



HOCKEY NOVA SCOTIA PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION EXCEPTIONAL 14-YEAR-OLD FEMALE HOCKEY PLAYER STATUS

Background

As a matter of principle, Hockey Nova Scotia Female Council has determined that 14-year-old female players should not be permitted to play any U18 hockey in Nova Scotia, whether as a registered player, or as an affiliate.

It is also recognized that whenever a principle is advanced, there is the potential for there to be exceptional athletes whose development would be impaired significantly if they were not permitted to participate in U18 hockey.

It is also recognized that as any 'exceptional player' would be of outstanding capability, Hockey Nova Scotia Female Council will only consider applicants who possess the ability to excel at the Major U18 Level.

Definition of 'Exceptional'

It is agreed that the term 'exceptional' is meant to be those athletes who may come along only once in a generation. To be an exceptional athlete one must possess not only hockey skills that are so superior to players her own age, but would also be superior to players two and three years older than her age.

To provide some clarity, an exceptional player at age 14, given the opportunity, would compete for a position on Hockey Nova Scotia's Female U18 team.

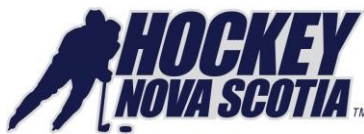
In addition to hockey skills, the exceptional athlete must also possess physical maturity, psychological maturity, social maturity, and education ability which match her superior hockey skills. The player must be well rounded in all aspects of her development.

The Application Process

In order to be considered an exceptional athlete, the player's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall submit prior to March 1, an application which shall be submitted to the Hockey Nova Scotia Executive Director with an application fee of \$500.00, payable to Hockey Nova Scotia Female Council (Please see timeline on page four)

Upon receipt of the application, the Executive Director shall determine that all material that is requested to be submitted in support of the application has been provided. Only applications that include all required information will be considered.

In the event that the Executive Director determines that the applicant is not worthy of consideration as all required information has not been provided, all material and the \$500.00 cheque shall be returned to the applicant and the applicant will be declared ineligible. The decision of the Executive Director of Hockey Nova Scotia in this matter is final and binding.



The application submission must include all of the following:

- The official [Application to be Considered an Exceptional Female Player \(Annex A\)](#) completed in its entirety by the Parents or Guardians, including a complete and up-to-date official school transcript.
- The [Coach Questionnaire \(Annex B\)](#) completed in its entirety and signed by the applicant's current Head Coach, which shall be returned to the Executive Director of Hockey Nova Scotia in a sealed envelope.
- The [Hockey History Questionnaire \(Annex C\)](#) completed in its entirety by the Parents or Guardians.
- The [Player Essay Submission \(Annex D\)](#) to be completed by the Player.

In the event that the Executive Director determines that the applicant is worthy of consideration, the Executive Director shall notify the Chair of the Hockey Nova Scotia Female Council of the application. The application fee becomes non-refundable.

The Evaluation Process

Upon proper submission of all required information, Hockey Nova Scotia Female Council will conduct an evaluation to determine if the applicant has the physical maturity, psychological maturity, social maturity, and educational ability and superior hockey skills in order to be granted 'exceptional player status'.

In addition to a review of the information provided in the application, Hockey Nova Scotia's Female Council shall conduct an interview with the applicant and her parents/guardians.

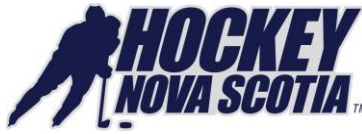
Once the Hockey Nova Scotia Female Council has determined that the applicant possesses physical maturity, psychological maturity, social maturity, and educational ability, the applicant will then be evaluated for hockey skills.

To do so, any applicant will be required to register with the Hockey Nova Scotia High Performance Program Spring Camp at the U16 Level. During this camp, the High Performance Program will evaluate the applicant among her peers. In order to be given any further consideration for eligibility as an 'exceptional player' the applicant must attain the highest standing within the overall rankings at her position.

If successful, the applicant will then be invited to attend the High Performance Program Summer Hockey Development Festival at the Female U18 level. As the U18 level consists of players of U18 age with a high likeliness of participating at the Female Major U18 Level, this level is considered an appropriate forum through which to further evaluate the applicant.

To be considered for the 'exceptional player' status, the applicant must then place, at her respective position at the Hockey Development Festival, within the criteria below.

- Top 3 Forward
- Top 2 Defense
- Top Goaltender



The Decision

If successful in meeting the objectives set out for the evaluation of hockey skills, the player will be notified by Hockey Nova Scotia Female Council of its decision within seven days of the completion of the High Performance Program Summer Hockey Development Festival.

The decision of the Hockey Nova Scotia Female Council is final and binding upon all parties, and no appeal shall be allowed.

Rules governing teams concerning 14-year-old female players.

No Major U18 team, shall place any 14-year-old applicant on a registration certificate unless said player has been declared eligible under the exceptional player status process.

No U18 team shall invite, offer or include any 14-year-old applicant in any tryout, practice, scrimmage or other activity until such time that the player has been declared eligible under the exceptional player status.

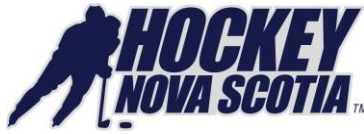
Any violation of this provision shall result in a suspension for any person who violates this provision. The team, who violates this directive, shall have its President and the Head Coach suspended herein. The length of this suspension shall be determined by the Hockey Nova Scotia Female Council. Any second violation of the within provision shall result in a one-year suspension for the President and the Head Coach.

Any 14-year-old applicant who participates in any U18 or Major U18 practice, tryout, scrimmage or other activity, prior to completing the evaluation process and being notified of their eligibility, will be declared ineligible for consideration of exceptional player status.

Area of Competition

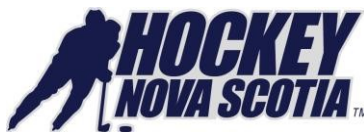
Should the applicant be declared eligible under the exceptional player status process, they will be restricted to play for only a Major U18 team within the Hockey Nova Scotia Female Council Region in which they reside at the time the application is made. Failure to abide by this geographical requirement will render the applicant ineligible.

Once an applicant has been declared eligible under the exceptional player status for a Major U18 team or teams within a region as defined by Hockey Nova Scotia Female Council, and the applicant is not selected to any such team or teams, the applicant will return to their U15 level for the ensuing playing season. The applicant will not be permitted to move to another region to participate in that other region's Major U18 team.



Timelines

- Application submitted by applicant on, or before, March 1.
- Applicant notified by HNS Executive Director if application will be considered by March 31.
- HNS Female Council concludes its evaluation of the applicant's physical maturity, psychological maturity, social maturity, and education ability and conducts the interviews by April 30.
- HNS High Performance Program first evaluation of hockey skills at the U16 spring camp held in June.
- Applicant notified of results of first evaluation within 7 days of conclusion of the U16 spring camp.
- HNS High Performance Program second evaluation of hockey skills at the U18 spring camp held in August.
- HNS Female Council informs applicant of result of evaluation process within seven (7) days of conclusion of the U18 summer camp.



Annex A

**Hockey Nova Scotia Exceptional Female 14-Year-Old Athlete
APPLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED AN "EXCEPTIONAL FEMALE PLAYER"**

This application is made pursuant to the terms and conditions established by Hockey Nova Scotia to determine the identification of an exceptional 14-year-old hockey player, the terms of which the applicant agrees to be bound in respect to all matters relevant to this application.

The applicant(s) agree to supply such further information as Hockey Nova Scotia may consider necessary or desirable concerning any aspect of this application or of the status of the applicant(s).

The applicant(s) agree that the decision to grant or refuse exceptional player status shall be based solely on the judgment and discretion of the Hockey Nova Scotia's Female Council and the decision of Hockey Nova Scotia's Female Council is final and binding upon all parties, there shall be no appeal process to either Hockey Nova Scotia, or to Hockey Canada.

Herewith find a complete and up-to-date official school transcript and a certified cheque in the amount of \$500.00 payable to Hockey Nova Scotia, which shall be applied to the expenses incurred by the Hockey Nova Scotia Female Council investigating all aspects of this application.

In the event that the Executive Director determines that the applicant is not worthy of consideration, all material and the \$500.00 cheque shall be returned to the applicant and the applicant will be declared ineligible.

In the event that the Executive Director determines that the applicant is worthy of consideration, the application fee becomes non-refundable, and the evaluation process will begin.

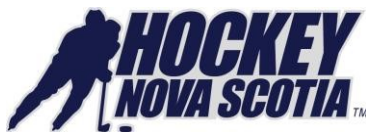
Player's Name in full (please print)

Signature of Player

Player's Parent(s) / Guardian(s) name in full (please print)

Signature of Player's Parent(s) / Guardian(s)

Dated

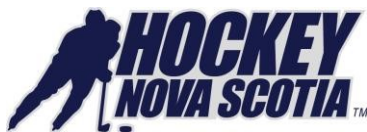


Annex B

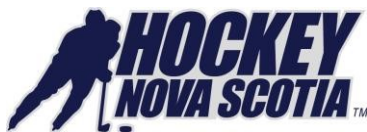
Hockey Nova Scotia Exceptional Female 14-Year-Old Athlete HOCKEY COACH QUESTIONNAIRE

For each description, please mark an X in the appropriate box.

Coachability- Does she eagerly accept and respect the coaching process?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 4 5 Above Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 6 7 Exceptional
Motivation- Does she have the inner strength to be self motivated?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 4 5 Above Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 6 7 Exceptional
Effort- Whether at practice or in a game, is she consistent in her effort?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 4 5 Above Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 6 7 Exceptional
Team Cohesion- Is she a "team player" and does she get along well with everyone associated with the team?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 4 5 Above Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 6 7 Exceptional
Mental Toughness- How would you rate her ability to respond to adversity?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 4 5 Above Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 6 7 Exceptional
Pressure Situations- Does she thrive on opportunities to perform in difficult situations?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 4 5 Above Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 6 7 Exceptional
Hockey Sense- Does her vision permit her to see situations and make appropriate decisions that many of her peers couldn't?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 4 5 Above Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 6 7 Exceptional
Leadership- Has she demonstrated the necessary leadership attributes on this year's team?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 4 5 Above Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 6 7 Exceptional
Overall Assessment— All things considered, what are her chances of succeeding as a 14-year-old NSMMHL hockey player?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 4 5 Above Average	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 6 7 Exceptional



Describe the player's vision when playing the game.	<div> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div> 1 2 </div> <div> Average </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div> 3 4 5 </div> <div> Above Average </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div> 6 7 </div> <div> Exceptional </div>
How well do you think the player understands the game?	<div> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div> 1 2 </div> <div> Average </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div> 3 4 5 </div> <div> Above Average </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div> 6 7 </div> <div> Exceptional </div> <div> Explain: </div>
To what degree does she control the game itself?	<div> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div> 1 2 </div> <div> Average </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div> 3 4 5 </div> <div> Above Average </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div> 6 7 </div> <div> Exceptional </div>
Have you noticed any selfish tendencies?	
Describe her leadership qualities on and off the ice.	



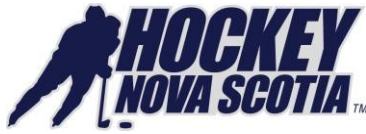
When playing at her normal age level would you consider her to be challenged? If not challenged, what did she do to challenge herself?	
Additional Comments:	

Name (please print)

Team & Level

Signature

Dated

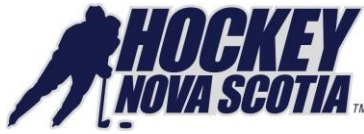


Annex C

**Hockey Nova Scotia Exceptional Female 14-Year-Old Athlete
HOCKEY HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRE**

Please complete all sections for past three seasons.

Year	Team	Category	Statistics	Individual and Team Accomplishments



Annex D

**Hockey Nova Scotia Exceptional Female 14-Year-Old Athlete
PLAYER ESSAY SUBMISSION**

Instructions:

You have indicated your goal is to play Major U18 hockey as a 14-year-old. One aspect of the evaluation process requires that you submit an essay to Hockey Nova Scotia Female Council to assist with the evaluation. The essay must be in response to the following question.

Q. What personal qualities do you possess that will assist you in achieving your goal? In your essay response, please support with two specific examples each personal quality that you identify.

Your essay response may be as long or as short as you desire.

