

## Welcome to Mustangs Rep Hockey!



### Purpose of this document

Provide a brief, high-level overview of the Mustang rep hockey program, specifically:

- [Trying out for the Mustang rep program for the first time?](#)
- [Rep Hockey & Local League – What’s the difference?](#)
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### Trying out for the Mustang rep program for the first time?

- **Starts**
  - Tryouts start April 19<sup>th</sup> for all levels where Rep hockey is available (U9, U11, U13, U15, U18) and will conclude approximately by the end the first week of May
- **Required commitment**
  - Must be on the ice for a MINIMUM of ONE skate to be considered for the Mustang Rep program
  - If you are unable to make tryouts due to illness/injury, please let the Coach know and we will work to accommodate the request to the best of our ability
  - **Note:** We cannot guarantee an accommodation and this will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis
- **Locations**
  - Where ice remains available (for example: Fergus until April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and then Caledon, Orangeville, RIM park etc)
  - Unfortunately, rural arenas remove ice in March forcing many centers to seek and compete for ice in urban areas
- **Number of rep teams at each level**
  - Ambition is to ice 2 teams at each age level
    - 100% dependent on registration numbers
  - Tier 1 rep teams will be selected first
  - Tier 2 rep teams will be assembled once the Tier 1 team has been established
  - Tier 2 rep coaches will be announced after the Tier 1 team has been selected unless a coach specifically applied for a Tier 2 team
    - Note: Players must participate in tryouts to be considered for Tier 1 and 2 teams (see required commitment section above if an athlete cannot make tryouts)

## Selection process

- Player selections will be made by both independent evaluators and the Head Coach
- Selections are final and non-negotiable
- **Note:** We realize team selection is a difficult process for both players and parents. If you have questions about the process, feel free to speak with the Head Coach or the Mustangs board.
- **Import rules**
  - If you are coming from another center (played hockey in another location in 2022/23), you will require a Permission to Skate (PTS)
  - PTS can be obtained by asking the Registrar from your current location and must be presented at/before trying out for the Mustangs
  - Mustangs import rules and limitations can be found [here](#)

## Rep Hockey & Local League – What’s the difference?

Both the Mustang Rep hockey and Local League programs *are excellent!* But which program is right for you and your athlete?

What is consistent across both programs is developing a fun, safe and inclusive environment that adheres to the guidelines set out by the [OWHA](#) and [Hockey Canada pathways and](#) mandates.

At first glance, the top differences are Cost and Time Commitment and Travel:

- **Cost**
  - Rep hockey is more expensive than Local League based on the amount of ice and associated costs
    - Your registration fees pay for ice, referees, timekeepers and to supplement basic development opportunities (goalie training, for example)
  - Costs vary year-to-year, but we remain one of the least expensive girl’s hockey organizations in the province!
    - We manage to achieve this through prudent fiscal management and fundraising (like 50/50 draws etc.)
  - Overall cost varies year-to-year and heavily depends on the fundraising activities of the overall organization and for each team
- **Time commitment**
  - Rep hockey will have between 3-5 ice times per week (approximately double the ice of LL)
  - Local league will have around 2-3 ice times per week
- **Travel**
  - Rep hockey will often have slightly larger geographical loops than Local League. Each year the OWHA will assign our Rep teams a loop (this varies year-to-year)
- **Level of competition**
  - Rep hockey has an additional focus on development and competition that generally exceeds Local League
  - Overall focus remains consistent: Fun, friendships, inclusion, development
- **Unique to next year: Elora arena will be closed**
  - Practices and games will be played out of arenas across Center Wellington
  - This can include, but is not limited to: Fergus, Grand Valley, Arthur, Palmerston, Drayton
  - This is not unlike other centers with areas across a large geographical area (Oakville, Waterloo, Brampton etc.)

For more details, feel free to ask a [member of the Board](#) or the [Head Coach of the team your athlete is playing for this year](#).

## Commitment – Mustang Rep Hockey

Let's go into a bit more detail around the commitments of playing Mustang Rep Hockey, specifically:

- [Time, Travel and Tournaments](#)
- [Team uniforms and track suits](#)
- [Fundraising](#)
- [What is this is too expensive?](#)

### *Time, Travel and Tournaments*

- Rep hockey will have between 3-5 ice times per week (approximately double the ice of LL)
  - 2 practices and a game (sometimes 2 games depending on the week)
  - Starts September and will go till April
- Travel will be based on the 'loop' your team is assigned by the OWHA
  - Each year it is slightly different
  - Loops typically involve travel for games that can range anywhere from 20 mins (Guelph) to 90 minutes (London)
- Extracurricular fun!
  - Teams will often have team bonding/building activities that can be added to the schedule
  - Each team is unique and these things will be discussed during the first coaches/parent meeting once the team is finalized
- Tournaments!
  - Each team can play in a Maximum of FOUR tournaments
    - Usually at least one is a 'travel' tournament which involves getting a hotel
  - Tournaments are NOT included in your rep registration fees
  - Each team is unique and tournaments (potential locations, total number) will be discussed during the first coaches/parent meeting once the team is finalized
- Provincials and League Championships
  - Provincials happen each April and teams must qualify to participate
    - Costs to participate in Provincials is covered partially by the Mustangs and partially by the team should your team qualify. The subsidy is dependent on how many Mustang teams qualify
  - League Championships happen each March and only the top 4 teams in the league are invited to participate
  - Provincials and League Championships are NOT included in the total number of allowed tournaments (Four) – so, potentially plan for more!

### *Team uniforms and track suits*

- **Jerseys:** Each Rep athlete will be responsible for buying their own Home/Away jerseys (and bringing them to each game!)
- **Warm up Suit:** Each Rep athlete MAY be responsible for buying their own Warm up Suit (and wearing it to each game!) This is a coaching decision and will be addressed in the pre-season team meeting.
- **Socks:** New socks will be provided by the association

### *Fundraising*

- To assist in paying for tournaments, jerseys, warm up suits and extracurricular fun, teams will engage in fundraising activities
- Each team is unique and fundraising will be discussed during the first coaches/parent meeting once the team is finalized

### *What if this is too expensive?*

- If you are interested in Rep Hockey, but find the overall cost prohibitive, there are many programs available to assist you! For more information on these programs, please reach out to a [member of the Board](#) for more details!
- Our goal is to have every girl that wants to play hockey – to be able to play hockey!

### U9: Unique elements to ensure maximum development

- U9 is a fundamental development year for our athletes
- HALF ice until January – FULL ICE for the remainder of the season
- There are no permanent goalies in U9
  - Each player is encouraged to try playing goalie at least once
- We encourage you to review Hockey Canada's development pathway for U9, available [here](#)

### Expectations of players and caregivers & the Mustang Code of Conduct

- Rep Hockey involves a personal commitment to your team and teammates
  - Please do your best to commit to practices/games/off-ice fun
  - Give proper notice if you can't make it so your team can arrange a call-up if needed
- Mustang Code of Conduct, available [here](#)
  - Mustangs' hockey stands for safe sport that is free of maltreatment of any kind. We all play a role in creating a healthy culture that fosters safe sport practice and offers athletes, coaches, and all members of the sport community strong resources in education and reporting.
  - Must be signed by the player and care giver at the beginning of each season
  - The Code of Conduct MUST be adhered to.
  - Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action for players, parents, guardians that can range from an initial warning to a full and permanent suspension from the Mustang hockey program.

### How do I get involved?

- The Mustangs Girls Hockey program is a non-profit group entire run by non-paid volunteers
- **If you are interested in helping and or joining the Board**, please reach out to a [member of the Board](#)
  - We are always looking for interested volunteers to join the Board – especially those new to the Mustangs!
- **Skills we're looking for (whether on the Board or not!):**
  - Background in community engagement, law, accounting, project management
  - Ability to commit approx. 2-8 hours per month to help!
  - Good organizational skills
- **Not required: Background in hockey!**
  - Like any business or organization, we need a full range of skill sets to be successful!
  - Activities can include: Helping secure fundraising, running booths at tournaments or to assist with specific mustang activities, helping with end of year banquet – really anything!

### Key links and bookmarks

- [Mustang code of conduct for both players and families](#)
- [Mustang web site](#)
- [OWHA](#)
- [Hockey Canada](#)