



SOOKE & DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 383

SOOKE, BC V9Z 1G1

www.sookeminorhockey.ca

SDMHA Representative Team Tryout Policy

Introduction

Sooke and District Minor Hockey Association (SDMHA) conducts pre-season evaluations for players interested in joining one of the SDMHA Representative (Rep) Teams. These evaluations are designed to ensure a fair and transparent assessment process, placing each player at the appropriate level based on their skill, effort, and overall performance. Our goal is to foster a competitive, development-focused environment that supports both individual and team success.

The tryout process is coordinated and administered by the Vice President of Operations and the Representative Team Selection Committee, which includes the SDMHA Coach Coordinator and at least one additional Director at Large. The following policy outlines the structure, expectations, and procedures for these evaluations.

For the purposes of this policy, the terms “tryout” refer to the full player selection process including all evaluation sessions, scrimmages, assessments used to assess players for Representative Team placement. The term ‘evaluation’ refers to the scoring and assessment component of the tryout process.

Effective Date

June 17, 2026

Purpose

This policy outlines the procedures and expectations for tryouts for representative (rep) teams within SDMHA. It aims to ensure a fair, transparent and accountable selection process that uses standardized evaluation criteria and promotes player development through constructive feedback where appropriate.

Scope

The Tryout Policy is applicable to any members of the SDMHA, including association directors and staff, teams, evaluators, on-ice and off-ice officials, players, and players’ family members participating or involved with SDMHA tryouts.

Eligibility

- Players must be registered with SDMHA prior to tryouts.
 - If a player is trying out from another association, registration with SDMHA will occur only if the player successfully earns a position on the representative team.
- All outstanding fees must be paid in full.
- Players must meet age division and residency requirements as per BC Hockey and Hockey Canada regulations.
- Players from outside SDMHA must obtain the necessary transfer approvals.
- Players must arrive with full, appropriate and safe hockey equipment.
- Players are expected to attend all sessions for their division unless the absence is approved in advance or due to injury, illness, or another extenuating circumstance.

Tryout Registration & Fees

- Players must register for tryouts before August 14, 2026.
- A non-refundable tryout fee must be paid by August 14, 2026
- No refunds will be provided for missed sessions unless due to injury (with medical documentation) or extenuating circumstances approved by the SDMHA Representative Team Selection Committee.

Evaluator Selection

- The SDMHA Representative Team Selection Committee will be responsible for selecting evaluators for the tryout process.
 - All evaluators must disclose any real or perceived conflicts of interest before the tryout process begins.
 - Evaluators with a known relationship to a player will not score that player’s performance. Where possible, they will be reassigned to a different evaluation group or will abstain from scoring the affected player(s).
 - Evaluators who must assess players they know are required to apply Hockey Canada’s standardized assessment criteria objectively and consistently, without allowing prior knowledge of the player to influence their scoring.



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- The Committee will make every effort to ensure that each evaluation session includes at least three evaluators.

Tryout Process

- Tryouts will be conducted over multiple sessions, including at least one (1) skills evaluation, small-area games, and at least two (2) full ice scrimmages.
- Tryouts will commence after the Labour Day long weekend.
- Each player will be assigned a unique identification number for all tryout sessions. Players must wear their assigned number visibly on their jersey or pinnie at all times during evaluations.
- Player evaluations will be completed by independent evaluators and out-of-division SDMHA coaches in alignment with standardized Hockey Canada assessment criteria. SDMHA is committed to a fair, consistent, and impartial evaluation process and will make every effort to minimize potential bias by selecting evaluators who do not have direct relationships with the players being assessed.
- Evaluation criteria includes skating, puck skills, game play/hockey sense, compete level, and coach-ability as per Hockey Canada Guidelines.
- Players are expected to attend all tryout sessions for their division. Missed sessions may affect evaluation and selection unless the absence is approved in advance or due to injury, illness, or another extenuating circumstance.
- Evaluation results are used solely for the purpose of team selection. They are confidential and will not be released to players or parents at any stage of the tryout process.
 - Feedback may be provided to players only during the player placement interview and is intended to support player development, not to disclose scoring or rankings.
 - Evaluator scoring rubrics, assessment sheets, and committee deliberations remain the property of SDMHA and are not subject to disclosure.

Team Selection

- The top 12 players will be selected based on standardized evaluation rankings, while the remaining roster spots will be determined by the selected divisional Head Coach, in consultation with the SDMHA Representative Team Selection Committee, considering overall team needs and player dynamics.
- The final 3–5+ players must be chosen from the top twenty (20) players as determined by the standardized evaluation process.
- The Head Coach may carry an expanded roster into team practices and games for further evaluation before making final decisions.
 - All final decisions must be made prior to September 30th.
- Players not selected for the representative roster will have the opportunity to participate on a recreational team.
 - Players remaining within the top twenty (20) evaluation rankings who are not selected to the final representative roster may be considered for Affiliate Player status.
- In addition to evaluation performance, factors such as prior attendance, disciplinary history (including suspensions), and commitment to team expectations may be considered in the selection process. If such factors result in a player being removed from the top 12 or not selected from the top 20, the Committee must document the rationale.
- Roster decisions will be communicated either by email or through an in-person meeting, delivered by the divisional Head Coach along with at least one additional representative (Assistant Coach, Representative Team Selection Committee member, or an SDMHA Executive Member). The divisional Head Coach will determine the most appropriate method of delivery. SDMHA will endeavor to communicate roster decisions within 3 days after the conclusion of the final tryout session.

Injuries & Absences

- Injured players must provide a medical note to be considered for a conditional evaluation at a later date.
- Players who miss tryouts due to extenuating circumstances must notify SDMHA in writing before tryouts begin.
- Late tryouts may be granted at the discretion of the SDMHA Representative Team Selection Committee.



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Appeals & Complaints

- All roster decisions are final. These decisions are not eligible for appeal under the SDMHA Bylaws, as they do not constitute disciplinary action nor meet the grounds for appeal under Section 8.3. Final roster placements will not be changed as a result of a complaint.
- Any concerns must be submitted in writing to the SDMHA Vice President of Operations within 24 hours after finalizing rosters.
 - Concerns will be reviewed only to ensure the evaluation process was conducted fairly and according to established guidelines. The review will not reconsider individual evaluation scores, rankings, or final placement outcomes.
- If a process error is identified, the Committee may recommend corrective actions to improve future evaluation procedures; however, this will not result in changes to individual roster placements.

Code of Conduct

- Players and parents are expected to uphold the SDMHA Code of Conduct at all times throughout the tryout process. Disruptive behavior, harassment, or verbal abuse toward evaluators, coaches, staff, or other participants will not be tolerated. Any player or parent exhibiting such behavior may be removed from tryouts immediately and may face further disciplinary action in accordance with the SDMHA Code of Conduct.
- Players and families must not approach evaluators regarding rankings, evaluations, or roster decisions at any time during or after tryouts. All inquiries must follow the established communication pathways outlined by SDMHA.

Amendments & Review

- The SDMHA Vice President of Operations will review this policy annually.
- Revisions may be implemented in response to feedback, operational requirements, or updates to BC Hockey and/or Hockey Canada regulations.

References

[Hockey Canada Long Term Player Development Guidelines](#)

[Hockey Canada Player Pathway Guidelines](#)