



Manual of Operations

Title: Team Selection and Number of Players	Number: MO-06-05
Source: LMC	
Approved By: WGHA Board	Date Approved: June 2014 Date Last Reviewed: Feb 2021; May 2024

WGHA strives to create and maintain a safe, inclusive environment that encourages all players to develop and enjoy the sport of hockey.

U7 PROGRAM TEAM SELECTION

For the U7 Program team selection, the WGHA will follow Hockey Canada and OWHA guidance for U7 programming. The WGHA will maintain a U7 and U9 Program Handbook that follows this guidance provided. Refer to the U7 and U9 Program Handbook on the WGHA website for detailed information on U7 team selection.

In the event the U7 and U9 Program Handbook has information that differs from Hockey Canada / OWHA directives, the Hockey Canada / OWHA guidance will be used and the Handbook revised to reflect the changes.

U9 PROGRAM TEAM SELECTION

For the U9 Program team selection, the WGHA will follow Hockey Canada and OWHA guidance for U9 programming. The WGHA will maintain a U7 and U9 Program Handbook that follows this guidance provided. Refer to the U9 Program Handbook on the WGHA website for detailed information on team selection.

In the event the U7 and U9 Program Handbook has information that differs from Hockey Canada / OWHA directives, the Hockey Canada / OWHA guidance will be used and the Handbook revised to reflect the changes.

HOUSE LEAGUE TEAM SELECTION

WGHA will follow Hockey Canada and OWHA guidance for House League programming. The WGHA will maintain a House League Handbook that follows this guidance provided. Refer to the House League Handbook on the WGHA



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website for detailed information on team selection. WGHA will employ the following additional requirements for team selection:

- For the U11, U13, U15, U18 and U22 House League team selections, the Director of House League and the House League Convener(s) shall be empowered to develop an “equalization system” to be used to place players on House League teams in their respective divisions with the intent to make even-strength teams at each age group.
- The Director of House League and the Convenor(s) will establish House League rosters where the number of players on a team will range from 13 (minimum – 8 forwards, 4 defence, 1 goalie) to 17 (maximum – 9 forwards, 6 defence, 2 goalies). All House League teams will be numerically balanced when possible. If registration numbers do not support these roster numbers, the Director of House League shall determine the number per team, subject to ratification by the League Management Committee (LMC).
- All House League teams must strive to use three forward lines and two sets of defense players as a minimum where numbers warrant.

DEVELOPMENT STREAM (DS) TEAM:

For DS team selection, the Director of House League and House League Convenor(s) will conduct tryouts for each division in which a minimum of 2 House League teams are in place and sufficient DS registration numbers support fielding a team.



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In the event the House League Handbook has information that differs from Hockey Canada / OWHHA directives, the Hockey Canada / OWHHA guidance will be used and the Handbook revised to reflect the changes.

REPRESENTATIVE TEAM SELECTION

Tier 1 teams are expected to be AA teams. Tier 2 teams are expected to be A teams. Team categorization within WGHA is the ultimate responsibility of the LMC. A Head Coach can request that LMC support a recategorization decision. LMC, in such an instance, may assign a specific individual along with the Director of Representative Hockey to consult with coaches, parents and to view games and results as appropriate in making the final categorization decision with respect to "Intent to Register with OWHHA." LMC decisions on categorization may be appealed to the WGHA Board by the Head Coach.

Public tryouts typically start in April or the beginning of September, as decided by the Board of Directors each season. AA/A High Performance (HPTP) teams will be selected in April. Tier 3 and 4 teams may be selected in Spring and/or Fall. Hockey Canada / OWHHA rules may dictate specific timing by division, and this will be communicated on the WGHA web site.

OWHA OWHL U22AA Elite Special Notes

- The OWHL U22AA Elite team will hold tryouts immediately following provincials.
- Any U18 or U15 registered player within the WGHA requires a Permission to Try-Out (PTT) to skate with any OWHL Elite team other than the WGHA OWHL U22 AA Elite team.
- WGHA Players attending any OWHL ELITE tryouts should attend at least one WGHA tryout at their age group (so that if the player is released from



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the OWHL ELITE tryouts, they have the opportunity to be selected to the other team). It is recommended that the player contact the appropriate WGHA Head Coach prior to tryouts to ensure the Head Coach is aware of the players intentions.

- The OWHL U22AA Elite team is exempt from the rest of the policy in the Representative Team Selection section.

U11 Special Notes

- U11 Representative Teams are exempt from MO-06-06

Waterloo Ravens encourage all players to play at the top level of hockey that they possibly can. Along with having fun, we want to put on the ice the most competitive teams at every level of play.

At the discretion of the Head Coach, and with Director of Representative Hockey, or Director of Coaching & Player Development, approval, a player may be granted a spot on a team based on a Head Coach's prior evaluation of the player. Such a decision should be communicated to LMC during tryouts at the earliest opportunity. Examples of situations in which this may be used include:

- Injury / Illness. If a player is unable to attend tryouts due to health reasons, they must provide a doctor's note at the earliest opportunity to the WGHA or at tryouts to the registration desk, and inform the Head Coach.
- Planned Absence. In certain circumstances players may need to be absent from tryouts for Head Coach and LMC-approved reasons.

Head Coaches have association-scheduled WGHA tryout ice times and exhibition games to pick their teams by an association-determined selection date. Player selection will be based on each player's ability, knowledge of the



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game, and attitude. For reasons of consistency, for skill-based tryouts, the WGHA may assign on-ice staff to manage practice-style tryouts as part of this process.

It is recommended that all players should be at all tryouts to have the best opportunity to make the team. If a player has a conflict and cannot attend a tryout session, discussion with the Head Coach prior to the ice time is necessary and it is then up to the Head Coach whether the player is still eligible for tryouts if she misses.

All Representative player releases will be made online. Final releases may be done in person at the Head Coach's discretion. Players not asked to dress for the final tryout cannot be involuntarily released without the

Head Coaches are required to use a minimum of two (2) independent evaluators and a list of these evaluators must be provided to the Director of Coaching & Player Development and Director of Representative Hockey, prior to the first tryout. Evaluators are meant to provide feedback and independent assessment to help the Head Coach make team selections. All evaluators must not be in conflict with the age group in which they are evaluating.

For AA/A (High Performance) teams,

- The LMC may additionally assign an evaluator from LMC, the Board, or the broader community as a member of the evaluation team.

All Head Coaches are responsible for finding on-ice helpers and bench staff for tryouts. The preference is that staff cannot have a player trying out for the team. Head Coaches are also responsible for finding dressing room support and trainers for all remaining away tryout games. If the Head Coach requires assistance, they may contact the Director of Volunteers.



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Head Coaches are asked to use the evaluation forms provided by the WGHA, or a format of similar detail, for all players in order to present a fair and seamless team evaluation process. A stack rank of players by position with notes from evaluators should be maintained during the tryout process so that the close decisions can be most easily identified. The Head Coach must retain these materials throughout the tryout process and share with the Director of Coaching & Player Development, Director of Representative Hockey and assigned LMC evaluator as requested.

Head Coaches will provide to the Players and Parents an outline of their expectations for all team members prior to tryouts, including a draft budget and proposed tournaments. This outline needs to be approved in advance of tryouts by the LMC or the Director of Representative Hockey.

Generally, Rep Teams carry seventeen (17) players comprising fifteen (15) skaters and two (2) goalies. Head Coaches may, in exceptional circumstances and with prior approval of the Director of Representative Hockey AND the LMC, select up to 19 players (17 skaters and 2 goalies) or play numerically short.

Head Coaches may, in exceptional circumstances and with explicit LMC approval, select a roster that includes only one goalie. Any such request should be brought to the attention of the Director of Representative Hockey at the earliest opportunity and made in writing with justification to the LMC.