

NCHC Selection Policy



General Selection

- Regular vs Occasional players

All the adult teams need to have a core of regular players. Players with 'occasional' availability, (including juniors with regular school commitments), are fitted in around the core of regular players.

This will mean that players may be in teams that are below the level they could possibly achieve because they are deemed, "occasional players".

- Balancing the team

Whilst the club coaches and captains encourage all players to have a flexible approach to their position in the team, the weekly squads are selected with a balance of Defenders, Midfielders and Forwards; it may be that a selection has also been based on position suitability and with the next games tactics in mind.

- Be ambitious

As a club we encourage players to be ambitious. Players are encouraged to speak to their captain or coach if they would like to be considered to play in a higher team. (Also, if they would prefer to drop a team).

Players need to look at the players ahead of them, in the higher team and in their preferred playing position and ask themselves whether they believe they are as good as or better than those players. If the answer is yes, then they should speak with their captain or coach and discuss development points or a plan for transfer.

These requests will be discussed at the club and team captains Tuesday selection meeting, where the head coach is usually present as well.

- Training and Transition between teams

Training sessions are managed to ensure there are enough players to make it a meaningful session. so, on occasion players may be asked to move to a different session, lower or higher, to facilitate this but this will not necessarily mean a permanent move. The player will be communicated with as such.

Where the coaches feel a player is a fringe player and might be able to play higher, they will be asked to join a higher training session to provide a stretch for them and for the coaches to observe their play at that level but generally, players will train with their team. The captains and the coaches will make these decisions. But as we have said, please discuss with coaches and captains about your ambitions.

- Players moving teams

This might be for a trial, for a week where players are needed in a team higher or lower, or for more permanent moves. The captains will initially discuss player movement at the weekly Tuesday evening selection meeting, throughout the season, where all captains meet to

discuss the squads and players for the match ahead that weekend and any relevant player selection thoughts and issues.

If there are any thoughts on moving players on a more permanent basis, this is discussed at that meeting and then with the head coach and before any communication with the player takes place. However, the player should then be asked and the movement discussed with them before any move takes place.

Let it be known that players are being observed all the time, by different people – coaches, captains, and senior players, hence, it is important they perform for whoever, they play for.

- Playing for the Club

We are trying to establish a culture in the club whereby players are playing for the CLUB as much as for their TEAM and whilst we understand the camaraderie generated when playing for the same team each week, we also require players to understand that they should always be accommodating when asked to play for higher or lower teams.

- Availability

Players are requested to always keep their availability up to date and at the least 4 weeks in advance. Players who do not do so, risk not being selected. Visibility of availability, means the captains and club officials can predict any issues with too few or too many players for teams, and at the weekly selection meeting, react accordingly. If you have not submitted your availability by the Sunday prior to the Saturday match you will not be picked to play.

- Club membership and fees

Everyone needs to be registered with NCHC in order to be picked to play. If you owe a debt of more than £50 you will not be picked to play the weekend match.

Juniors

Juniors are considered for transition into adult teams at the end of the year in which they are 13. However, it is at the Junior head coach's discretion. Some may need another year in Devs, whilst others may move as soon as they are 13.

Selection is based on several factors including ability, attitude and commitment.

Juniors need to be seen regularly at training and to be as committed as possible.

It should be noted that it is unlike school where players and teams are based on year groups. Teams in adult hockey are based more on ability and commitment. However, we do try to assign multiple players to the same training group when they initially move from Devs to adults to help with companionship and confidence.

It should also be noted that younger players with greater ability may well overtake older players.

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