's participation in an activity over the summer where the activity necessitates the player to attend as part of their commitment to that activity; or
- Specific religious holidays.

If the player is excused under 12.1 and 12.2 and is unable attend any portion of the tryout process the following will occur:

*The player will be ranked based upon any background information that the Evaluation Team can access such as past performance with prior teams, coaching reports from those teams, and any other pertinent information available to them. In certain circumstances, the player may be paired with one or two comparable players; and in combination with background information, try to be placed at the same competitive level as those comparable players.*

Because this is a competitive process, injury or absenteeism often leads to disappointment on the part of the player if they thought their development was greater; or disappointment on the part of another player who gets displaced for the absent player. It's very difficult to promote an absent player to a higher level when they are unable to display the skills against other players at that level.

In cases where injuries eliminate participation for a lengthy period of time and if a player has been assigned to a specific level based upon the ranking of the independent evaluators, a roster spot will be held open until such time that player is able to return.





## 13.3 SPRING TRYOUTS

We have scheduled our spring tryout to minimize conflicts with other Bedford Spring activities, including the Hockey Nova Scotia Development programs and these spring sessions are now considered mandatory as player placement following the spring stage will directly affect the groupings in the fall.

During the spring tryouts if the player has not received a pre-determined placement as outlined above and has received an approved (VP Competitive) request for absence or incurred an unusual but reasonable circumstance (i.e. did not play for BDMHA in the prior year but has sense moved into the boundaries of BDMHA during the summer months) will be required to attend the fall conditioning camp (mandatory) prior to tryouts commencing where the HDP will provide a onetime independent evaluation and will provide a recommended placement to the Evaluation Team. It will be up to the Evaluation Team to determine the starting placement which could include obtaining prior feedback as in cases of players moving into BDMHA during the summer months.

## 14 OUT OF AREA PLAYERS

The BDMHA Out of Area Player policy is guided first by the following Hockey Nova Scotia Regulations:

### 14.1 HOCKEY NOVA SCOTIA POLICIES

**2.30** - A Minor player at the Atom AA, Peewee AAA, Bantam AA, or Midget AA classification of competition but whose MHA **does not provide that classification**, may try out for those teams in that division from another Association in his/her Region. A player may try out for up to two of these teams per year. An Atom player may try out for only one AA team per year.

A Peewee, Bantam or Midget age player whose Association does not provide Peewee AA, A, Bantam A or Midget A may try out for one team at these levels in another Association in their Region.

Any player requesting to move from one MHA/Region to another shall be referred by the Regional Director to the Minor Council Executive through the Conference Coordinator.

**2.31** - Subsequent to Regulation 2.30, all Peewee AAA, Bantam AA and Midget AA teams within the initial two-week try out period at the start of season must sign a minimum of 11 players and one goaltender. Players and goaltender not signed as part of this 12 may be permitted to try out for another Peewee, Bantam or Midget team with permission from the Regional Director, to a maximum of two teams.

Please refer to Hockey NS Rules and Regulations found at the Hockey NS Website for the most up to date information.

[http://www.hockeynovascotia.ca/hns\\_12406.html](http://www.hockeynovascotia.ca/hns_12406.html)







## 14.2 BDMHA POLICY

The BDMHA objective is to balance our obligations to our members with the opportunity to make a more competitive rep team. The BDMHA policy is as follows:

- The out of area player must be determined to be one of the top 5 forwards, top 3 defense or the top two goalie.
- The BDMHA will accept a maximum of 2 out of area players on a team.

## 15 INQUIRIES AND REVIEWS

Any inquiries, during and after the tryouts, **MUST** be addressed to VP Competitive only. No other coach, evaluator, assistant or executive member will entertain issues relating to individual players. No phone call will be accepted until 24 hours have passed from the time of the final **team** placement posting. Team placement is not the same as Stage placements. After spring tryouts complete the tryout process is not considered complete, that is only Stage 1. There are three following stages before tryouts are considered complete where players are assigned to a team and dialog can begin.

If the VP Competitive feels the matter needs further review, then they will consult with the Hockey Development Professional. In extreme cases, the matter may be referred to the President of BDMHA.

If any complaints arise from the tryout **process**, BDMHA shall appoint a Tryout Review Committee specifically to handle the complaint. The Review Committee will consist of Executive Board members, independent hockey experts and selected parents. A player or his/her representative may request a review of a tryout selection decision for any stage relating to him/her by giving notice of review. The notice of review must be in writing, setting out the specific grounds for the review. The review will only be entertained if the established tryout evaluation **process** has not been adhered to. Reviews related to the decisions of the independent evaluation team (aka team or stage placements) will **NOT** be entertained under any circumstances.

The player or his/her representative will be entitled to appear personally before the Review Committee to make submissions. The Review Committee shall not review an Evaluation Team's discretionary assessment of a player's hockey ability. The Review Committee will not consider any complaints until after all the tryout process is complete. The Review Committee shall reach and communicate their decision no later than 48 hours after such hearing. The decision of the Review Committee is final and no further reviews shall be permitted.

All Tryout requests are submitted using the Tryout Contact Form. This includes absences and illness notifications. Link is found on the Bedford Blues Website within the Tryout section.

