



Tuggeranong Vikings Hockey Club

Est. 1976

PO Box 1307

Tuggeranong DC ACT 2901

Player Expectations & Selection Policy

Version 3.1

BACKGROUND OF THIS POLICY

This document was developed during the amalgamation process of the Tuggeranong Vikings Women's Hockey Club (TVWHC) and the Tuggeranong Vikings Hockey Club (TVHC) whose committee's considered the management of player selection as part of the amalgamation process.

"One of the aims of the proposed amalgamation is for the club to have a strong player selection policy and guidance principles to help the club progress the clubs into a more competitive environment and to continue to attract new players to the club. We also want to ensure we identify the potential of, and continue to develop, our club members."

Cameron Blagdon – President, TVHC 2017

Matthew Cann – President, TVWHC 2017

GENERAL

The club seeks to encourage junior and senior players to participate in all roles and aspects of hockey. This will increase numbers and we will work with these players to improve their skills and to support them in their aspirations towards hockey and work together cooperatively to meet the goals of the TVHC.

Hookin2Hockey is the preferred entry point for new players under the age of 10, with pathways into junior competitions provided following the delivery of the HookIn2Hockey programme. TVHC prides itself on providing a pathway into senior competition, with players identified on a yearly basis for movement into the senior grades. Senior and junior development squads will provide the skill development needed for TVHC and its players to remain a force in the elite HACT competition and at national level.

All decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, and consideration must be given to those senior players within these sides and the ability to provide for a structured, positive-experience for the junior players within the senior hockey competition environment. TVHC will continue to review the club junior to senior development pathway but has largely identified that SL1 or SL2 are the likely level for entry of junior boys and girls to move into the senior competition.

We will use these grades to blend talented young players with some experienced senior players, preferably ex-1st Grade players that are still competitive in the sport. Other junior players will be graded in the senior teams according to their ability, considering their personal wishes and/or aspirations (i.e. some may wish to stay in lower grades) and will be mentored by nominated senior players within that team.

TVHC EXPECTATIONS OF PLAYERS (SENIOR AND JUNIOR)

Generally, all TVHC players must:

- Always behave in a sporting manner to all players, officials and spectators and follow [Hockey Australia's](#) player codes of behaviour.

Specifically, TVHC Senior players will be expected to:

- Mentor our Junior Players and offer support to Junior Coaches.
- CL1 and CL2 players are expected to train at least once a week. Additional training sessions or individual-led training will be considered each season by the CL1 and CL2 coaches as appropriate.
- SL1 to SL3 players are expected to train at least once a week.
- SL4 to SL5 players are encouraged to train once a week.
- All players are expected to attend pre-season training and grading sessions appropriate to their intended grade. For CL1 to SL1 players, should this not occur players could be moved into a lower grade team unless exemptions are provided by the Selection Committee or Committee Executive. If a player cannot attend grading sessions or pre-season training, they should notify the relevant registrar as soon as possible, with an explanation about their unavailability. This will be taken into consideration by the Selection Committee or TVHC Committee Executive.
- Attend/assist at other TVHC functions where possible (e.g. social and fundraising events).
- Observe and comply with Hockey Australia/Hockey ACT policies and procedures.
- Observe and comply with directions of the club, as communicated through the committee.
- Conduct themselves in a manner that does not bring either the Club or Hockey ACT into disrepute (on or off the field).

Specifically, TVHC Junior players will be required to:

- Attend training sessions and matches as practical, including pre-season club training and grading sessions.
- Attend compulsory senior training if playing in CL1, CL2 or SL1. Junior players competing in senior grades from SL2 and below are highly encouraged to train with their senior teammates when possible. If a player or parent/guardian is concerned about “over-training”, particularly in the case of junior representative players, this should be discussed with their senior coach or registrar.
- Attend other TVHC functions where possible (e.g. social and fundraising events).
- Observe and comply with Hockey Australia/Hockey ACT policies and procedures.
- Observe and comply with directions of the club, as communicated through the committee.
- Conduct themselves in a manner that does not bring either the Club or Hockey ACT into disrepute (on or off the field).

CLUB SELECTION POLICY

TVHC will base selections in the interest of Club development and to ensure we have competitive teams in all senior grades. We also provide avenues for players who would prefer to play the game at a social level. Selection will consider the outcomes of grading days, grade preference of players as indicated on registration or at grading, positive team dynamics, and, if necessary, advice from Junior Registrars.

Selections will aim to ensure that players are graded at the right skill level and provide a pathway for the development of individuals. We will also ensure that we provide for our social players to give them an even balance of enjoyment within an appropriately competitive environment.

PLAYER SELECTION PROCESS

Senior selections:

1. Upon registration, or when attending a grading day, players should advise the selection committee or relevant registrar which grade they would like to register for. This may not be possible but gives the club a good starting point for grading purposes.
2. New players wishing to be considered for elite senior grades (CL1 or CL2) should provide a high-level overview of their playing history including grades they have previously played to the relevant registrar and coach.
3. All players must attend grading sessions as set by the selection panel; exemptions may be granted under exceptional circumstances to be approved only by the Selection Committee and/or Executive Committee.
4. Coaches will be provided with a copy of the provisional selections and will have the opportunity to discuss these at a meeting with the panel prior to the commencement of the season.
5. After discussions with all Coaches, players will be notified of their provisional grading prior to the start of the season and can seek feedback discuss their grading with the panel and coach.
6. Any concerns or complaints regarding selections must be made through the relevant TVHC Registrar and Club Secretary in writing.

7. Note that selection in a grade is for the purpose of registration and is not final. Players may be required to move to higher grades or lower grades throughout the season, based on performance, attitude and in the best interest of the club, holistically.
8. The TVHC Registrars, in consultation with the Executive Committee as required, will make final decisions on team lists based on this policy.

Junior Selections:

1. Players in the junior cohorts of the club are registered according to age in the first instance. i.e. an 11-year-old will be registered in an U12 grade, while a 13-year-old player will be registered in U14s. Players 14 and older will be registered in a Junior State League (JSL) grade but also have the option of playing juniors, seniors, or both. As such, formal selection sessions are only held by exception, where multiple teams are to be entered at the same age group – i.e. U14 Div 1 and U14 Div 2, where the numbers of players warrant two teams.
2. In accordance with HACT Junior Competition rules, a given player may **not** play any grade more than one grade above their age group. Therefore an 11-year-old is graded into U12s and can play U14s, but cannot play in a JSL team, regardless of their skill level.
3. Players (through parents and in consultation with coaches) can request to play only in the grade above their age group, where their skill level warrants such an elevation. Note elevation to a higher age group is a privilege, not a right and is dependent on capacity existing in both the lower and the senior age group. Consideration around players moving into higher age groups is to be conducted in consultation with players, parents, coaches and the relevant Registrar.
4. Where parents have concerns about a player being ready for the grade relevant to their age, dispensation can be sought through a Club submission to the Junior Competition Advisory Committee (JCAC) for them to play in a lower age group. This can be particularly relevant where players are very new to the sport. In this case, parents should approach the coach and relevant junior Registrar in the first instance.

SELECTION PANEL (SENIOR AND JUNIOR)

1. In conjunction with the committee, the TVHC President will appoint the Selection Committee for each playing sector and will be made up of the following individuals:
 - Suitably qualified Senior Grade coach.
 - One or two representatives from within the coaching ranks of the sector being graded
 - And an independent person.
2. The Panel will grade players based on and will consider the following (but not limited to):
 - Performance at training/grading sessions.
 - Previous playing history and demonstrated ability.
 - The Club's direction with regards to development and pathways.
 - Attitude and behaviour.
 - Willingness to learn, develop and adapt to change.
 - Commitment and attendance to training.
 - Commitment and attendance at games.
 - Commitment to the club.
 - Dynamics of the Team being compiled.

Tuggeranong Vikings Hockey Club Committee

10 March 2026

Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Notes
1.0	October 2018	Cameron Blagdon Matthew Cann	Submitted to TVHC and TVWHC Committees for discussion and endorsement
1.1	9 February 2020	Chris Lazzari	Submitted to TVHC Committee for approval after updating TVHC document template and the Policy Background.
2.0	12 February 2020	Chris Lazzari	Updated document endorsed by the TVHC Committee.
3.1	10 March 2026	Chris Lazzari Dominica Walsh Donovan Rosser Brendan Prater James Sellers Colin Redican	Updates made to player expectations, training requirements and grading processes to reflect present day teams and requirements. Endorsed by the TVHC Committee.