

Information on Representative Hockey

Q: What is Rep Hockey?

A: The Rep Team or “Representative” Team is the highest level of hockey that can be played within the DMHA. The Rep team is in a “tryout format” in which players/parents must previously register with the DMHA to be eligible to participate. Most “tryouts” occur prior to the summer break (late April/May). The team usually consists of 11-15 players (including goalies).

Q: Will it be equal Playing time?

A: We try to balance the playing time but it won't be equal all the time. We look at it as Fair Play. We are not only looking at the individual needs but the needs of the team. We also have to make decisions depending on size of roster and players positions.

Q: What is Fair Play?

A: Fair play is to respect the rules of the game, the opponents, the officials, the coaches, the parents and young players. Fair play is to teach players to play fairly with equal instructions. Fair play is trying to balance the playing time within the team. It is about working hard, doing your best and being a team player. It is about improving skills, making friends and having fun.

Q: What kind of pressure is put on Rep Players?

A: The Rep players are pushed to reach their potential in a competitive environment. They are encouraged to challenge themselves and are rewarded for it. They are not put down for making errors. Errors happen and we encourage them to learn from them. We offer a positive environment for the kids to learn. Key message is about working hard.

Note from Hockey Canada: *Children worry that they will fail, that they will not be able to live up to the demands of competition. Children can feel competitive stress before, during and after competitions. One U.S. study showed that 62% of youths worried about not playing well and about making a mistake, and 23% said anxiety could prevent them from playing in the future.*

Q: What about development in a Rep Team?

A: Development is done during practices. We offer qualified coaches and instructors to help teach individual skills, individual tactics as well as team skills and strategies. DMHA coaches also have the option to use “non-rostered” players on a “call up” basis; this is known as an Affiliated Player (AP). If a player is not yet at the level where he/she should be during the tryouts, they might be selected to be an affiliated player for that team. The affiliated players can be invited to practice with the team to continue their development in order to join the team later on.

Note from Hockey Canada:

Game Statistics – A PeeWee Game Analysis

The puck was on player's stick an average of 8 sec./game!

Players took an average of 1 or 2 shots per game!

Players took an average of 18 shifts per game.

Q: When do tryouts start and end?

A: The official tryouts usually start at the end of April but the majority of the tryout process is completed before on-ice tryouts begin. This shouldn't be some dirty secret. It is not a negative. It makes sense. If you are a coach and you are going to rely solely on a few 1 hour sessions to decide who is on your team, then you are a poor coach. Most coaches will/should have a number of 'for sure' Players in mind before on-ice tryouts begin. Pre-selection started the day each coach was announced. Next year's coaches should be out watching games all over the place; they should be talking and placing phone calls; they should be responding to and sending emails; they should be talking with current and incoming coaches, etc. Next year's coaches should be highly visible around the rinks and ready to talk to parents.

Q: Who are coaches looking for?

A: Coaches may not pick who YOU think are the best players. That is because coaches have to build TEAMS and that involves a mix of left and right shots; offensive and defensive kids; fast kids and grinders; creative/flashy players and steady/dependable players. They also may have to keep body checking in mind(minor bantam and above), work ethic, which way a kid is trending and coachability. Finally, Rep teams have many events over the course of an 8-9 month season with team chemistry being an important component for success, so if you don't think parent behavior/attitude and player behavior/attitude have a role in selections then you are mistaken. Don't be the reason your kid doesn't make a team. If you suspect that you may be a crazy hockey parent, [please read this](#) and calm down and just enjoy.

Q: What if the coach does not pick my child?

A: Picking teams is not an exact science - coaches will make mistakes. They are not doing it on purpose - they want to win. But maybe they see some potential in a Player vs a Player who may have plateaued. Maybe they think they can improve the decision making of a Player who can skate and shoot like lightning. Maybe it doesn't work out. It doesn't mean the coach is incompetent and should be publicly or anonymously insulted. He/she was taking a chance to improve the team and it didn't work out.

So, with all of this in mind, what should you do to maximize your child's chances of achieving their goals?

1. **If you are a player** - work hard in games and practices - do the little things - be a great teammate who is easy to coach. You never know who is watching.
2. **If you are a parent**, be realistic. If your child is in HL, the chances of them making AA or AAA right away are very low. Target the appropriate level and contact the coach via email or if you see him around the rinks. Make sure he knows who your child is and why you think your child is a strong candidate for the team. Also, behave yourself - everyone is watching.
3. **If your child is returning from another association**, understand that they will usually have to be clearly, noticeably better than incumbents in order to make the team. That is not 'not fair' that is just human nature.