

# QUEENS COUNTY MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## TRYOUT & TEAM SELECTION POLICY

**Effective Date:** September 13, 2026

**Approved By:** QCMHA Board of Directors



### 1. Purpose

The Queens County Minor Hockey Association (QCMHA) is committed to providing players with a fair and consistent opportunity to be evaluated and placed on an appropriate team.

All tryouts and team selections will follow the current rules and regulations of Hockey Canada and Hockey Nova Scotia. Where this policy conflicts with those regulations, Hockey Canada or Hockey Nova Scotia requirements will take precedence.

### 2. Team Formation

QCMHA will determine which teams and levels can reasonably be offered each season.

Team formation will consider:

- Registration and tryout numbers;
- Number of goalies;
- Player ability;
- Appropriate roster sizes;
- Ice availability;
- League and Hockey Nova Scotia requirements;
- Coaching and volunteer availability; and
- Overall team viability.

Registration numbers or participation in a tryout do not guarantee that a team will be formed at a particular level.

QCMHA may work with neighbouring associations when necessary to provide appropriate hockey opportunities for players.

### 3. Tryout Registration

Players wishing to participate in QCMHA competitive tryouts must complete the registration process and pay any applicable tryout fee by the deadline established by QCMHA.

Late registrations may be accepted at the discretion of the QCMHA Board or Tryout Committee.

#### **4. Players From Other Associations**

QCMHA may allow players from other associations to participate in tryouts where permitted by Hockey Nova Scotia.

All required releases or approvals must be obtained before a player can be rostered with QCMHA.

Participation in a QCMHA tryout does not guarantee placement on a QCMHA team.

#### **5. QCMHA Players Trying Out Elsewhere**

QCMHA supports players pursuing higher-level hockey opportunities.

Players may attend higher-level tryouts with other associations where permitted by Hockey Nova Scotia.

Players who are unsuccessful at another association's tryout may return to QCMHA in accordance with Hockey Nova Scotia rules, provided an appropriate QCMHA team and roster position are available.

If QCMHA cannot offer an appropriate team, QCMHA will make reasonable efforts to work with the player and neighbouring associations to find a suitable hockey opportunity.

#### **6. Tryout Process**

QCMHA will make reasonable efforts to provide players with multiple opportunities to demonstrate their abilities.

Evaluations may include:

- Skills and drills;
- Skating;
- Puck skills;
- Hockey sense;
- Compete level;
- Team play;
- Game or scrimmage situations; and
- Position-specific skills for goaltenders.

The evaluation format and number of sessions may vary depending on registration numbers, available ice and the teams being formed.

#### **7. Evaluators and Conflicts of Interest**

QCMHA will make reasonable efforts to use qualified and impartial evaluators.

Any potential conflict of interest must be disclosed to the Tryout Committee. Where appropriate, an evaluator may be removed from evaluating a particular player.

No single evaluator should be solely responsible for determining a player's placement.

## **8. Team Selection**

Team selections will be based primarily on the player's performance during the current evaluation process.

QCMHA may also consider:

- Team composition;
- Number of forwards, defence and goalies;
- Appropriate roster size;
- Previous evaluations where necessary; and
- Player safety and development.

Players are not guaranteed placement based on previous team membership, previous coaching relationships or family connections.

Where multiple teams are being formed at the same level, QCMHA will make reasonable efforts to create balanced and appropriate teams.

## **9. Attendance**

Players are expected to attend all scheduled tryout sessions.

If a player is unable to attend because of illness, injury, school, another sanctioned hockey commitment or another significant circumstance, QCMHA should be notified as soon as possible.

QCMHA may consider previous evaluations or other relevant information when assessing a player who misses a session.

## **10. Confidentiality and Communication**

All evaluation scores, rankings and evaluator comments are confidential.

QCMHA will communicate final team selections to players and families once the process is complete.

Evaluators, coaches and volunteers involved in the process must not disclose individual player rankings or evaluation information.

## **11. Concerns**

Parents or guardians may raise a concern with the QCMHA Board if they believe the established tryout process was not followed.

Concerns must be submitted within 48 hours of team selections being announced.

Disagreement with an evaluator's assessment of a player's hockey ability is not grounds for an appeal.

## **12. Conduct**

Players, parents/guardians, coaches, evaluators and volunteers are expected to conduct themselves respectfully throughout the tryout process and follow the QCMHA Code of Conduct and all applicable Hockey Canada and Hockey Nova Scotia requirements.

Harassment, intimidation or attempts to influence evaluators or team selections will not be tolerated.

## **13. Board Authority**

The QCMHA Board of Directors has final authority over team formation and the Association's tryout process, subject to Hockey Canada and Hockey Nova Scotia regulations.

The Board may make reasonable decisions regarding situations not specifically addressed in this policy.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the QCMHA Board.

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