



<i>Policy Name</i> National Masters Team Formation Policy		<i>Policy Category</i> National Team
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FIELD HOCKEY CANADA NATIONAL MASTERS TEAM FORMATION POLICY

Masters Hockey is formally recognized nationally by Field Hockey Canada (“FHC”), and internationally by the World Masters Hockey (“WMH”) and Fédération Internationale de Hockey (“FIH”). FHC has committed to comply with WMH’s objectives.

National Masters Field Hockey Teams are players aged 35 and over that represent Canada at International Competition and to whom Field Hockey Canada (FHC) provides training, competition, coaching and administrative support. National Masters teams are formed under the auspices of Field Hockey Canada with the goal of providing international competition and continued development to Masters athletes. This goal must be balanced with a need to remain competitive on the world stage.

The Team Formation Policy of FHC is formulated to enable teams of the highest quality possible to form while ensuring FHC’s commitments to join WMH are met.

Team planning, recruitment, selection, training and travel to tournaments takes an enormous effort by administrators, coaches, managers, age group coordinators and other volunteers. This document seeks to formalize how Masters teams are formed so that there is transparency, financial viability, and proper planning. The National Team Program Goal is to develop athletes and a national team capable of winning international matches. The performance of the National Teams and its members enhances the image of the sport, attracts members, provides sponsorship opportunities and inspires athletes within the sport to progress within the competitive system.

1. **Objective of the Team Formation Policy**

The objective of the selection policy is

- a. To form national level teams that have the best possible chance of achieving competitive results for Field Hockey Canada at international matches, tournaments and competitions; and



- b. To employ an open and fair selection process that gives all players a chance to challenge for international selection while ensuring the makeup of a team will be competitive internationally.

2. Definitions.

- a. **National Squad** – Masters athletes who register with FHC and who are invited to practice by the Coach or a coordinator appointed by the Masters Committee for a Masters Age Group. Practicing with the National Squad is a way of acquiring fitness and learning the skills necessary for national team selection, but not a guarantee of selection to a National Team.
- b. **National Team** - the athletes for a particular age category selected to represent Canada at a particular international Masters competition sanctioned by WMH, including at men's, women's, outdoor and indoor hockey competitions
- c. **Maple Leafs** – a non-national team may be selected by FHC out of registered FHC players to play in non-national tournaments or a sub-tournament of a national tournament (e.g. World Cup). A Maple Leafs team has greater selection flexibility with respect to age (where the competition permits) and performance standards.
- d. **Selector(s)** – means a Coach of a Masters Team, assistant coach(s) or athlete selectors appointed by the Masters Committee. As with all its national teams, FHC has the ultimate right to select its Masters coaches, athletes, staff and umpires.
- e. **FHC Masters Committee** – a committee appointed by the FHC Board of Directors pursuant to the FHC Bylaws, which is authorized to create sub-committees relating to Masters hockey.
- f. **Coach** -- one or more persons appointed by the FHC Masters Committee to coach a National Team or a Maple Leafs team for a particular age category for a WMH sanctioned event, and who is appropriately qualified pursuant to FHC policies.
- g. **Age Group Coordinator** – the Age Group Coordinator appointed by the FHC Masters Committee for a Masters Age Group.

2. National Team Formation

FHC has the sole right to approve the participation of teams in WMH and this shall be done taking into account, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- a) The number of players available for the specific age group team,
- b) The quality of player evaluation,
- c) The experience of these players,
- d) The impact on other age groups, and
- e) The competitiveness of the team.

Possible Masters Age Group Teams fall in five year age categories, as determined by WMH:

- a. 35-39 Years,
- b. 40-44 Years,
- c. 45-49 Years,
- d. 50-54 Years,
- e. 55-59 Years,
- f. 60-64 Years,





- g. 65-69 Years, and
- h. Over 70 Years.

The FHC Masters Committee must approve all proposals for a team in any WMH events for all age and gender categories.

3. Team Formation Proposals

A proposal submitted to the FHC Masters Committee to form a specific age group team should include the following:

- a. A person proposed as the Age Group Coordinator;
- b. A description of how the team will be competitive;
- c. Specific plans to attract players and how the recruiting process will be managed for a period of 3 months; and
- d. Specific named examples of who would make up a core group of age eligible players.

4. Conditional Approval for Team Formation

The FHC Masters Committee will conditionally support a team application, taking into account, but not limited to, the following factors:

- a. The overall number of players likely to be available for selection for the proposed team;
- b. Who will comprise the core group of the proposed team and if they are considered to be of international quality based on the high level of play at World Cup events;
- c. Whether there will be a negative impact on another Masters age group which would risk weakening teams that have previously played together; and
- d. Confidence in the proposed Age Group Coordinator's ability to plan, recruit and ultimately receive final approval.

FHC will communicate its expression of interest to WMH in accordance with the WMH timelines.

During the period between conditional approval and final approval there is an ongoing process to recruit for any vacant coach appointments, set up training camps, communicate fitness expectations and plans, and determine participation in pre-selection tournaments. The pre-selection period will be funded by all participants and managed by the Age Group Coordinators. Participants will also have costs of individual airfares, travel and accommodation throughout this period.

5. Final Approval for Team Formation

Final approval on the formation or re-formation of a National Team should be known as early as practicable before the World Cup designated for that particular gender/age group proposed.

For final approval to be granted for National Team formation, the following must be submitted to the FHC Masters Committee:

- a. Player list including full name, year of birth, email address, phone number, hometown, citizenship and highest level played;





- b. An appropriate number of potential players to form a viable team for the event not including players who are listed on any other team submitted by another age group coordinator;
- c. A proposed Coach who complies with FHC's minimum coaching qualification standards as established by the FHC Coaching Committee; and
- d. A proposed pre-tournament manager, who may be the same person as the Age Group Coordinator and may be a player on the team.

The traveling tournament manager and Coach may not be a selected player.

6. Maple Leafs Teams

Maple Leafs teams that participate in the Spirit of the Masters portion of the World Cup may not be subject to all of the guidelines named in this policy, at the discretion of the Masters Committee.

Approval of a Maple Leafs team will be undertaken by the Master's Committee as early as practicable prior to a particular tournament, taking into account, but not limited to:

- a. A player list including full name, year of birth, email address, phone number, hometown, and citizenship;
- b. Ideally 16 unique names should be submitted for a particular team. No selected or reserve national team players are eligible;
- c. A proposed Coach; and
- d. A pre-tournament manager, who may be the same person as the Age Group Coordinator and may be a player on the team.

The traveling tournament manager and Coach may not be a Maple Leafs team player.

7. Changes to this Document

FHC reserves the right to make changes to this document if necessary to ensure the selection of the best possible team. Any changes to this document shall promptly be communicated to all National Team Members and posted on the FHC website.

8. Unforeseen Circumstances

FHC recognizes that in an effort to establish a policy that can be applied in most situations, extenuating circumstances may occur from time to time. Field Hockey Canada will assess the extenuating circumstances and has the sole and unfettered discretion to determine whether the circumstances submitted to them are to be considered extenuating and to determine an appropriate course of action.