



MISSISSAUGA GIRLS HOCKEY LEAGUE

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REP PROGRAM

Rep Program Goals

The Mississauga Girls Hockey League rep program's objective is to foster, teach and promote amateur hockey and to provide maximum opportunity for all female hockey players of the City of Mississauga to participate at the highest level of competition through the Rep Program.

Coach Selection Process & Team Organization

Each year, the League will designate a number of Rep teams to be formed under the direction of the Rep Program Director. A "Coaches Selection Process" is used by the League to appoint Rep Team head coaches. All applicants for Rep teams may be interviewed by a panel appointed by the Rep Director. This is a formal interview process. Candidates recommended by the "coaching selection committee" will be presented to the Executive Board of the League for formal approval. The designated head coach of each Rep team will be accountable to the Rep Director. The head coach is responsible for the overall operation of their team, including proper financial control, game and tournament scheduling.

Team accounts must have three signing officers who will have cheque signing authority of all expenses pertaining to their own team: Head coach, manager and someone else on the team other than the Head Coach or manager's spouse.

The head coach shall also appoint his/her Team Manager. All Team Managers are accountable to the League General Manager who is appointed by the Rep Director. The team head coach must also be responsible for the appropriate registration of the team and the roster according to the MGHL and the OWSA Rules & Regulations. Each team will compete at the pre-determined level according to the applicable OWSA sanction. Within the League, designated Rep teams are to compete at the "AA", "A", "BB", and "B" levels only. Re-classification by the team coach is not possible without the approval of the Rep Director and League Executive Board.

Allocation of Ice

The MGHL tries to provide each team with as much ice as possible. The City Of Mississauga allocates ice to the MGHL based on an ice allocation formula. The MGHL is able to offer enough ice time to complete all of their league games plus one hour of practice ice per week.

Any additional ice that the team requires must be booked through the MGHL to ensure that the team has the proper liability and OWSA sanctioning. If a coach finds available ice outside of the MGHL ice, she/he is able to purchase this ice, but it must be done through the rep director by providing the exact details (when, where, cost). The MGHL will book the ice on behalf of the team. At no time can a MGHL Rep Team purchase any ice without going through this procedure, without facing discipline action for the head coach.

Guiding Principles for Player Selection

Each year, team selection takes on an importance in the spring - the "Spring Tryout". Spring Tryouts allow designated head coaches the opportunity to conduct 'player selection' while the players are at their peak playing ability after a full season of competition. Above all, the League wants to see their teams play at the top end of the skill categories in order to allow maximum learning and development.

All team rosters should be picked with the objective of selecting the best players available with the greatest amount of fairness.

The League encourages players to participate in divisions that are within their age range. If a player is of PeeWee age, she should be participating in the PeeWee age category. A player put in a social setting where she may not be comfortable or where age difference may be a hindrance, regardless of her skill level, can be disruptive to a team's delicate balance. This type of disruption may not be beneficial to the team as a whole.

Current MGHL policy governs that any players, parents or coaches who intend to place or include under-age players on an older team must follow the established policy.

1. All intended 'play-up' players must be in the 'AA' level only
2. The intended player(s) must attend 'tryouts' of her own age category
3. The intended player(s), upon successfully making the selection of her own age category team, must receive an invitation from the next higher age category, to attend the tryouts of the next level age category. If the intended player(s) is/are invited to a higher level tryout, the Rep Director must be advised ahead of time to allow for the arrangement of a neutral party to attend and to assess the intended player(s) skill level for further recommendation.
4. The intended player(s) shall be, in the opinion of the coaches of both age category teams, regarded as an impact player(s) of the higher age category. The MGHL stipulates that she must be regarded to be among the top 5 players in the higher age category team among all selected players. (Third party observers must be invited by the Rep Director to assess player skill level)
5. Upon successful progression of the above, the Rep Director may then present the case of each individual to the League Executive Board for final approval.

This procedure will be strictly enforced by the League to facilitate players to compete at an age appropriate level.

It is recognized that this procedure may result in a player not being able to play on the team of her choice, or may even result in the League having to lose a skilled player. However, this is the reasoned position of the MGHL. It does not make sense to weaken two teams by having a marginal underage player playing at a higher level. In keeping with the Peewee age analogy, the Peewee team loses a highly skilled player that can hone her skills more efficiently, while the Bantam team may receive a player that might see more limited duty, thus impeding her hockey skill development.

Careful selection of players whose skills match the needs of the team will ensure that neither the players nor the coaching staff will be disappointed with their playing experience.

Playing Situations

It is the expectation and intention of the League that all coaching staff shall aim for fairness, development opportunity, communication and enjoyment for the team and players. Playing time for every player will be reasonable for the most part except for special situations, e.g. penalty killing, power play, and other game situations. Players should be given equal playing opportunity, but that does not necessarily equate to equal ice time.

The League's Constitution governs that teams under the Rep Program should be regarded as part of an organization. It must not be regarded as a group of coaches who happen to be appointed and entrusted to lead teams that wear the same coloured sweaters. Teams will be managed to ensure that all players have a positive experience. Coaches, players, parents, and league representatives should strive to represent the Mississauga Girls Hockey League in a first class manner. We expect our teams to exhibit good sportsmanship and class. Trash talking, inappropriate aggression towards other players and abuse of officials is not part of our culture and never should be. **Play hard, play clean, and keep your stick on the ice.**