



DIHA-POL-004-2026

# Player Selection Policy

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## Version Control

Version	Date	Details of Change	Author	Approved By
1.0	March 2026	Initial release of updated Player Selection Policy	President	DIHA Board

## Approval

Approved By: DIHA Board

Approval Date: March 2026

Next Review Date: March 2027 (or earlier if required)



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## 1. Purpose

This policy outlines how players are selected for representative teams and development programmes. It ensures a fair, transparent, and consistent process that aligns with Sport NZ integrity and fairness principles, child safeguarding expectations, and New Zealand legal obligations including the Human Rights Act 1993 and Privacy Act 2020. Trialling for and being selected to a DIHA representative team is a privilege, not a right. Selection is earned through meeting eligibility, behaviour, safety, and performance expectations.

## 2. Registration to Trial

- All players must register for trials through the official club registration system.
- Registrations must be completed before the advertised deadline.
- Players or caregivers must provide accurate information and agree to club policies.
- Late registrations may be accepted at the discretion of the Selection Panel.

### Good Standing Requirement

- Players must be in good standing with DIHA to be eligible to trial.
- This includes being fully paid up with all fees (or on an approved payment plan), having no unresolved disciplinary issues, and demonstrating respectful behaviour consistent with DIHA policies and Sport NZ integrity expectations.
- DIHA may decline a trial registration or invitation if these requirements are not met.

### Registered Player Requirement

- To be eligible to register for or participate in trials, all players must be a currently registered player with:
  - **DIHA**, or
  - **Another NZIHF-affiliated club** (for players transferring, relocating, or trialling from outside the region).
- Players must hold an active, valid registration for the current season. This ensures compliance with NZIHF regulations, insurance coverage requirements, and Sport NZ integrity and safety expectations.
- DIHA may decline a trial registration or invitation if a player is not properly registered with DIHA or another NZ-affiliated club.

## 3. Invitation to Trial

- Players will receive a formal invitation to trial after registration.
- Invitations may be limited based on capacity, safety, or grade-specific criteria.
- The club may decline invitations if requirements are not met or safety concerns exist.



#### 4. Trial Process

- Trials will be conducted safely and transparently.
- Assessments may include on-ice skills, off-ice evaluations, and coach observations.
- Criteria include skating, game awareness, teamwork, attitude, and commitment.
- Players must wear protective equipment and follow safety instructions.

#### 5. Selection Panel

Selections are made by an appointed Selection Panel consisting of:

- Head Coach
- General Manager
- Assistant Coaches
- Board member (if required)

Panel members must declare conflicts of interest. Criteria must be applied consistently and without bias.

#### 6. Selection Criteria

##### 6.1 Primary Criteria

- Skill level and ability to compete safely.
- Tactical understanding and game sense.
- Teamwork and attitude.
- Commitment to training and games.

##### 6.2 Secondary Criteria

- Positional balance.
- Team needs.
- Development potential.

##### Past Behaviour and Conduct

- A player's previous behaviour, conduct, and adherence to DIHA policies may be considered when determining eligibility for trials and selection.
- This includes any derogatory, abusive, or disrespectful communication toward coaches, officials, volunteers, teammates, or management, whether in person or online.
- Behaviour considerations will be applied fairly and consistently, and in accordance with the Human Rights Act 1993 and Sport NZ integrity principles.

Selections will not be based on protected characteristics under the Human Rights Act 1993.



## **7. Privacy and Data Protection**

- Player information will be handled according to the Privacy Act 2020.
- Trial notes will be stored securely and accessed only by authorised personnel.
- Feedback may be provided upon request.

## **8. Child and Youth Safety**

- Selectors and coaches must comply with the Child Safeguarding Policy and Sport NZ Safe Sport guidelines.
- A safe environment must be maintained.
- Parents may observe trials from designated areas.

## **9. Communication of Results**

- Players will be notified via official communication channels.
- Feedback will be available upon request.
- Non-selected players may be offered development opportunities.

## **10. Appeals Process**

- Players may request a review if they believe the process was not followed.
- Appeals must be submitted within 5 days.
- Appeals will be reviewed by an independent panel.

## **11. Mid-Season Changes**

- The club may adjust rosters due to injuries, availability, safety, or conduct.
- Changes will follow fairness and transparency principles.

## **12. Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually or as required.

## **13. Conduct Toward Coaches, Officials, and Management**

The Dunedin Ice Hockey Association (DIHA) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all participants. As part of this commitment, all players (and parents/caregivers for youth players) must demonstrate respectful behaviour toward coaches, team officials, volunteers, and club management at all times.



### **13.1 Expected Behaviour**

- Communicate respectfully with coaches, officials, and management.
- Follow reasonable instructions from coaching and team staff.
- Uphold the values of DIHA and Sport NZ's Integrity and Safe Sport guidelines.
- Resolve concerns through appropriate channels, not through abusive or hostile communication.

### **13.2 Unacceptable Behaviour**

- Abusive, threatening, or derogatory language.
- Harassment, bullying, or intimidation.
- Online or written communication that targets or undermines coaches, officials, or management.
- Behaviour that damages the reputation or safety of the club.

### **13.3 Impact on Eligibility and Selection**

The club may:

- Decline a trial invitation.
- Decline membership or registration.
- Remove the player from a team or programme.
- Impose conditions on participation (e.g., behaviour agreements).

These decisions will be made in accordance with the DIHA Constitution, Sport NZ Integrity Framework, and the Human Rights Act 1993.

### **13.4 Fair Process**

- Review the behaviour and relevant evidence.
- Provide the player with an opportunity to respond.
- Make a decision based on safety, wellbeing, and the best interests of the club community.