



## Manual of Operations

Title: Import Players	Number: MO-06-06
Source: LMC	
Approved By: WGMHA Board	Date Approved: June 2014 Date Last Reviewed: February 2016 Date Last Revised: March 2018

WGMHA 's primary focus is to offer female residents of the City of Waterloo the opportunity to learn, develop and compete at the level of hockey appropriate for their age and skill. The inclusion of non-Waterloo residents on Representative (Rep) Teams provides players from other Associations an opportunity to compete at the elite level if the player has the required skill, attitude and commitment for this level of hockey. There is no obligation that WGMHA elite level teams will select Import Players.

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for and outline expectations of WGMHA Coaches in the event that they are considering selecting Import Players for the respective teams.

Elite level teams are defined as Tier 1 and typically include teams with an AA or A categorization.

A WGMHA Tier 1 team is the highest ranked team within a WGMHA division regardless of its ranking by the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA). Team categorization within WGMHA is the responsibility of LMC. Input is sought from the Team Coach before final Intent to Register with OWHA is completed. Re-categorization (if applicable) is also the responsibility of LMC based on input from the team coach.

### **SELECTION OF IMPORT PLAYERS FOR TIER 1 TEAMS**

If a Coach is considering taking import players, the LMC Chair must be made aware of the consideration as early as possible in the try-out process. Import Player status will be determined by the city in which the player resides.

For an Import Player to be selected, the player must be demonstratively at a higher skill level than Waterloo residents trying out for the team (regardless of the position). For Atom and Peewee Tier 1 teams the player must be ranked within the top five players by the Coach and independent evaluators. For Bantam and Midget Tier 1 teams, the player must be ranked within the top eight by the Coach and independent evaluators.

The Coach must make recommendations to the LMC for final approval before the player can be selected.

### **NUMBER OF IMPORT PLAYERS**

The maximum number of Import Players permitted on each WGMHA team is governed by the team rankings within WGMHA and the team's divisional (age group) classification.



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With priority emphasis on Waterloo Residents, the maximum number of Import Players allowed per team is as follows:

<b>Divisional Classification</b>	<b>Number of Import Players</b> (inclusive of all positions – defence, forward and goalie)
Novice Tier 1	None (0)
Atom Tier 1	Up to 2
Peewee Tier 1	Up to 3
Bantam Tier 1	Up to 4
Midget Tier 1	Up to 5
Intermediate AA	No limit
Intermediate PWHL	No limit
Senior	No limit. Priority selection given to WGMHA players.

Under special circumstances, a Tier 1 Coach may request additional import players above the number allocated for the respective age group. All requests must be in writing, supported by the Coach and player, reviewed by LMC and approved by the Board. Players being considered must meet the criteria for the respective age category in the Selection of Import section above. The decision of the Board is final and not subject to appeal.

### **Considerations for Goaltenders**

Developing and retaining goalies is a priority for WGMHA, in order to achieve this, the following considerations apply:

- a. When the total number of WGMHA goaltenders in a division is equal to or exceeds the total number of available Rep goaltender positions, import goaltenders will NOT be permitted without LMC approval.
- b. When the total number of WGMHA goaltenders in a division is less than the total number of available goaltender positions, import goaltenders will be permitted. Import goaltenders may attend tryouts beginning with the Tier 1 team tryout and continue to subsequent team tryouts if released and approved by LMC.



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- c. No team shall have two (2) import goaltenders when WGMHA goaltenders are available.
- d. If an import goaltender is selected under a) above the import goaltender counts as one of the total Import Players allowed for the team.
- e. If an import goaltender is selected under b) above the import goaltender does not count as one of the total Import Players allowed for the team.

Any deviation from these considerations requires LMC approval.

### **Import Players on Tier Two Teams**

LMC may approve up to two (2) import players on Tier Two teams (Atom through to Intermediate). A Coach considering import players must discuss the possibility with the Director Rep and Director Coach and Player Development within the first two try-out ice times. LMC approval is required before the player can be selected.

### **Import Players on Tier Three or Four Teams**

Import players are not permitted on Tier Three or Four teams. The only exception is when Considerations for Goalies section (b) (above) has been deemed in effect by LMC for a specified season.