

SECTION 13 – SELECTION OF A TEAMS

13.1 GENERAL

- 1) The goal of the A TRYOUT process is to place players interested in playing A hockey on the appropriate team (e.g. A1, A2, and A3) based on their skills and abilities. CMHA is committed to providing a fair evaluation to all players; however, it is important to note that there will always be a level of subjectivity in any process used to evaluate players.
- 2) The same evaluation format will be used in all Divisions from U11 to U18; however, the format may be adjusted, based on the registration numbers.
- 3) The number of A teams per Division, and the possible formation of an A3 or A4 team at any level, will be at the discretion of the Executive, and will be based on the registration numbers.
- 4) The general principles and procedures of the A Tryout policies will be used in the U21 Division; however CMHA recognizes that the U21 Division is different from the other Divisions in various ways and thus the policies may need to be modified to fit the circumstances. This Division is different in that sometimes there may only be one A team, and it is also different in that the players' personal commitments (e.g. school, work, etc.) may interfere with their availability to attend tryout sessions and/or play on a certain team.

If there is only one team, or even not sufficient support for one team, CMHA will make a reasonable effort to locate a nearby minor hockey association that has space available for any CMHA player who is interested in playing on a A team for another association.

- 5) Applicants must be registered CMHA players, must have paid the applicable A Tryout fees; and an applicant must be from the U11, U13, U15, U18 or U21 Division.
- 6) At any time during the A Tryout process, the REC for the Division has the authority to remove any player from the tryouts if there is any concern about the safety of the player (e.g. a player is not sufficiently skilled enough to be involved in the tryout process and is at potential risk of being injured). If this should occur, the A Tryout fee will be refunded in full.
- 7) At any time during the A Tryout process, any member of the REC for the Division has the authority to suspend any player from an evaluation session if the committee member forms the opinion that the player is playing in an inappropriate fashion, including being excessively aggressive and/or playing in a dangerous manner (e.g. fighting or checking of players from behind).

The committee member is to advise the President of the suspension. The President and the REC for the Division is to then decide on appropriate follow-up action(s).

- 8) All players must agree to abide by the rules, regulations and policies of HC, BC Hockey, PCAHA and CMHA.
- 9) Players will be assigned to evaluation sessions in their age grouping. Tryout teams are formed based on previous year evaluation scores. Every effort is made to form balanced teams, such as:

Defense	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3
2nd Year D	3.75	3.50	3.40
	3.00	3.40	3.30
1st Year D	3.55	3.65	4.00
	3.45	3.30	3.10
C	2.50	2.50	2.50
Total	16.25	16.35	16.30

- 10) Evaluations will be conducted by **Independent Evaluators** (IEs), as well as any Independent Coaches approved to the teams being evaluated for.

An IE is defined as a person from outside the Association, or a person who is a member of CMHA and does not have a child/relation playing or Coaching in the Division, and in both cases who has sufficient skill and expertise to evaluate players or goalies at the level assigned.

IEs from more than one company will be used as much as possible, and in the case where a child of an IE is involved in a process, that IE will be excluded from that assessment.

Potential parent Coaches that have been interviewed and approved by the Executive, as set out in Section 13.3 (Evaluation Procedures) will also evaluate, but their scores will not count in the overall score of the player being evaluated. This evaluation is for the parent Coach reference only.

- 11) The evaluation process will be managed by a REC for each Division as appointed by the President – the Committee at each Division is to consist of three persons (excluding the President who is a member of all Committees as per CMHA bylaws). For each Division, the REC is responsible for the rep evaluation process and its members are to work together on the various issues that arise during the rep evaluation process with the aim of reaching decisions through mutual agreement - if mutual agreement cannot be reached on an issue, the matter is to be referred to the President who has the authority to make the final and binding decision.
- 12) Player rankings and the information about the performance of each player will be maintained by the REC for the Division or, as directed by the President, other designates from CMHA until such time that the rankings and information are no longer needed (e.g. after the appeal period).

The specific rankings of each player will remain confidential and will not be provided to anyone in any fashion, including to the parent(s) of the player.

The information about the performance of each player, in a general manner, will be made available by the Division Director to the parent(s) upon written request to provide feedback information only. **This will not be made available until the completion of the entire Rep tryout process[DR1] (late October at the latest).**

- 13) At the completion of Phase 1, once a player has been released from a team or pool, they may not be recalled to this level unless placed there due to a successful appeal.
- 14) An appeal of a player assignment may be initiated at any time during the assessment period under limited circumstances – details are contained in Section 13.5 (Appeal of a Player's Evaluation).
- 15) A player is also allowed to be moved to a higher team if all Coaches involved in that Division's A Tryouts agree, and the DOHO has reviewed the situation and agreed. See section 13.10 for details on this policy.
- 16) In the case of a Coach who has a child trying out for the team they are Coaching, their child must be rated sufficiently high enough that it would be reasonable for their player to be on the team. More specifically, being a Coach does not guarantee a child a position on any team.

CMHA will appoint interim parent Coaches to assist CMHA in the process, as necessary. These interim Coaches may be officially appointed once their child is rated sufficiently high enough that it would be reasonable for the player to be on the team.

The only exception to this policy is if the placement of the Coach is in the best interests of CMHA and/or there are no other reasonable Coaching alternative. In this case, the Executive may approve the placement of a player to a team. If this should occur, that team will be required to carry one extra player, and this player must be the one who would otherwise be moved to the lower level team.

- 17) Except for under exceptional circumstances, players must play on the team that they are assigned based on the evaluation process. For example, a player determined to be strong enough to play on the A1 team must play on this team, and will not be allowed to play on a lower A team (e.g. the A2 team).

In order to use the 'exceptional circumstance' provision, the parent(s) of the player must submit a request in writing to the President as soon as the parent(s) realize that an exceptional circumstance exists – this request must contain the appropriate information to support the request. The President must present the request within a reasonable timeframe to the Executive, who must either deny or approve the request. If the request is denied, the player may remain on the assigned team, or the player may be allowed to move to a C team. If the player moves to a C team, the vacant position on their A team must be filled by a player from the next lower team, and so forth until the rosters of all the affected A teams are full.

It is important to note that the use of the 'exceptional circumstance' provision will only be approved in relation to truly exceptional circumstances. In general, the use of this provision will not be supported for situations such as:

- a) The parent(s) and/or player does not like a certain Coach or would prefer a different Coach in the Division.
- b) The parent(s) do not like some of the other parents on the team; and
- c) The player does not like some of the other players on the team.

An exceptional circumstance is a highly unique situation. An example of a potentially valid exceptional circumstance is a situation in which the parent(s) of a player cannot afford to play on a specific A team due to the anticipated cost for the hockey season, and these costs are not foreseeably resolvable by the family.

If the exceptional circumstance is approved, the player will be assigned to the lower ranked team. The vacant position on their A team must be filled by a player from the next lower team, and so forth until the rosters of all the affected A teams are full.

- 18) Players are to be evaluated for the positions they have declared (e.g. forward) and are not to be considered for another position during the evaluation process. The only exceptions to this are:
- a) At the U11 Division, as players in this age group are not expected to have yet made a commitment to a full-time position. Thus, there is no position declaration for this Division.
 - b) If the REC determines that there is a player shortage for a specific position within the U13 through U18 levels to field a competitive team, they will bring that situation to the Executive Board. Upon consultation with the DOHO and the Head Coach, permission may then be granted by the Executive to allow one player to be moved from the position originally declared.
- 19) To avoid potential conflict or biases, no member of the REC for a specific Division, will have a child playing in the Division they serve on. In addition, no member of the Executive who has child in the A process for a given Division, will be involved in or present during that Division's player rating sessions.
- 20) A player returning from an injury exemption is not guaranteed a roster spot and can be released more than one level. (E.g. a player given an exemption to the A1 pool will not be guaranteed a spot on the A2 roster.) A player returning from injury exemption will be placed in the appropriate pool by the REC, based on previous hockey experience. The placement of the returning player will be determined by the date the returning player has been cleared to return to play (receipt of Return to Play Form), details are contained in Section 13.7 (Return to play from Injury).
- 21) The maximum player allotments will be adhered to as set out in these policies. The only exceptions are the Exceptional Player designation (Section 13.8), a successful appeal (Section 13.5), a change in player position (U11 only), or players who have been granted exemption status (section 13.6).
- 22) These procedures and policies will be available for all members of the Association to view during the evaluations (e.g. posted on the CMHA website).

13.2 EVALUATION FORMAT

The A Evaluation process will have up to three Phases: the Initial Assessment, comprised by the A1 Tryout Phase (Phase One), and the A2/A3 Tryout Phase (Phase Two), and the Final Assessment (Phase Three).

- As a result of the evaluations during Phase 1 of **U13 & U15**, all players not remaining in the A1 Camp will move on to Phase Two - A2/A3 tryouts.
- As a result of the evaluation during Phase 1 of **U11 & U18**, all players not remaining in the A1 Camp will be assigned to the A2 Camp, A3 Camp, or to C for further evaluation, skipping Phase Two.

Following are the details of each Phase.

INITIAL ASSESSMENT

PHASE ONE – A1 TRYOUT

- 1) For Divisions with an A1 Only Tryout (U13 and U15), each player will be required to declare if they wish to participate in the A1 Only Tryout before the start of the Initial Assessment Phase. Each player participating will be required to pay an extra fee to cover extra ice times.
- 2) For Divisions with an A Tryout (U11, U13, U15, and U18), each player will be required to declare if they wish to participate in the A Tryout before the start of the Initial Assessment Phase. Each player participating will be required to pay an extra fee to cover extra ice times and other costs associated to the A hockey program.
- 3) All players trying out for an A team, including players trying out at other BC Hockey programs such as Zone or Junior teams, are required to attend all scheduled evaluation sessions unless prior permission has been granted in writing to miss the session(s) by a member of the REC of the Division, through submission of an [Exemption Form](#).

Due to players of this age group trying out for other BC Hockey programs, more latitude may be given regarding their attendance at the CMHA evaluation sessions; however, these players must still follow the procedures outlined in Section 13.6 (Exemption Candidates) should they be unable to attend an evaluation session.

- 4) Any injuries, illnesses and/or absences that may affect the player's evaluation must be reported in writing, using the [Exemption Form](#) to a member of the REC of the Division before the Initial Assessment Phase, or immediately upon the occurrence. The player may be granted exemption candidate status for prolonged injury, illness, or absence.

Any player granted an injury or illness exemption must later provide a [Return to Play](#) form which states the player is cleared to return to full physical contact. Players will not be allowed to return to the ice, until the Division Director has received a valid Return to Play Form (see section 13.7).

The [Return to Play](#) form can be downloaded from the CMHA website under the Risk Management webpage – Injury section. Please note there is a separate form for concussions.

- 5) During this Phase, players will receive a minimum of (3) three on ice evaluation sessions.
- 6) All Goalies will receive (1) one goalie Skills specific session and a minimum of (2) two other sessions. All[DR2] goalies will be scheduled to receive an equal (within a few minutes) amount of evaluation time. Actual time in minutes, and the number of skates each goalie will participate in will vary on the actual number of goalies trying out.

- 7) For scrimmages during this Phase, players will be placed on Evaluation teams. Players must skate on the team assigned and at the position they declared (with the exception of U11, where position declaration does not apply), unless there are unforeseen circumstances and/or insufficient number of skaters for a position.
- 8) A player, who does not have the proper permission to miss an evaluation session, will be given a zero ("0") for any evaluation session that they did not attend as required. A zero ("0") rating may be appealed to the REC of the Division and, under exceptional circumstances, the REC may decide not to give a zero ("0") rating. In such a case, the overall rating of the player will be based on the number of evaluation sessions attended by the player
- 9) Player evaluation results during this Phase will be reviewed daily by the RECs to ensure there is consistency in the scoring.
- 10) Upon the completion of this Phase, all players not assigned for further evaluation with the A1 Camp will be reassigned to the A2/A3 Camp for further evaluation.
- 11) For players assigned to the A2/A3 Camp after completion of Phase 1, evaluation scores obtained in the Initial A1 Camp, will not be carried forward to Phase 2 evaluations
- 12) Players released from the Initial A1 Phase are not guaranteed a spot on the A2/A3 roster and can be released more than (1) one level during further evaluations.
- 13) The following are the maximum player allotments for the A1, A2, & A3 Camps. It is within the discretion of the REC of the Division to have less than the maximum allowable players, but the number of players is not to exceed these levels unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Team	Position	# Players
A1	Goal	3
	Defense	8
	Forwards	13
	Total	24
A2	Goal	2
	Defense	6
	Forwards	9
	Total	17
A3	Goal	2
	Defense	6
	Forwards	9
	Total	17

PHASE TWO

The timing to complete Phase Two is dependent on various factors; thus, the timing noted below is a guideline. The REC for each Division is responsible to ensure Phase Two is completed within a reasonable amount of time.

- As a result of the evaluations during Phase 1 of **U13 & U15**, all players not remaining in the A1 Camp will move on to Phase Two - A2/A3 tryouts.
- As a result of the evaluation during Phase 1 of **U11 & U18**, all players not remaining in the A1 Camp will be assigned to the A2 Camp, A3 Camp, or to C for further evaluation, skipping Phase Two.

A1 CAMP

- 1) Once a player is selected to the A1 Camp, that player can only be released one level (to the A2 Team).
- 2) A group of not more than (24) twenty-four players will advance to this Camp
- 3) The A1 Camp will commence following the Initial Assessment Phase. This Camp shall be completed upon the last ice slot provided by CMHA (approximately (21) twenty-one days after the completion of Phase 1).
- 4) CMHA will provide a minimum of (8) eight slots for Evaluations - the Coaches may use the ice for practices^[DR3] and/or exhibition games against teams from other associations.

As part of the evaluation process, the Coaches may also use dry land sessions (with sanctioning by BC Hockey) and extra ice sessions (e.g. practices) to enhance the evaluation process – all costs connected to these additional activities will be at the expense of the participants/team.

- 5) On the completion of this Camp, the A1 Team shall carry no more than (20) twenty players. This will provide (1) one extra non-rostered player per position.

A2/A3 TRYOUT

- 1) This will be a joint Tryout for A2/A3, in U13 and U15 only.
- 2) The A2/A3 Tryout will commence following the completion of the Phase 1 – A1 Tryout. The A2/A3 Tryout shall be completed upon the last ice slot provided by CMHA (approximately (7) seven days after the completion of Phase 1.)
- 3) During this Phase, players will receive a minimum of (3) three on ice evaluation sessions.
- 4) All Goalies will receive (1) one goalie Skills specific session and a minimum of (2) two other sessions. All^[DR4] goalies will be scheduled to receive an equal (within a few minutes) amount of evaluation time. Actual time in minutes, and the number of skates each goalie will participate in will vary on the actual number of goalies trying out.
- 5) On completion of the A2/A3 Tryout, the top ranked players (up to 6 defenseman, 9 forwards, and 2 goalies) will^[DR5]^[DC6]^[DR7] be assigned to the A2 Camp. The next highest ranked players (up to 6 defenseman, 9 forwards, and 2 goalies) will be assigned to the A3 Camp. The remaining players will be released to the C Division.
- 6) If an A4 team is approved by the Executive, then the same logic as noted above will be used to form the A4 Camp roster.
- 7) On completion of the A2/A3 Tryout, further player assignments for the final assessment (Phase 3), will be posted on the CMHA web site. Players not listed for further Camp assignments will be contacted by their Division Director for further skating assignments within the C Division.

PHASE THREE - The Final Assessment Phase

- 1) These evaluations will be conducted by the appointed Coach of the team.
- 2) If no Coach has been appointed to a team by the time the team Camp is formed, then the evaluations will be conducted by a minimum of (3) three Independent Evaluators (2) two for skaters, (1) one for goalies, and the remaining Coaching candidates for that Division.
- 3) As part of the evaluation process, the Coaches may also use dry land sessions (with sanctioning by BC Hockey) and extra ice sessions (e.g. practices, modified play sessions) to enhance the evaluation process. All costs connected to these additional activities will be at the expense of the team.
- 4) Each team will be required to determine their roster within a prescribed number of days, as instructed by the REC of the Division. The timing to complete the Phase Three evaluations is dependent on various factors. The REC for the Division is responsible for ensuring the Phase Three evaluations are completed within a reasonable amount of time and as scheduled.
- 5) On the completion of this Phase, all rosters will be final except for late return of a player under Exemption status (Section 13.6), or late Player Transfers.
- 6) Any releases made after this Phase will only be approved under exceptional circumstances, and would have to be approved by the Executive.
- 7) Releases made by Head Coaches in this Phase cannot be appealed, provided that the Coach has first confirmed their releases with the applicable REC.

13.3 EVALUATION PROCEDURES

GENERAL

- 1) If, due to unforeseen or unexpected circumstances, the required numbers of evaluators are not available for any evaluation session, the evaluation session will continue with the available evaluators.
- 2) A player rating scale shall be used in assessing players. (A copy of the player rating scale is available on the Division Evaluation page, on the CMHA web site)
- 3) Player rating reviews are to be held after each evaluation session or at the end of the day. These reviews are to be monitored by the REC of the Division. The goal of the reviews is to ensure consistency and make sure each player is evaluated thoroughly.
- 4) Players must be evaluated on their play during the sessions – they are not to be judged based on previous performance and/or their potential in the future.
- 5) **Player** assessment will be conducted by a minimum of (2) two Independent Evaluators, and any Independent Coaches that have been approved to Coach in the current season by the Executive.
- 6) **Goalie** assessments will be conducted by a minimum of (2) two independent goalie evaluators, and any Independent Coaches that have been approved to Coach by the Executive for the upcoming season at each level.
- 7) If an evaluator is not present for an assigned session, then player scores for that session will not be scored and this will not affect the overall scoring of those players.
- 8) During each Phase, the players will be scored a minimum of (9) nine times, by (3) three evaluators, and across (3) three skates). The average of those (9) nine scores will be used to reach an overall score. At the completion of each Phase these scores will be used to create the pool assigned to each Camp.
- 9) At the completion of the Initial Assessment Phase, the REC and the appointed Head Coach shall review the scores and complete the Camp Roster. The Camp Roster form must be approved by the Head Coach, Division Director, and President/Vice President or Director of Hockey Operations [DR8].
- 10) Injury exemption will not count towards the maximum player allotments outlined previously.
- 11) Once a player has been included on a Camp Roster, that player must receive a minimum of (3) three skates and must receive at least (1) one in-Camp player meeting with the Head Coach, prior to being released.
- 12) Once a player has made a Camp Roster, the player may only be released (1) one level (e.g. if a player is on the A1 Camp roster, the player may only be released to the A2 roster.

PHASE ONE - A1 TRYOUT

Evaluations will be conducted as follows:

For Skaters

- 1) A minimum of (2) two to a maximum of (5) five Evaluators, that consist of minimum of (2) two Independent Evaluators, and any appointed Independent Head Coach(es).

For Goalies

- A minimum of (2) two Independent Goalie Evaluators, from different companies. If Independent Coaches are qualified, they can also take part in the goalie evaluation process[DR9].

PHASE TWO

A1 CAMP

- 1) If the A1 Coach for the Division has already been appointed by the Executive, then the appointed Coach will participate in the evaluations.
- 2) If the A1 Coach has not already been appointed by the Executive (e.g. due to the potential Coach having a child trying out for the team), then the REC of the Division may appoint the Coach based on their assignment potential as determined during the rep Coach selection process in conjunction with their child being rated sufficiently high enough in the Phase One evaluations that it would be reasonable for this player to be on the A1 team.
- 3) If no Coach can be named, and further evaluations are required to determine the suitability of a Coach candidate's child's ability to play on the A1 team, then further evaluations will be conducted by a minimum of (3) three Independent Evaluators: (2) two for skaters and (1) one for the goalies-
- 4) This process will continue until such time that an A1 Coach can be appointed (based on their assignment potential as determined during the Coach selection process and the evaluation of their child). At this time, the appointed Coach would then participate in the A1 Camp evaluations.

A2/A3 TRYOUT

Evaluations will be conducted as follows:

For Skaters

- A minimum of (2) two to a maximum of (5) five Evaluators, that consist of minimum of (2) two Independent Evaluators, and any appointed Independent Head Coach(es).

For Goalies

- A minimum of (2) two Independent Goalie Evaluators, from different companies. If Independent Coaches are qualified, they can also take part in the goalie evaluation process[DR10].

The REC may appoint A2 and/or A3 Interim Parent Coaches during this Phase, based on their child's assignment potential as determined during the rep Coach selection process in conjunction with their respective child's rating in the Phase One and Phase Two evaluations, however they will not contribute scoring to this round of evaluations.

PHASE THREE - Final Camp Phase

- 1) These evaluations will be conducted by the appointed Coaches of the teams.
- 2) If no Coach has been appointed to a team, then the evaluations will be conducted by a minimum of (3) three Independent Evaluators: (2) two for skaters and (1) one for goalies, along with the remaining Parent Coaching candidates for that Division.
- 3) The goal of this Phase is to set the rosters of each rep team for the season. The final team roster will consist of (2) two Goalies, and a minimum of (15) fifteen and maximum of (17) seventeen skaters. Due to potential injuries, it is recommended that the U15 and U18 Divisions at the A1 and A2 levels keep at minimum (1) one extra player.
- 4) In some situations, a Division may be short skaters or goaltenders for the C teams. In that case, a team may be asked to set their roster at (1) one goaltender, or (14) fourteen skaters. The Division will be advised in advance if this will be the case.

13.4 RELEASE PROCEDURES

- 1) The release dates in these policies are guidelines, and CMHA will do its best to uphold these dates. We recognize that the schedules dates, may change due to unforeseen circumstances.
- 2) At the completion of Phase 1 (A1 Camp), further players assignments will be posted through communication posted on the CMHA website or through TeamSnap.
- 3) At the completion of Phase 2 (A2/A3 Camp), further player assignments will be posted through communication posted on the CMHA website or through TeamSnap. Players being released to the C level will be notified individually by email.
- 4) Once team Camps have been formed, the appointed head Coach for each team Camp, with the approval of the REC for their Division, will be responsible for all further releases. A schedule with release dates for each Camp will be provided to each Head Coach once named. The scheduled release dates are to be followed unless there are any unforeseen scheduling changes. The Head Coach must contact the REC for their Division to request any changes to the set release dates.
- 5) Prior to completing any releases, the Head Coach will meet with all players at least once. A member of the Executive (ideally a member of the applicable REC) must be present during any player meetings. During this meeting, the Head Coach will provide verbal feedback on the player's progress. The Head Coach is not to advise the player of their roster status in these meetings.
- 6) The Head Coach will provide a list of players planned to be released, along with both positive feedback and areas to work on, to their Division Director. The Division Director will then send an email, notifying the player, that they have been released.

The email will contain the feedback for the player, as well as the next steps for the player for the team (or C Division) the player is being released to.

- 7) **Where possible, all results lists and release emails will be posted or sent the next day after the final skate, and after 3PM.** This is so that players will have parent support available when results are posted or release emails are sent, and to remove anxiety around when results will be available.

13.5 APPEAL OF A PLAYER'S EVALUATION

CMHA endeavors to ensure that we conduct our A Tryouts in the fairest, most objective manner possible, using Independent Evaluators, and overseen by the REC for each Division. We strive to ensure that each player has a fair attempt to compete for a position on all our A teams.

Given the number of players trying out for CMHA rep teams each year, we recognize that there is a small possibility that a player or players could potentially be improperly evaluated and released prematurely.

CMHA has developed a formal appeal process for players who feel they were improperly evaluated.

- 1) All appeals must be made in writing, using the online form, and within 48 hours of a release being made.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL ONLINE](#)

- 2) For the appeal to be heard, the appeal must also be accompanied by a \$50 refundable appeal fee, which must also be received within 48 hours.

The appeal fee is payable via etransfer:

Etransfer email: tonymiles.cmha@gmail.com

Password: **hockey**

Include a note re: **the player name and that the payment is an appeal fee**

e.g. Sidney Crosby Appeal Fee

- 3) Once both the appeal form and payment have been received, the Rep Evaluation Committee (REC) for the applicable Division will be notified to review the appeal. All appeals will be reviewed within (3) three days of receipt of each appeal.

NOTE: At their discretion, the Executive has the authority to modify the composition of the REC of the Division (e.g. member of the committee being unavailable, potential conflict of interest, etc.)

- 4) The REC will review the player's scores and rankings from the previous tryout round.
 - If the review determines that there are potential inconsistencies with the player's scores or rankings (such as large variance between Independent Evaluation scoring, which may have contributed to the final ranking), the appeal will be upheld.
 - If the review determines that there are no inconsistencies with the player's scores or rankings, the appeal will be denied, the appellant will be notified of the denial, and the appeal fee will not be refunded.

When an appeal is upheld, this means that the player will be moved back up to the previous level for a minimum of (2) two ice times, which could be game(s) and/or practice(s). **This does not mean that the player is guaranteed to stay at the higher level.** A player is also not guaranteed to be evaluated during a game.

After an upheld appeal, the player may still be released more than (1) one level if subsequently released from the higher team (based on further evaluation) – for example, a player may start at the A1 level but be released more than one level (e.g. to the A2, A3 or C level) if the evaluation indicates that this is the appropriate level for the player.

- 5) Releases made by Head Coaches once teams are in the final Camp stage (PHASE THREE), cannot be appealed, provided that the Coach has first confirmed the releases with the REC.
- 6) All decisions of the REC of the Division are final and cannot be appealed.

13.6 EXEMPTION CANDIDATES

- 1) All players are required to attend their scheduled evaluation sessions unless:
 - a) a written request or notification is made to a member of the REC of the Division prior to the evaluation session(s) for a player to miss the session(s); and
 - b) A member of the REC provides written permission for the player to miss the session(s).
- 2) A player may miss their evaluation session(s) only for the following reasons:
 - (a) Illness.
 - (b) Physical injury; and
 - (c) Inability to attend the required evaluation session(s) due to special circumstances (including U18 players being at other evaluation Camps).
- 3) As stated in the Initial Assessment Phase, players are required to inform the REC of the Division of any pre-existing issue that may affect their evaluation prior to the commencement of the assessment process. Additionally, should an injury, illness or other issue arise after the start of the player assessment process, written notification must be forwarded to a member of the REC of the Division immediately upon the occurrence?
- 4) A player who has complied with the request or notification procedures may be considered by a member of the REC of the Division for Exemption Player status only under the three reasons listed above.
- 5) Exemption for participating in Major U18 or Junior Hockey will be accepted under the following circumstance.
 - (a) The player has registered with CMHA prior to the commencement of the evaluation process.
 - (b) The exemption has been requested and approved a minimum of 48 hours in advance of the CMHA ice time.
 - (c) The player requesting the exemption is attending a Camp that is in direct conflict with the CMHA ice time. Direct conflict, for purpose of exemption is an ice time that starts or finishes less than (3) three hours before the start or finish of the scheduled CMHA ice time.
 - (d) For players travelling to and from Junior Camps, exemption consideration will be given if the player is not scheduled to be home (2) two hours in advance of the scheduled CMHA ice time.
 - (e) Exemptions granted for injury or Illness must be supported by a doctor's note.
 - (f) As previously stated, any player returning from and approved illness or injury exemption, must provide a "Return to Play Form".
 - (g) Exemption will be granted for BC Hockey and Hockey Canada sanctioned events only.

Note: Players returning to CMHA from Zone or Junior Tryouts, after the final announcement of a team roster, may only be placed on a team if roster spots are available. After the final announcement of a team roster, no player shall be released from the team to make room for an Exemption or returning player. U18 teams may make use of their full roster spots to accommodate late returning players that have registered with CMHA prior to the start of the A Tryouts, but they cannot cut a player who has already made their team to accommodate a late returning player.

- 6) There is no appeal of a player being denied Exemption status.

13.7 RETURN TO PLAY FROM INJURY

- 1) Any player granted an injury or illness exemption must provide a "clearance to play" form which states the player is cleared to return to full physical contact. Players will not be allowed to return to the ice, until the Division Director has received a valid "**clearance to play**" form, signed by a physician. The form can be downloaded from the "Risk Management" page on the CMHA web site.
- 2) The player's past performance will be considered in placing him/her in an appropriate tryout pool, upon return from injury. However, this initial placement does not provide the player a guaranteed spot on the roster of the team. Additionally, a player returning from injury, may be released more than one level based on the evaluation of the player – for example, a player may start at the A1 level but be released more than one level (e.g. to the A2, A3 or C level) if the evaluation indicates that this is the appropriate level for the player.
- 3) A player given an Exemption status for a prolonged injury, illness or absence is not guaranteed that they will be given an opportunity to try out for and/or be placed on a rep team after the rosters are set for the rep teams in a Division. After the final releases and the final roster are set, no player is to be released to make room for a returning player; however, the maximum number of allotted player may be increased, to make room for the return of an injured player.

13.8 EXCEPTIONAL PLAYER DESIGNATION

- 1) The following policy is in place to attempt to prevent players with exceptional ability from playing below their development level. Examples of players where similar policies have benefited the player include: Wayne Gretzky, Sidney Crosby, Connor McDavid, and Connor Bedard.
- 2) The Exceptional Player Designation (EPD) is to be used sparingly, and only in situations where a player demonstrates tremendous advancement in playing skills, coupled with significant physical and mental capabilities that exceed their peer group.
- 3) To be considered for EPD, the player must be able to compete for a roster spot on the highest calibre team (A1) in the next Division. The player will be required to attend the Initial Assessment Phase (Phase One - A1 Tryout) in the higher age Division.
- 4) The EPD candidate must be nominated by their parent. However, Coaches and other Executive members may suggest recommendations to a parent that they may consider nominating their player. The parent nomination must be made in writing via email to the Division Directors of both Divisions (normal Division and the higher Division). If the RECs of both Divisions support the request, the player will next be granted provisional EPD status, pending evaluation.
- 5) The REC of the higher Division, at its discretion, may use additional Independent Evaluators to evaluate the player's ability to play at the higher level – if any extra cost is incurred by CMHA for the Independent Evaluators, the parent(s) of the player will be required to pay CMHA for the extra cost.
- 6) The player must be ranked in the top (4) four of the Defense or top (6) six of the Forwards of the A1 Tryout pool after the completion of Phase One, or they will be returned to their normal Division [DR11].

In the case of a U9 aged player trying out for U11 (where positions are not declared), the player must be ranked in the top (10) ten of all skaters.

- 7) Due to timing issues, if the player does not make the higher level based on the above criteria, and the Phase One of the player's normal Division has already completed, then the player will be placed into the A1 Camp of the player's normal Division for further evaluation.

After placement into the A1 Camp due to this situation, the player is not guaranteed a spot on the A1 team at their normal level, and they can be released to the A2 or A3 team, or to C. [DR12]

- 8) A player may only play up one Division.
- 9) Exceptional Player status will be for only one season.
- 10) There is no appeal for a player being refused designation as an Exceptional Player.

13.10 COACH APPEAL PROCESS

The following policy is intended to account for situations where a player may have a poor tryout, but they are markedly more skilled than the Camp that they are assigned to.

- 1) If a Coach determines that a player appears to be skilled at a higher level than the Camp they are assigned, the Coach should then consult with the other A Camp Coaches within their Division, as well as the DOHO.
- 2) The Coaches and the DOHO should review the next skate(s) to confirm that the player should be re-evaluated at a higher level, and to agree to which level they should be evaluated at. The other REC members for the Division should also be invited to these skates.

If necessary, the above may also pull in other Independent Coaches to assist with this review.

- 3) Once all agree to the level that the player should be evaluated for, then the DOHO will take this recommendation to the REC for the Division for review.
- 4) The REC will be requested to unanimously sign off on the move of the player to a higher Camp. If there is not unanimous consensus, then the Coach appeal will be denied.
- 5) If the REC does reach unanimous consensus, then the player will be moved to the specified higher Camp.
- 6) Once being moved to a higher Camp, the same subsequent process (section 13.5) as for a Parent Appeal will apply, in that the player will only be guaranteed the same minimum number of skates, and that the player can still be dropped down multiple levels, including to C.

NOTE: A parent may not request that this be policy be invoked. This process may only be initiated by a Coach, who during evaluation of their team Camp determines that they have a player in their Camp who decidedly should be in a higher Camp.