



Southern Districts Hockey Club

Team and Player Selection Policy

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1. Purpose

This purpose of this document is

- to provide clear policy and direction to all SDHC stakeholders on team selection. Stakeholders include but are not limited to players, parents of players, coaches, managers, supporters
- To provide players with the opportunity to represent Southern Districts Hockey Club at the level suitable to their ability; to provide opportunities for players to progress through the Club, AK Hockey, and NZ development frameworks and to enhance players enjoyment of the game.

Through the selection of teams SDHC aims to

- Ensure all players are given equal opportunity to be considered for a team and provided with skill development opportunities to assist them reach their potential
- Provide suitably qualified coaches and services
- Develop best practice management strategies in order to provide a safe environment for players and officials to effectively participate in hockey.

Premier Teams

Select teams of hockey players with the level of competencies required to win their club competition each year, and who have the desire and potential to play at a regional representative level within the next two years or who can provide these developing players with good support. Players should have the desire to commit to regular weekly trainings, maintain high levels of fitness.

Division 1 and 2 Teams

Select teams of hockey players with the level of competence required to achieve the goal of winning their competitions and maintain the club position in the grade. Players should have the desire to commit to regular weekly trainings, maintain high levels of fitness and support the development of younger players transitioning through the grades

Division 3 and 4 teams

Select teams of hockey players with the level of competence required to achieve the goal of obtaining top four positions in the competitions and maintain the club position in the grade, and allow them to develop their hockey skills and enhance their enjoyment of the game.

Youth

Depending on numbers, a competitive and a development team for boys and girls grade is desirable. Where there are enough players for more than 2 teams, the committee and selectors will need to decide what grade the additional team is best suited for.

A grade- players that have skills and fitness to form a competitive team (older , more skilful players), The ability to play up in Division grades when needed

B Grade – development (often Year 9, new to grade, developing players)

Consideration needs to be given to the balance of the team, to assist transition into senior grades. Playing with peers/ friends is a major criteria at this age.

2. Trial Format

The allocated trial format time allows for up to 30 minutes for players to sign in , register and join the structured warm up. Please be prompt. Games will be approx. 60 minutes in length , and we will attempt to trial you in every position you have listed on your registration form . During the trial the selectors will evaluate individual skill levels, fitness and team playing abilities of each player. The following aspects will be evaluated to determine which team a player is selected for eg fitness, player combinations, skills, coach-ability, leadership, communication, team dynamics.

3. Selection Panel

A member of the Club Committee will convene the selection panel for the trials
Other selectors, may include appointed coaches at each level .

The selectors will be named on the Club website prior to trials.

4. Competencies and Qualities Considered

The major criteria for selection will be the performance of the player at the appropriate trial.
Selectors will also consider team balance where the 14-17 best individuals may not provide the best team but team combination.

Core Playing Competencies

- Skill base and performance consistency
- Tactical understanding and decision making
- Fitness and game intensity
- Potential and work ethic
- Discipline on and off the court

Core Personal Qualities

- Teamwork
- Versatility, consistency and adaptability

Other Factors

Consideration may be given to other such factors that the selection panel considers in its sole discretion to be relevant and appropriate to the overall assessment of a particular player. These may include:

- Positional balance within a squad
- Succession planning
- Balance of youth and experience in the group
- Whether players performance and / or contribution has been affected by extenuating circumstances such as illness, injury or other circumstances which have temporarily compromised their form
- Previous performance within the Club

Selectors must submit a list of selected squads/ teams to the SDHC management committee for ratification prior to final selections being announced

5. Player Withdrawals

In the event of a player withdrawing after selection:

- Prior to the commencement of the team trainings, selectors will consult the list of previous trialists and appoint a suitable replacement. If no player of a suitable standard is identified from the original nominations, selectors may invite a replacement player of their choosing. This player must be ratified by the Committee
- Due to injury, the team coach will consult with the selection panel convenor

6. Naming of Teams

Teams will be named within one week of the final trial of all Premier and Division teams.

This announcement will be communicated via email, website, newsletter. Players will be notified by phone in exceptional circumstances.

Note: to be eligible to be named in a team, registration forms must be complete and fees paid on registration (youth and junior) or by the due date (senior)

7. Non-Attendance at Trials

Players unable to attend trials for any reason will have their team selection based on availability of positions within the teams, information provided by the coach at the conclusion of the previous season and through consultations with the selectors, the coaches and the Committee

If a player is unable to attend a trial due to injury or illness-

- Where possible the player will be invited to attend another trial.
- If this is not possible, the selectors may consider past team experience and performance

If a player is unable to attend a trial due to other reasons

- The selectors have the discretion to allow the player to be considered for selection into the team in extraordinary circumstances. Communication of unavailability for trials must have been provided and approved in advance of the first trial.
- In this situation, players will be required to follow the same procedure as for illness or injury.

8. Disputes Procedures

Notwithstanding any of the provisions in this policy, it is acknowledged that when applying the criteria and considerations set out above, there will be extremely difficult choices to be made which will require the Selection Panel to exercise its discretion and judgement. Providing the Selection Panel has properly considered the criteria and considerations set out in this policy, and has exercised its discretion and judgement in good faith, then the Selection Panel will have fulfilled all of its obligations under this Policy.

If a player feels they have been selected in a team which is clearly not at their ability level and this is severely impacting on their enjoyment of the game, they can request to have a selection review- this request must be sent in writing to the SDHC Club Captain via email or post.

The complaint will then be discussed by the SDHC Committee and a response will be given, in co-ordination with the selector's feedback.

Juniors

Teams will be selected to form teams in accordance with the AK hockey Small Sticks competition structure. SDHC aims to form teams that have a balanced group of players of similar ability across all playing positions. The Club aims to ensure player grading is conducted fairly and effectively, and that its outcome is in the best interests of the whole club and its players.

The Committee will consider the number of coaches registered with the Club and their availability when deciding on the number of teams to select.

A player's overall skill level including: stick skills, attacking and defending skills, perception and cognition skills, fitness including speed and agility, discipline as a team player will be considered along with

- Sportsmanship and attitude
- Availability to attend team training sessions
- Receipt by The Club of the Players Registration Form and full payment of fees by the due date

Should a player request to play with a friend/s, it will be at **the discretion of** the selection panel to decide whether it's beneficial to the player/s concerned, the affected team and the Club as a whole

Where a conflict of interest exists (i.e. the team selection involves the child of a Selection Panel member), that member will stand down for that particular team selection and the remaining members of the selection panel will compose that child's team.

When and if players request or are requested by the Club to play out of their age group, any decision will be at **the discretion of** the selection panel and the Junior Sub Committee.

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