

## **GDMHA Competitive/Carded Team Selection Policy - Updated Oct 2024.**

### **U7 & U9**

Competitive teams are not to exist at the U7 and U9 levels. A temporary competitive team can be formed for a tournament if the level of that tournament warrants doing so but only with the approval of the GDMHA board. The players not participating in that tournament must be given consideration to play in other games or a tournament without the participation of the competitive team players to compensate for their missing games.

### **U11**

GDMHA supports forming a competitive team at the U11 level. This position is consistent with the direction of the EKMHA District, as well as BC Hockey's & Hockey Canada's direction that it is important to have players playing at a level that is appropriate for their development and that more players will enjoy and continue playing hockey when they are at level that is consistent with their skill level.

If the U11 level has enough players for two teams\* careful consideration must be given to the level of the competitive team and include discussion and consensus of parents and players involved. If a selection process is required the remaining players must have a place to play. Consideration should also be given to what other teams in the EKMHA are doing at the U11 level.

### **U13, U15 & U18**

If a team decides to form a competitive team &/or to 'card' careful consideration must be given to quality/competitiveness of the team and include discussion and consensus of parents and players involved. If a selection process is required the remaining players at that particular level must have a place to play.

### **GDMHA Registrar**

The Registrar must be notified within a reasonable time to fill out proper paperwork and registration of particular team including players and staff.

### **Selection Process**

- 1) **Notifying Players** - All players that are eligible to tryout for competitive or 'carded' teams should be permitted and notified of tryout times.
- 2) **Parent Meeting** - A parent/player meeting should be held prior to tryouts outlining coaching staff's expectations and the selection process. Program goals, direction of program, year plan, and expense breakdown should be discussed within a reasonable time. This can be done via email to the parents or by an in-person meeting where minutes are taken for record purposes and emailed to all parents.
- 3) **Tryout Ice Times** - At least 2-3 practices/games to identify player's ability. There must be 2-3 impartial, non-parent evaluators with reasonable hockey experience involved in the selection process to provide feedback to coaching staff. Evaluators must be present at all ice-times. Tryouts involving practices must be held in Golden.
- 4) **Evaluators** - evaluators must be non-partial, have no family connections to any players, hockey related and reserve the right to remain anonymous during selection process. It is recommended that the coach coordinator be present at the evaluation sessions to ensure a smooth process.
- 5) **Player Selection Evaluations** - evaluations on each individual player are to be completed on the GDMHA Evaluation Forms. Every player will be ranked in order of overall skill by each evaluator. These forms are to be kept by the coaching co-ordinator after the team selection is completed.
- 6) Selection will be based on overall skill at the level of U13 and younger. Goalie ranking will be separate from this. At the age of U15 and older rankings can be based on position and will be communicated prior to selection.

- 7) **Final Selections** - A committee of 3 non-biased board members and the coaching coordinator will independently review rankings from each evaluator and finalize the teams. This will be communicated to all families who participated in evaluations
- 8) If coaching staff has any concerns about the team selection, they must present their reasoning to the selection committee in the form a brief written report on selection decisions/process with breakdown of reasoning behind players not being selected (be able to express a valid reason if selection questioned at a later time).
- 9) **Evaluation Feedback** - will be provided to players upon request.
- 10) **Absentee Players** - It is required that all players attend a minimum of 2/3 of the evaluation practice times. Special consideration may be granted for separate evaluations when unavoidable circumstances warrant.
- 11) **Evaluation Dates** - any evaluations must not be held until the level has been on the ice for at least 3-4 practices but must be before September 30th to allow time for coach and manager selection and to have the necessary approvals prior to the team split.
- 12) **Goalies** - goalie evaluations must be done on a separate goalie evaluation form.
- 13) **Evaluation formats** - coaches must communicate with the evaluators as to how they would like the evaluation ice times ran and what drills and games they would like to see.

### **Forming Competitive Team Considerations**

Any team wanting to perform evaluations must strongly consider whether, or not, the two teams being formed will have enough players, coaches, and goalies. The following are points that must be considered:

- 1) It is understood that some players may not want to become goalies until they find out they did not make a competitive team, but may decide to become a goalie on a recreational team.
- 2) It is understood that some parents may not want to come forward and volunteer to coach a recreational team because they fear it will hurt their child's chances of making the competitive team.
- 3) Parent coaching/volunteer history and availability should have no impact (neither positive nor negative) on player selection.
- 4) If a competitive team is formed and there are not enough coaches or goalies for the recreational team the teams will be collapsed and merged into one team. The GDMHA board as well as potential coaches and parents from both the competitive and recreational teams will be responsible for ensuring adequate coaches and goalies for both teams. GDMHA will not permit a team to default at a level due to lack of coaches and goalies while another team at the same level operates.
- 5) If a competitive team is formed and there are not enough players left on the recreational team to comfortably field a team the teams will be collapsed and merged into one team. Generally, there should be 12-13 skaters minimum on a recreational team.
- 6) If a neighbouring association is not able to card a team for a certain division, players from that association should be welcomed to join our carded team. Any players choosing to do so should have the same access to open practices and would be expected to attend player selection evaluations and be evaluated according to the same process as players from GDMHA. The maximum number of neighbouring association players welcome to join a competitive team must be considered on a year-to-year basis depending on the number of GDMHA players in that division and this will be a GDMHA board decision.

\*If there are 27 or more players at an age group of U11 or higher, the teams will be split into two. If there are 24-27 players a parent meeting will be held to determine if it will be possible to form two teams. Considerations must be made to have a minimum number of players to form a

recreational team. It is recommended that there be 12-13 skaters and a goalie on a recreational team. Exceptions may be made depending on player commitment. Any fines for missed league games will be the responsibility of that team.