

Kelowna Minor Hockey

Development & Representative Try-Out Guidelines

Introduction

The Kelowna Minor Hockey Association (KMHA) has created this try-out guideline in order that association members have clarity as it relates to the Development (“Dev”) & Representative (“Rep”) try-out process. We have attempted to create a thorough and fair evaluation framework, which gives every player trying out an opportunity to be selected to the appropriate KMHA team.

Evaluation Process

At KMHA it is our goal to provide a challenging and fair approach to hockey at the next level for our Dev/Rep and our Recreational programs. The Association will prepare a comprehensive and professional evaluation of our players. It is noted that parent coaches will not participate in the initial start of season evaluations; independent evaluators will be utilized.

During the tryout process, players will not be permitted to wear any Rep or Spring hockey gear. This includes helmet stickers, pant shells and socks. KMHA will have generic socks at the tryouts for those players who need them. Pant shells and helmet stickers must be removed. Any player who doesn't abide by this policy will be removed from the ice until they meet this expectation.

Our goal is to ensure that our players are challenged yet still playing at a level where they are best suited to develop and truly enjoy the game of hockey. At KMHA, we are committed to giving every player the opportunity to achieve their goals by having an organization that is committed to their development. Each player and member will be expected to show professionalism, integrity, respect and sportsmanship. KMHA will abide by the Hockey Canada age guidelines for each division of hockey.

Attendance/Injury During Tryouts

All players trying out for Dev/Rep hockey must attend all assigned tryouts, which will begin September 7th, 2019. Players must attend their designated sessions regardless of their expectation/desire to play at a specific level.

Players who do not attend all tryouts could forfeit their opportunity to play Dev/Rep hockey for that season, and will immediately be registered for Recreational hockey in their division, except as provided in this section.

A player who has registered for Dev/Rep hockey but is unable to attend a tryout session due to sickness or injury must provide, not later than September 15, and before taking the ice for any further tryout session, a letter from a physician confirming said reason. In such circumstances:

- If a player's injury prevents the player from completing the tryout process, the player will be assessed by the KMHA Director of Hockey Development (“DHD”) and the Dev/Rep Coaches for that division after earliest medical approval date.
- The KMHA DHD may hold a position for a player missing if he/she believes that this player has shown from his/her past history, would make that team. The DHD must consult the situation with the KMHA Board.

- A position may only be held for an injured player, if the player has a Doctor's certificate indicating that the player is expected to be able to play hockey within a reasonable amount of time.
- If a position is held for an injured player, then the player must pay the Dev/Rep tryout fees prior to playing with that team.
- A player, who has registered for Dev/Rep Hockey but is unable to attend a tryout session due to exceptional personal circumstances, must seek permission in advance of the session to be missed, by way of a letter addressed to the applicable Association DHD. The Association DHD shall determine whether to approve the request via written (email) communication.

The Development/Representative Tryout Process:

1. Ahead of the September try-out period, the DHD will assign a Division Head Evaluator for the divisions with the largest number of players trying out. The DHEs will be independent, experienced hockey people. The DHEs will manage the tryout process for their division, and report to the DHD. The KMHA ice scheduler will attempt to ensure that the DHEs are available to observe all ice times for his/her division. The DHD is ultimately responsible for all player selection decisions.

Specifically, for the 2019-2020 season and the foreseeable future, the DHD will appoint DHEs for each of the following division tryouts:

- Atom Dev;
 - Peewee Rep;
 - Female Peewee & Bantam (one DHE will manage both female divisions).
2. Between 4-6 independent evaluators, chosen by the DHD, will assist the DHE in rating players during division tryouts.

It is extremely important during all evaluations that those involved in evaluating players be neutral. We ask that players and parents avoid attempts to communicate with these individuals. Evaluators will be seated in a designated area, and no other individuals will be permitted into this area.

3. Placement for tryouts will begin upon completion of the initial evaluation skates.
 - The initial evaluations are skewed towards scrimmages (generally three ice sessions), allowing players to demonstrate their skills, hockey sense, team play, conditioning and compete level.
 - After the initial evaluations, players will either be assigned to a Dev/Rep tryout group, or to Recreation team evaluations.
 - Roster/tryout updates will be made as soon as reasonably possible through notices posted to the KMHA website. Players who are released during the final weekend of tryouts (2019 final tryout weekend will be September 21-22nd – see more information below) will receive an email from the DHD, notifying them of their assigned team.
 - Separate goaltender evaluation sessions will be held using independent goalie evaluators. As discussed above, it is expected that goalies attend every one of their assigned evaluation sessions.

2019-20 Atom Development Teams

KMHA intends to field the following Atom Dev teams for the 2019-2020 season:

- Two Atom A teams
- One Atom B team
- One Atom C team

Each team will be composed of 15 skaters and two goalies. Evaluators will be assigning the best available players to form those teams, regardless of the position the player initially registered for.

2019 Atom Dev Tryout Plan & Calendar

September 3 – 7 th	All players are provided two, non-evaluated, 1-hour skills practices. These sessions are to be used to help players clear “summer rust” and help prepare them for try-outs.
September 6 - 9 th	Two Goalie specific, additional sessions.
September 7 – 10 th	All players participate in three try-out sessions, which are skewed towards scrimmages.

Within 48hrs of the last of three initial evaluation sessions, players will be assigned into four groups:

1. Atom 1

We expect to assign roughly 10 players into this group. These players will have been evaluated as the top players in the Atom age category and will play the 2018-19 season in Atom A, on one of the two Atom A teams.

2. Atom 2

We expect to assign 34 players into the Atom 2 group. These players will be split into two teams. Subsequent evaluation within this group will determine the best 24 (roughly) players who should join the Atom 1 group in filling the 34 roster spots of the two Atom A teams. Approximately 10 players within this group will be assigned a roster position on the Atom B team.

3. Atom 3

We expect to assign 34 players into the Atom 3 group. These players will be split into two teams. Subsequent evaluation within this group will determine:

- a. The best 7 players who should join the approximately 10 players remaining from the Atom 2 group to form the Atom B roster.
- b. The 17 players who will form the Atom C team roster.
- c. The approximately 10 players who will assigned into the Recreational division.

4. Recreational Division

All players not assigned to one of the three Atom Dev groups will play the 2019-2020 year in the Recreational division. Recreational division evaluation skates will take place at the end of the Dev tryout process.

The rationale of using this tryout structure is to separate the top players from the tryout groups, which will give the next tiers of players the best opportunity to demonstrate their own abilities. We believe this is the best way to quickly and correctly form our Dev teams.

- September 14 - 15th
- Group Atom 1 will be provided 1-2 skills practice(s).
 - The two Atom Group 2 teams will play two exhibition games vs each other and/or external competition.
 - The two Atom Group 3 teams will play two games against each other and/or external competition.

Within 48hrs of the last session, players will be assigned into the four rep teams, specifically: Two Atom A teams, one Atom B team and one Atom C team.

- Week of Sept 16th
- The two Atom A teams will play at least one game vs each other to assure parity between the two teams. There may be roster transfers between the two Atom A teams post these games.
 - The Atom B team will begin practices/games as a set rostered team
 - The Atom C team will begin practices/games as a set rostered team

September 27 – 29th “Competition Weekend” is a series of exhibition games organized by OMAHA to determine the competitiveness of teams so that league play is competitive across the Atom tiers.

While it is KMHA’s intention within Atom Dev to form two A teams, a B team and a C team, results from the competition weekend could result in moving a team into a higher/lower tier.

Goalie Evaluations

The goalie position is very specialized, and KMHA will have very experienced individuals evaluating these players. Game by game situations vary dramatically for a goalie, and thus make comparisons between goalies difficult. Relative to the skating positions, evaluators need to see goalies in specific, comparable situations. As a result, goalie specific tryout sessions will be a key part of the evaluation process.

Games During Tryouts

Rosters for each game will be set ahead of time with the objective, on a best effort basis, of seeing players play in different positions, with different players.

Coaches assigned to the try-out exhibition games are there to solely supervise and evaluate players, and not to coach them.

Player Placement Decisions & Feedback

Appeals to the evaluation group will not be offered. KMHA will assign an experienced group of independent evaluators whose decisions will be final.

Evaluations are made with the sole intent to rank and place players at the appropriate levels. Evaluators do not undertake lengthy verbal or written evaluations. As such, neither parents nor players should expect or request detailed feedback from the DHD.

At the Atom level, where all coaches are generally parents, coaches will not have a say in roster decisions. Rosters will be set by the DHE and the DHD.

Player Placement Notification

Evaluation results, after the initial three evaluation sessions and group placements, and until team completion, will be posted on the KMHA website at www.kelownaminorhockey.com. We believe this process allows for players to review their placement at home, which enables family support. We ask that families also regularly check the website for updated ice times/schedules.

2019-20 Peewee Representative Teams

KMHA intends to field the following Peewee Representative (“Rep”) teams for the 2019-2020 season:

- One Peewee Tier 1 team
- One Peewee Tier 2 team
- Two Peewee Tier 3 teams

Each team will be composed of 15 skaters and two goalies. Evaluators will be assigning the best available players to form those teams, regardless of the position the player initially registered for.

2019 Peewee Rep Tryout Plan & Calendar

September 3 – 7th All players are provided two, non-evaluated, 1-hour skills practices. These sessions are to be used to help players clear “summer rust” and help prepare them for try-outs.

September 6 - 9th Two Goalie specific, additional sessions.

September 7 – 10th All players participate in three try-out sessions, which are skewed towards scrimmages.

Within 48hrs of the last of three initial evaluation sessions, players will be assigned into four groups:

1. Peewee 1

We expect to assign roughly 8-10 players into this group. These players will be evaluated as the top players in the Peewee age category and will play the 2019-20 season on the Peewee Tier 1 team.

2. Peewee 2

We expect to assign 34 players into the Peewee 2 group. These players will be split into two teams.

3. Peewee 3

We expect to assign 34 players into the Peewee 3 group. These players will be split into two teams.

4. Recreational Division

All players not assigned to one of the three Peewee Rep groups will play the 2019-2020 year in the Recreational division. Recreational division evaluation skates will take place at the end of the Rep tryout process.

The rationale of using this tryout structure is to separate the top players from the tryout groups, which will give the next tiers of players the best opportunity to demonstrate their own abilities. We believe this is the best way to quickly and correctly form our Rep teams.

September 12 - 15th

1. Group Peewee 1 will be provided 1-2 skills practice(s).
2. The two Peewee Group 2 teams will play exhibition games vs each other, or another association.

Evaluation within this group will determine:

- a) the 13-15 best players who will join the Peewee 1 group in further Peewee Tier 1 tryouts;
- b) the next 17 rated players who will be involved in trying out for the Peewee Tier 2 team;
- c) the roughly 2-4 lowest rated players, who will form part of Peewee Tier 3 team rosters.

3. The Peewee Group 3 team will have two ice sessions, which we hope will include an exhibition versus another association. Between 2-4 players will be assigned to Recreational after the September 14-15th weekend.

Within 48hrs of the last session of the weekend:

- 23 players will be assigned to Peewee Tier 1 tryouts
- 17 players will be assigned to Peewee Tier 2 tryouts
- 34 players will be assigned to Peewee Tier 3 tryouts.

After September 15th, we expect to have 23 players participating in the Peewee Tier 1 tryout group, 6 players in excess of the number we will roster for the 2019-2020 season. As outlined below, by September 23rd, the final 6 Peewee Tier 1 player releases will be made, and these same 6 players will have earned a roster position on the Peewee Tier 2 team. The Peewee Tier 2 tryout group of 17 skaters will then release 6 players, who will roster on one of the two Peewee Tier 3 teams. Peewee Tier 3 will then release 6 players to Recreational.

Sept 16th – 22nd

All Peewee tryout tiers will be provided a series of exhibitions & practices.

September 23rd

Rosters for all Peewee Rep teams are announced.

September 27 – 29th

“Competition Weekend” is a series of exhibition games organized by OMAHA to determine the competitiveness of teams so that league play is competitive across the Peewee tiers.

While it is KMHA's intention within Peewee Rep to form one Tier 1 team, a Tier 2 team and two Tier 3 teams, results from the competition weekend could result in moving a team into a higher/lower tier.

Goalie Evaluations

The goalie position is very specialized, and KMHA will have very experienced individuals evaluating these players. Game by game situations vary dramatically for a goalie, and thus make comparisons between goalies difficult. Relative to the skating positions, evaluators need to see goalies in specific, comparable situations. As a result, goalie specific tryout sessions will be a key part of the evaluation process.

Games During Tryouts

Before September 15th, rosters for each game will be set ahead of time with the objective, on a best effort basis, of seeing players play in different positions, with different players.

Coaches assigned to the try-out exhibition games are there to solely supervise and evaluate players, and not to coach them. After September 15th, coaches will be permitted to choose their lines and pairs.

Player Placement Decisions & Feedback

Appeals to the evaluation group will not be offered. KMHA will assign an experienced group of independent evaluators whose decisions will be final.

Evaluations are made with the sole intent to rank and place players at the appropriate levels. Evaluators do not undertake lengthy verbal or written evaluations. As such, neither parents nor players should expect or request detailed feedback from the DHD.

At the Peewee level, coaches will have a say in final roster decisions. Rosters through September 16th will be set by the DHE and the DHD. Final roster decisions will be a group decision; combining the input of the DHD, DHE and coaches. If consensus cannot be reached, the DHD will have the final say on roster choices.

Player Placement Notification

Evaluation results, after the initial three evaluation sessions and Tier placements, and until team completion, will be posted on the KMHA website at www.kelownaminorhockey.com. We believe this process allows for players to review their placement at home, which enables family support. We ask that families also regularly check the website for updated ice times/schedules.

2019-20 Bantam Representative Teams

Bantam marks the beginning of BC Hockey Zone teams, with tryouts for these teams taking place within the spring and summer months. BC Hockey will roster one Bantam AAA team and one Bantam AA team.

For players not assigned to the above Zone teams and interested in playing Rep, KMHA intends to ice the following Bantam Rep teams for the 2019-2020 season:

- One Bantam A2 team (referenced as Tier 2 previously)
- One Bantam A3 team (referenced as Tier 3 previously)

Evaluators will be assigning the best available players to form those teams, regardless of the position the player initially registered for.

2019 Bantam Rep Tryout Plan & Calendar

<u>September 3 – 7th</u>	All players are provided two, non-evaluated, 1-hour skills practices. These sessions are to be used to help players clear “summer rust” and help prepare them for try-outs.
<u>September 7 - 12th</u>	Two goalie specific, additional sessions.
<u>September 7 – 12th</u>	All players participate in three try-out sessions, which are skewed towards scrimmages.

Within 48hrs of the last of three initial evaluation sessions, players will be assigned into three groups:

1. Bantam 1
We expect to assign roughly 8-10 players into this group. These players will be evaluated as the top remaining players in the Bantam age category and will play the 2019-20 season on the Bantam A2 team.
2. Bantam 2
The next 19 players will form Bantam 2.
3. Bantam 3
The remaining players in the tryout will be in Bantam 3

The rationale of using this tryout structure is to separate the top players from the tryout groups, which will give the next tiers of players the best opportunity to demonstrate their own abilities. We believe this is the best way to quickly and correctly form our Rep teams.

September 13 – 15th

1. Group Bantam 1 will be provided 1-2 skills practice(s).
2. The Bantam 2 group will play an exhibition games vs another association.

Evaluation within Bantam group 2 will determine:

- a) the best 7-9 skaters and goalie who will join the Bantam 1 group in forming the Bantam A2 roster, which will be composed of 17 skaters and 2 goalies (the Bantam A2 roster will be set);
- b) the next 19-20 rated players who will be involved in trying out for the Bantam A3 team

September 16th – 22nd

The Bantam A2 team and Bantam A3 squads will be provided practice and game times.

September 23rd

The roster for Bantam A3 will be finalized.

September 27 – 29th “Competition Weekend” is a series of exhibition games organized by OMAHA to determine the competitiveness of teams so that league play is competitive across the Bantam tiers.

While it is KMHA’s intention within Bantam Rep to form one A2 team and one A3 team, results from the competition weekend could result in moving a team into a higher/lower tier.

Goalie Evaluations

The goalie position is very specialized, and KMHA will have very experienced individuals evaluating these players. Game by game situations vary dramatically for a goalie, and thus make comparisons between goalies difficult. Relative to the skating positions, evaluators need to see goalies in specific, comparable situations. As a result, goalie specific tryout sessions will be a key part of the evaluation process.

Games During Tryouts

Before September 15th, rosters for each game will be set ahead of time with the objective, on a best effort basis, of seeing players play in different positions, with different players.

Coaches assigned to the try-out exhibition games are there to solely supervise and evaluate players, and not to coach them. After September 15th, coaches will be permitted to choose their lines and pairs.

Player Placement Decisions & Feedback

Appeals to the evaluation group will not be offered. KMHA will assign an experienced group of independent evaluators whose decisions will be final.

Evaluations are made with the sole intent to rank and place players at the appropriate levels. Evaluators do not undertake lengthy verbal or written evaluations. As such, neither parents nor players should expect or request detailed feedback from the DHD.

Rosters through September 13th will be set by the DHD. At the Bantam level, final roster decisions will be a group decision; combining the input of the DHD and coaches. If consensus cannot be reached, the DHD will have the final say on roster choices.

Player Placement Notification

Evaluation results, after the initial three evaluation sessions and Tier placements, and until team completion, will be posted on the KMHA website at www.kelownaminorhockey.com. We believe this process allows for players to review their placement at home, which enables family support. We ask that families also regularly check the website for updated ice times/schedules.

2019-20 Midget Representative Teams

In Midget, BC Hockey fields three Okanagan Zone teams, with tryouts for these teams taking place within the spring and summer months. For the 2019-20 season, the Okanagan will roster one Midget AAA (Major) team, one Midget AAA (U15 or Minor) team and one Midget AA team.

For players not assigned to the above Zone teams and interested in playing Rep, KMHA intends to ice one Midget A2 team (referenced as Tier 2 previously) for the 2019-20 season.

Evaluators will be assigning the best available players to form those teams, regardless of the position the player initially registered for.

2019 Midget Rep Tryout Plan & Calendar

September 3 – 7th All players are provided two, non-evaluated, 1-hour skills practices. These sessions are to be used to help players clear “summer rust” and help prepare them for try-outs.

September 7 - 15th Two goalie specific, additional sessions.

September 7 – 15th All players participate in three try-out sessions, which are skewed towards scrimmages.

Within 48hrs of the last of three initial evaluation sessions, players will either continue along in the A2 tryout group, or be assigned into Recreation. We cannot provide specifics in terms of numbers of players, as the number of Midget players participating in Rep tryouts varies considerably year to year. It is our hope to roster 17 skaters and 2 goalies at Midget A2.

September 16th – 22nd

The Midget A2 team will be provided practice and game times.

September 23rd

The Midget A2 roster will be finalized.

September 27 – 29th “Competition Weekend” is a series of exhibition games organized by OMAHA to determine the competitiveness of teams so that league play is competitive across the Midget tiers.

While it is KMHA’s intention within Midget Rep to form one A2 team, results from the competition weekend could result in moving a team into a lower tier.

Goalie Evaluations

The goalie position is very specialized, and KMHA will have very experienced individuals evaluating these players. Game by game situations vary dramatically for a goalie, and thus make comparisons between goalies difficult. Relative to the skating positions, evaluators need to see goalies in specific, comparable situations. As a result, goalie specific tryout sessions will be a key part of the evaluation process.

Games During Tryouts

Before September 15th, rosters for each game will be set ahead of time with the objective, on a best effort basis, of seeing players play in different positions, with different players.

Coaches assigned to the try-out exhibition games are there to solely supervise and evaluate players, and not to coach them. After September 15th, coaches will be permitted to choose their lines and pairs.

Player Placement Decisions & Feedback

Appeals to the evaluation group will not be offered. KMHA will assign an experienced group of independent evaluators whose decisions will be final.

Evaluations are made with the sole intent to rank and place players at the appropriate levels. Evaluators do not undertake lengthy verbal or written evaluations. As such, neither parents nor players should expect or request detailed feedback from the DHD.

Rosters through September 13th will be set by the DHD. At the Midget level, final roster decisions will be a group decision; combining the input of the DHD and coach. If consensus cannot be reached, the DHD will have the final say on roster choices.

Player Placement Notification

Evaluation results, after the initial three evaluation sessions and Tier placements, and until team completion, will be posted on the KMHA website at www.kelownaminorhockey.com. We believe this process allows for players to review their placement at home, which enables family support. We ask that families also regularly check the website for updated ice times/schedules.

2019-20 Female Representative Teams

KMHA intends to field the following Female Rep teams for the 2019-2020 season:

- One Peewee A team
- One Bantam A team
- One Midget A team

Depending on registration levels, we hope that each team will be composed of 15 skaters and two goalies. Evaluators will be assigning the best available players to form those teams, regardless of the position the player initially registered for.

2019 Female Rep Tryout Plan & Calendar

September 7 – 15th All players are provided two, non-evaluated, 1-hour skills practices. These sessions are to be used to help players clear “summer rust” and help prepare them for try-outs.

All players will then participate in three try-out sessions, which are skewed towards scrimmages.

Within 48hrs of the last evaluation session, some players may be assigned into the Recreation Division.

- September 20 – 22nd All age categories will play in exhibition games. The Pee wee female roster will be set and posted within 48hrs of their final exhibition game of the weekend.
- September 23 – 26th All age categories will be provided their regular morning and evening practices.
- September 27 – 29th The Bantam and Midget age groups will play exhibition games. The Bantam and Midget female rosters will be set and posted within 48hrs of their final exhibition games of the weekend.

The Pee wee Female team will be participating in the “Competition Weekend”, which is a series of exhibition games organized by OMAHA to determine the competitiveness of teams, so that league play is fair across the Pee wee tiers. While it is KMHA’s intention within Pee wee Rep to register the Pee wee female team into the boys Tier 3 category, results from the competition weekend could result in moving the team into a higher/lower tier.

Goalie Evaluations

The goalie position is very specialized, and KMHA will have very experienced individuals evaluating these players. Game by game situations vary dramatically for a goalie, and thus make comparisons between goalies difficult. Relative to the skating positions, evaluators need to see goalies in specific, comparable situations. As a result, goalie specific tryout sessions will be a key part of the evaluation process.

Games During Tryouts

Before September 15th, rosters for each game will be set ahead of time with the objective, on a best effort basis, of seeing players play in different positions, with different players.

Coaches assigned to the try-out exhibition games are there to solely supervise and evaluate players, and not to coach them. After September 15th, coaches will be permitted to choose their lines and pairs.

Player Placement Decisions & Feedback

Appeals to the evaluation group will not be offered. KMHA will assign an experienced group of independent evaluators whose decisions will be final.

Evaluations are made with the sole intent to rank and place players at the appropriate levels. Evaluators do not undertake lengthy verbal or written evaluations. As such, neither parents nor players should expect or request detailed feedback from the DHD.

At the Female level, coaches will have a say in final roster decisions. Rosters through September 16th will be set by the DHE (Pee wee & Bantam) and the DHD. Final roster decisions will be a group decision; combining the input of the DHD, DHE and coaches. If consensus cannot be reached, the DHD will have the final say on roster choices.

Player Placement Notification

Evaluation results, after the initial three evaluation sessions and Tier placements, and until team completion, will be posted on the KMHA website at www.kelownaminorhockey.com. We believe this process allows for players to review their placement at home, which enables family support. We ask that families also regularly check the website for updated ice times/schedules.