

DRHC Selection Policy

Background

To be considered for selection a player needs to be a member of the club, to have completed a membership form, paid their subscription in line with the policy disclosed in the Fixture Card, and in becoming a member agrees to abide by the Constitution and Rules of the club including its Code of Conduct and its Disciplinary Code.

The purpose of the selection meeting is to select and develop players to achieve the club's playing/performance objectives and to encourage a sustainable model of growth and of raising standards.

The selection meeting makes its decisions based on the best interests of the club and the specific team whilst recognising the aspiration and development needs of individual players. The needs of the team come before that of the individual.

Players are encouraged to take advantage of the coaching and training facilities offered by the club and attendance at training will be a factor in considering players for selection.

Moving of players between sides is done to achieve club performance and team objectives and is done in the best interests of the club. It also recognises individual athlete development, match performance, and contribution at training.

The club will promote the development of young players in line with its Junior Section Developmental Selection Policy (published separately) and will include juniors in appropriate teams.

The club wants to create competition for places as this strengthens the club and has put in place coaching and training facilities to help players improve their fitness, skills, and match play capabilities.

The club expects players to want to make selection into a team and to demonstrate their commitment to the club through their availability for selection.

The selection meeting

The selection meeting will be attended by the captains of each side within the particular section of the club. A chair of the meeting will be agreed by the membership of the committee and with the agreement of the Exec.

All members of the selection meeting should endeavour to attend the weekly selection meeting or provide sufficient information to for the meeting to pick their team in their absence.

Prior to the start of the season the chair of the meeting, in consultation with team captains, will produce an outline squad allocation log that will be used to guide the initial selection decisions at the start of the season.

This will include the contribution of the Chair of the Junior Committee and the coaches of junior teams to ensure that players 'graduating' to adult hockey are included in the right squad.

Selection criteria

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. Performance in both matches and in training.
2. Experience, skills, and match-play capability for the position that the team wishes to fill.
3. Ability or potential to play at the performance level of the team.
4. Fitness.
5. Commitment to availability for matches.
6. Attendance, effort, and demonstrated development at training.
7. Prompt and reliable communication by the individual to requests from the club or from captains.
8. Punctuality.
9. Enthusiasm, respect and positive attitude.
10. Discipline in terms of playing ability, and respect for: the umpires; team mates; the opposition; coaches; managers; and captains.

All players are expected to conduct themselves on and off the pitch as ambassadors for Deeside Ramblers HC. Failure to do this can result in action under the Disciplinary Code and lead to suspension from selection.

Availability

Availability and selection are not the same thing. Selection can only begin once accurate information on player availability is gathered.

Members should inform their captain or coach of their availability after the match or at the latest by Monday afternoon after a match.

A player who fails to confirm availability will be regarded as unavailable and will not be selected unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Captains or coaches are NOT expected to chase players to establish their availability. The individual is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of information available to the selection meeting.

Selection procedure

Club performance objectives will be kept under review throughout the season and the selection meeting will, through its chair, feed playing and performance issues back to the Exec in order to seek guidance for their decision making.

Selection will be decided top-down i.e. 1s downwards, with the best match-fit players selected. It is the club's intention to take, wherever possible, a predetermined number of players to each game as follows:

- 1s – 16 players (Ladies 14)
- 2s – 14 players (Ladies 13)
- 3s to 7s (or 3s or 4s for Ladies) – 13 players

The selection meeting will recommend to the Exec the number of teams it believes can be sustained over the longer term and this may result in an increase (or decrease) in the number of sides fielded by the club.

In the event that there are additional players available teams may be asked to take a larger squad along to matches in order to manage retention in the game.

All members of the selection meeting should work together to offer opinion and input from what they observe of players, with the teams then selected accordingly. Team captains will select their full, final squad with regard to advice from all members of the selection meeting.

Where a team has the benefit of a dedicated coach who attend the team's matches, final selection will be by the coach for that team.

Disputes will be mediated by the chair of the selection meeting.

The person responsible for final selection will inform players which team they have been selected for as soon as possible.

Changes to squad membership during the week due to updated availability or illness/injury should be resolved between the respective captains with reference to the chair of the meeting in the event of disputes etc.

Movement between teams

It is expected that DRHC players will be willing and available to play for whichever team for which they are selected. Failure to do so will be taken as the player making themselves unavailable for any team both that week and the following week.

Movement between teams should be an expected part of selection and players will not be guaranteed a place in a particular team. This should be borne in mind when players return from injury or other lengthy absences.

If players are to be promoted from a team then the higher team captain (or coach) will inform them of that decision.

If players are selected for a lower team then it should be the next team down in the club hierarchy i.e. a player can't be moved down by two teams.

It is the responsibility of the captain (or coach) who has deselected a player to inform him/her of the decision and the reasons why the decision has been taken. This should be communicated in person or by telephone and not via email or text.

Each player is entitled to receive feedback on their performance in order that they can take necessary steps to improve their contribution to the team and to the club.