Player Selection
POLICY



VERSION HISTORY

Version	Author	Approval Date	Reason
1.0	Adam Battista		Draft version
1.1	Michael Lecompte		Draft rev 2

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to define the Clarence-Rockland Crush (CRC) policy and procedures for conducting annual Rep B tryouts. The tryout process is structured to provide a fair, transparent, and developmentally appropriate evaluation of all players, in alignment with Hockey Canada's Long-Term Player Development model.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all age divisions and participants eligible to try out for CRC teams, including returning players and those from other associations.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

3.1. CRC tryouts are governed by the following principles:

- Fair unbiased evaluation of all players.
- Transparency in process and communication.
- Alignment with Hockey Canada and HEO regulations.
- Player safety and inclusivity.
- No age advancement permitted (per CRC Bylaw 19.3).
- Home association registration is required before participation (per CRC Bylaw 19.2).

4. AUTHORITY, GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

4.1. The tryout process is governed in accordance with the CRC Constitution and Bylaws. The Director, Hockey Operations is overall responsible for administering the tryouts, ensuring alignment with this policy, and reporting to the Board. A Player Selection Committee is formed for each level, composed of:

- The Head Coach (non-voting during evaluations).
- At least three independent evaluators approved by the Director of Hockey Operations.
- The Director of Hockey Operations as chair and final reporting authority will provide the proposed final roster to the CRC President for approval prior to finalizing the team.

5. TRYOUT ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

5.1. To participate in CRC tryouts, players must be:

- Registered with their Home Association.
- In good standing with their Home Association and CRC.
- Within the eligible age group for the division.

- Registered for tryouts and have paid the applicable fee (Tryout fee is refundable until such time as the player embarks on the ice for the first tryout session).

5.2. Transfer/import players must submit a signed Permission to Skate form from their Home Association.

6. TRYOUT FORMAT

6.1. CRC tryouts will be conducted as follows:

- All players are entitled to participate in a minimum number of sessions.
- Players who do not meet the minimum expected performance for competitive Rep B hockey will be released no sooner than after 3 hours of evaluated ice-time.
- Players will only be kept longer if they have a reasonable prospect of being selected for the team.
- If a player is deemed to be a safety risk to themselves and/or others, the Player Selection Committee may, after conferring with the Directory of Hockey Operations, release the player prior to the 3 hours minimum.

6.2. Each player must attend a minimum of two try-out sessions. Try-out schedule will be published in advance, and may include formats (i.e., skills session, intersquad, exhibition game). Other evaluation and logistics information will be provided via the CRC website, Facebook page and/or email.

6.3. Absences must be reported to the Director of Hockey Operations in writing before the first try-out. Players who miss try-outs due to injury or illness must submit a medical note and may be offered an alternate evaluation opportunity. Where no supplemental session is available, the Player Selection Committee may leverage:

- Past evaluation data (within the last year).
- Coach references (from CRC or HEO).
- Previous team placement and performance.

6.4. At the U10 level, players will be evaluated on overall ability, and the top 15 skaters will be selected regardless of position. From U11 to U15, players will be assessed primarily at their chosen position. Evaluators may recommend a position change when it is in the best interest of both the player and the team. If a player refuses to play the position for which they were selected, the team may remove the player from the roster.

6.5. Players may be asked to sit out an inter-squad scrimmage or exhibition game at the discretion of the Player Selection Committee to allow for other players to be evaluated more thoroughly.

6.6. Goaltenders from U10 to U16 will participate in a minimum of one dedicated goalie session. U18 goaltenders may be integrated directly into U18 sessions depending on the number of goalies attending tryouts. These sessions will focus on:

- Lateral movement and footwork.
- Rebound control and recovery.
- Puck handling.
- Game situational reads.

7. EVALUATOR SELECTIONS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Evaluators will be selected by the Player Selection Committee and must have no children or relatives trying out in that age division. Evaluators shall:

7.1. Commit to objectivity, avoid conflicts of interest, and may be asked to sign a declaration of impartiality.

7.2. Have an appropriate mixture of experience and background to effectively evaluate the players.

7.3. Preferred traits include, but are not limited to:

- Experience with player evaluation systems.
- Suitable background in hockey either as a player or as a coach.
- Coaches from other Crush teams.

7.4. Goaltender assessments are conducted by a minimum of two independent evaluators, with goaltending expertise/experience.

8. PLAYER AND GOALIE EVALUATION CRITERIA

8.1. Players are assessed using standardized digital evaluation rubrics based on the following categories:

- Skating ability: speed, balance, transitions, and edge work.
- Puck skills: handling, passing, shooting, and control.
- Game sense and hockey IQ: positioning and decision making.
- Effort and work ethic: compete and resilience engagement.
- Team play: cooperation, discipline, and communication.
- Coachability and attitude: positivity and respectful behaviour.

8.2. Additionally, goaltenders will be evaluated on positioning, movement, rebound control and in game performance.

9. IMPORT PLAYERS

9.1. Import players are defined as players residing outside the CRC boundaries. They may be accepted at the discretion of the Director of Hockey Operations, based on registration numbers and the overall skill level within each age division at various stages of the tryout process. The selection of import players to a CRC team will be strictly controlled, and any import player must meet the following criteria:

- For U10 players, they must rank in the top 5 skaters and for goaltenders, they must rank as the best goalie.
- For U11 to U18, forwards must rank in the top 6, defenses must rank in the top 4 and the goaltenders must rank as the best goalie.

9.2. The presence of import players shall not prevent a CRC-based player with demonstrated Rep B-caliber ability from earning a spot on the roster. Priority will always be given to local players who meet competitive standards. Final decision with the use of Import players over CRC players will rest with the President of the CRC.

10. HEAD COACH ROLE IN SELECTION

10.1. Following the completion of each phase, the Head Coach for that division may consult with evaluators to:

- Validate selections.
- Provide insight on player fit or attitude.
- Recommend player releases (must be approved by the Director of Hockey Operations).

11. COMMUNICATION AND PLAYER RELEASES

11.1. Continuation lists will be posted using tryout jersey numbers on the CRC website and/or TeamLink. Coaches and evaluators will not provide individual feedback at the time of release. Families may request general feedback after the tryout period ends through the Director of Hockey Operations. The final decision in releasing players from the CRC rests with the president of the CRC.

12. APPEALS

12.1. Appeals will only be considered on the basis of:

- Procedural error.
- Conflict of interest or evaluator misconduct.
- New information not previously available.

12.2. Appeals must be submitted in writing within seven (7) calendar days of the release.

13. POST TRYOUT REVIEW

13.1. Within 30 days of tryout completion, the Director of Hockey Operations must provide a written report to the CRC Board of Directors which includes the following:

- Number of players and from which association for each level.
- Name of players that made the team and from which association they are from.
- Number of imports by teams and by association.
- Any issues raised during the tryouts.
- Any complaints/appeals during the tryouts.
- Any recommendations for next year's tryout.

13.2. The Director of Hockey Operations' report is to be attached to the minutes of the CRC Board of Directors' Committee.

14. POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

This policy is reviewed annually by the Player Selection Committee and approved by the CRC Board of Directors. The Policies and Procedures Coordinator is responsible for maintaining version control and publishing updates.