



JUNIOR SELECTION POLICY AND PROCESS

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy and process is to ensure that the selection process for all junior teams is transparent, fair and objective. This policy also aims to maintain the balance, where required, between prioritising the development of the individual player and the development of the club as a whole.

2. SCOPE

This policy concerns only the selection process for existing and potential St Patrick Hockey Club ('the Club) Junior Players (18 and under).

3. TIMING

This policy is effective from 1 February 2018 and will be reviewed every 2 years.

4. POLICY OBJECTIVES

The Club has a strong commitment to junior sport, in particular hockey and actively encourages participation by girls and boys in an all-inclusive environment. The core objective of this policy is to field competitive teams in the ACT hockey competitions by having players graded in the correct division and age groups;

Further objectives of the selection policy is to provide all junior hockey players with the following opportunities:

- Having fun and making new friends;
- Learning the value of sportsmanship;
- Developing basic skills and learning the rules of the game;
- Improving physical fitness;
- Developing an appreciation of teamwork and team spirit;
- Introduction to competitive sport;
- Progression to Senior hockey; and
- Skills to advance to Regional, State and National representation.

5. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Club attempts to enter teams in the under 18, 15, 13 and 11 ACT hockey competitions. St Patrick's Hockey Club also participates in the Hook into Hockey program for under 7 and 9 players.

The preferred number of players in any u11 team is 9 – 11, however teams can be registered with a maximum of 12 players where circumstances require the club to do so.

The preferred number of players in any u13 or above team is 12-14 however teams can be registered with a maximum of 16 players where circumstances require the club to do so.

6. SELECTION PROCESS – JUNIOR COMPETITION (U11 – 18)

6A. Allocation to team by age

- i. Players will be allocated a team in their age group in accordance with Hockey ACT criteria for age level allocation.
- ii. Occasionally there may be exceptional circumstances where a player may wish to play out of their age group. Coaches or parents wishing to have a child play in a higher age group must submit a written request to the junior registrar juniorcoordinatorstpats@gmail.com
- iii. Request for a player to play in a higher age group will only be considered where the team can accommodate additional players. Preference will always be given to players who are the correct age for that team.
- iv. On occasions, the club will endorse a player to play in two teams on a permanent basis (e.g. u13s and u15s) when it is in the best interests for the development of a player, there is a need to make up numbers in a team or to make a team competitive.
- v. Players may be requested by a coach or manager to fill-in for other teams on occasions after an assessment of their physical and skill attributes.

6B Grading

- i. If there is only one team being entered in an age group, the Club will assess the players to determine what Division the team will be entered. This decision may be influenced by factors such as the physical and skill attributes of individual players in the team, representative players in the team and the performance of the team the previous year.
- ii. In age groups where there are enough players in an age group for 2 or more teams, a selection process will be carried out in the first 2 to 4 weeks of training to allocate players to teams within that age group.
- iii. If players want to play with friends, this will generally be accommodated in the lower division of an age group rather than the higher division and will be dependent on the number of players within the age groups.
- iv. Representative players (Hockey Australia national championship participants) are required to play only Division 1 in their representative age group, however, if their age group does not provide a Division 1 team they may play in Division 2 with JCAC clearance.
- v. A Selection Panel will be formed for each age group consisting of the age group coaches, appointed selector/s (independent of player/s trailing in that age group) and 2 members of the junior committee.
- vi. The initial selection process will occur assessing for physical attributes such as speed, strength, agility, endurance, and flexibility; and skill attributes such as technique, tactical awareness, potential, coachability, positional qualities and specialist skills.
- vii. In addition, the Selection Panel may also take into consideration: attitude, previous form (for current St Pat's players) and attendance and performance at training.

Selection is a continuing process therefore players may be asked to move up or down into a higher division/grade* during the season depending upon how their performances are rated against the above criteria. It is important that players and parents recognise that these decisions are intended to be in the best interest of both player and club development.

*the ability to move a player down a division/grade is subject to the approval of Hockey ACT.

6C. Mid-Season Additions

- i. Where a player registers after the initial team selection has occurred and there are 2 or more teams in the respective age group, generally, the player will be registered in the lowest grade and will be required to be assessed by the Selection Panel at both training and games to

determine whether the player should be promoted to a higher division. Factors such as the players' previous experience and playing level in another jurisdiction will also be considered favourable in this decision.

- ii. This decision will also be made in consideration of other players and their opportunity to progress to a higher level in accordance with this policy.

7. SELECTION PROCESS – HOOK INTO HOCKEY AND TRANSITION TO JUNIOR COMPETITION

Similar to the process in section 6 above, players will be allocated to a team in their age group in accordance with Hockey ACT criteria for the age level allocation. Where a player does not meet the age criteria, and where they parent or coach request that the player move to the u11 competition, such requests will be considered in the same manner as the grading of players in section 6B of this policy.

8. SELECTION PROCESS – TRANSITION TO SENIOR COMPETITION

To be advised,

9. SELECTION COMPLAINTS

If players or parents are not happy with the result of the selection process, the following process applies:

- Informal discussion with the coach/manager; and
- If the matter is still unsatisfactorily addressed, the matter should be brought to the attention of the Junior President in writing at juniorcoordinatorstpats@gmail.com

10. SELECTION PROCESS FOR ACT REGIONAL, AND ACT STATE TEAMS

The selection process for the ACT regional development program and selection on ACT state teams is the sole responsibility of Hockey ACT. Further information can be found at <http://www.hockeyact.org.au/>

Version 1.0

Approved by: St Patrick's Hockey Club Junior Committee

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