

**RMMBHA:  
Western Challenge Cup 2026**



**Guidelines for Coaches,  
Parents and Players**

## Tournament History:

In 1999, the minor ball hockey associations of BC and Alberta founded the Western Challenge Cup (WCC), as there was no National or Western Championships for minor ball hockey competitors. This tournament would serve as a venue to challenge skilled minor ball hockey players with a chance to compete against other teams throughout BC and Alberta at a higher level.

Since the start of the WCC, the tournament has been hosted by Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon and various cities throughout the Lower Mainland. This tournament has grown over the years with a participation expectancy of a minimum of 36 teams each year. The tournament occurs annually, over a four (4) day period usually during the middle of July.

After the 2011 WCC tournament in Edmonton, there was a vote between all the associations and the result was the reclassification of the competing divisions.

**For the 2026 tournament, unfortunately there will be NO females-only divisions.**

For the upcoming 2025 WCC tournament, the age groups are as follows:

- U11 Division - Players born in 2015, 2016 (may include players born in 2017, if desired.)
- U13 Division - Players born in 2013 and 2014
- U15 Division - Players born in 2011 and 2012
- U17 Division - Players born in 2009 and 2010
- U19 Division - Players born in 2007 and 2008

## General Philosophy:

The WCC provides an added opportunity for players within our league to challenge themselves in competition against other associations. This is a **high performance competitive program** that provides an opportunity for players to compete and further develop their ball hockey skills with a focus on commitment to team success. High Performance (aka: REP) ball hockey is the ultimate grouping of players with excellent ball hockey skills, perseverance and enthusiasm, guided by experienced coaching, additional training and commitment to play against some of the best players from other associations.

High Performance ball hockey requires an added commitment, beyond what is expected during the house season. There will be added expense to parents and players, so it is important to consider this **before** committing to be part of a team. Any additional expenses cover costs related to exhibition games floor time, refereeing fees, team apparel, tournament fees, travel expenses (if applicable) and other miscellaneous items. Parents/Guardians and players need to consider personal schedules, before committing to be on a WCC team, as games can take place during the workday and some evenings. **It is not fair to the team, coaches, the association and other players to commit your son/daughter to a WCC team and then pull them before the tournament.**

WCC head coaches will work with technical directors, the league's president and vice-president to form competitive teams by choosing from the pools of registered players in our house league from each age level. The main goal is to select players to form the strongest possible team to compete at the WCC tournament.

There is **NO** requirement from coaches to hold positions for returning players in the current year's WCC tournament.

### **PARENTS AND PLAYERS ARE NOT TO SOLICIT COACHES FOR A PLACEMENT ON A WCC TEAM!**

Floor time, aka "playing time," will be as fair as possible, but "fair play" is **not** a requirement of High Performance ball hockey. Coaches will take a player's strengths and overall team performance into consideration and make decisions that are in the best interest of the team. During exhibition games and the WCC tournament, the coaching staff may choose to play players who have demonstrated the athletic ability to perform in certain game situations.

It is a privilege to represent RMMBHA on a WCC team, so full attendance to key team events is expected. Due to the expedited season, it is important that all participants and coaches commit 100% to practices, exhibition games, team events and the WCC tournament itself. Exceptions will only be made for RMMBHA regular season or playoff games. Any players on a WCC team are exempt from a team function if they have a regular season or playoff game scheduled for the same time. Practice times for any WCC team will be limited during the RMMBHA playoffs.

Any vacation time or commitment to another sports team, club, program, should be discussed with the head coach prior to committing to a WCC team. While we encourage players be involved in multiple sports, players choosing to commit to a RMMBHA WCC team should see this as their **FIRST** commitment after the commitment to their house ball hockey team. It is the league's expectation that every player and coach attend all practices, games and team functions unless a previous agreement has been made with the coaching staff or the league's executive.

## Coaches Registration and Selection Process:

1. If someone is interested in head-coaching a WCC team, they must be a registered head/assistant coach with RMMBHA or a registered member of RMMBHA in the current WCC tournament year.
2. Those interested in head-coaching, **MUST** complete an on-line application form that will be made available on the RMMBHA website and will be emailed to all current coaches.
3. The applications will be sorted by age group. If there is more than one applicant per age group, the league executive (president and vice-president) may form a panel and hold interviews to decide on the successful candidate.
4. If interviews are conducted, the interview panel may consist of at least two (2) technical directors and the two league executives.
5. If interviews are conducted, when completed, the panel will decide which coaching candidate they recommend for the head coach position at each age group.
6. It will be up to the coach's discretion, with final approval from the technical directors, vice-presidents and president, to choose his/her assistant coaches and manager. Head coaches can have up to three (3) assistant coaches and one (1) team manager.

## Player Selection:

### All WCC Age Groups-

The goal of High Performance ball hockey is for players to play at the Western Challenge Cup (WCC) tournament, which is a higher level than our regular house league, and player selections should reflect that goal.

#### **Player selections for U11-U19 teams will use the following process:**

1. All players interested in being considered for a WCC team placement, must fill out a **Player Scouting Request** on-line form which will be posted on the RMMBHA website.
2. Coaches will select players to form the strongest possible team to perform at the WCC tournament. They will review Player Scouting Request forms and current season performance. They will attend regular season games to gauge players' abilities and skill level in game situations, before making their decisions.
3. U11 Head Coaches may elect to run on-floor evaluations for this age-group **ONLY**. If this is to take place, this will be communicated only the U11 players who have completed the Player Scouting Request form.
3. When coaches have compiled a team roster, they will also offer a list of alternate player options to form a WCC team for their age group; they will send both lists to the League's **WCC Coordinator**.
4. The WCC Coordinator, Vice-President, Technical Directors and the league's President will review these potential rosters. Once this committee has approved the potential rosters, head coaches can then begin approaching listed players and confirm their participation in the WCC tournament.
5. If it comes to the attention of this league that coaches are soliciting player participation or making promises **BEFORE** the league's approval of potential rosters, they may be asked to forfeit their position as head coach.
6. Once the head coach has agreement and commitment from enough players to make the team, he/she will submit the final roster to the WCC Coordinator. This roster will then be posted on the WCC page of RMMBHA's website.
7. If for any reason (ie. a player did not accept their spot on the team or can no longer participate in the tournament), the head coach can replace this player from the alternate players list that they originally submitted with their team roster.
8. The head coach must notify the WCC Coordinator and request approval before making any changes to their rosters. Replacement players can only be taken from the list of alternate players that was originally submitted. Once changes have been approved by the appropriate board members, then and only then, can the coach approach the replacement team player.

## Final Rosters for All Age Groups:

1. The head coach will determine the number of players carried on their team. Generally, teams consist of 15-16 runners and two (2) goalies. It is to the discretion of the Head Coach to take up to three (3) goalies.

2. It will be up to the coach's discretion to carry any Affiliate players on his/her roster. Coaches will need to follow Affiliate player rules as stated by the WCC Rules and Regulations from the CBHA. Affiliate players need to be submitted prior to the final roster being sent to the hosting association. Affiliate players must have originally completed a Player Consideration on-line form prior to the beginning of the selection process.

3. In the event a player on a RMMBHA WCC team decides they do not want to continue on that team, the coaches can follow one of the following procedures:

i. The head coach, along with any assistant coaches can refer to all assessments, statistics, notes, rankings and any other documented information they compiled during their selection process and select a replacement player. The head coach must then notify the Vice-President. The Vice-Presidents and the technical directors will review the requested change to the roster. Once the change has been approved by the committee, then and only then, can the head coach approach the replacement team player.

ii. If the coaches have chosen to affiliate a player, they may simply promote this player to fill the empty spot on the team.