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## Exceptional Player Policy (14-Year-Old)

### Background

Hockey Nova Scotia has determined that **12-year-old male players** will not be permitted to play at the **U15 Major hockey level** in Nova Scotia, either as a registered player or as an affiliate. However, it is acknowledged that there may be **exceptional athletes** whose development would be significantly impaired if not permitted to participate at this level.

Given the extraordinary nature of this policy, Hockey Nova Scotia will **only consider applicants** who possess the ability to excel at the **U15 Major Level**.

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### Definition of Exceptional

The term "**exceptional**" refers to athletes who are so uniquely talented that they may appear **once in a generation**. These players must not only demonstrate hockey skills that are **superior to players their own age** but also superior to those older than their age group.

For context, an **exceptional player at age 12** would need to exhibit a skill level comparable to competing for a position on **Hockey Nova Scotia's Under-14 Male team**. This is provided as clarity only; a 12-year-old **will not** be permitted to compete for a spot on the Under-14 Male team.

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### The Application Process

To apply for exceptional player status:

1. The player's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must submit an application to the **Hockey Nova Scotia Executive Director** by **January 20th**.
  2. The application must include an **application fee of \$500.00**, payable to Hockey Nova Scotia.
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Upon receiving the application, the Executive Director will determine if **all required materials** have been submitted. Incomplete applications will not be considered:

- If an application is incomplete, all materials and the \$500.00 fee will be returned.
- The decision of Hockey Nova Scotia in this matter will be **final and binding**.

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## The Evaluation Process

If the application is accepted, the following evaluation process will occur:

1. The player will be invited to attend the **Hockey Nova Scotia High Performance Program Spring Camp** at the **Under-14 Level**. Participation in this camp is required.
  - At the Spring Camp, the **High Performance Program** will conduct a thorough evaluation of the applicant.
2. To be considered for exceptional player status, the applicant must attain the following ranking **at their position**:
  - **Goalies:** Top 2 goalies
  - **Defensemen:** Top 4 defensemen
  - **Forwards:** Top 6 forwards
3. If successful at the Spring Camp, the applicant will be invited to the **High Performance Program Summer Camp** at the **Male Under-14 level**. This camp is considered the appropriate forum to further evaluate the applicant, as it involves players who are likely to play at the U15 Major level.
4. At the Summer Camp, the applicant must rank in the **top 25% at their position**:
  - Example: If there are 24 forwards, the applicant must rank in the **top six forwards**.

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## The Decision

After the evaluations are complete:



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1. If the applicant **successfully meets** all objectives, Hockey Nova Scotia will notify the applicant of its decision.
    - Hockey Nova Scotia's decision will be **final and binding**.
    - **No appeals will be allowed**.
  2. If successful, \$250.00 of the application fee will be returned.
  3. If unsuccessful, **no refund** will be provided.

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### Rules Governing Teams and 12-Year-Old Applicants

- **No U15 Major team** may place a 12-year-old applicant on a registration certificate **unless** the player has been declared eligible under the exceptional player status process.
- Teams are prohibited from inviting, offering, or including a 12-year-old in any **tryout, practice, scrimmage, or other activity** until the applicant has been declared eligible.
- Violations of this provision will result in **suspensions**:
  - Individuals responsible for violations (e.g., team staff) will face indefinite suspensions, determined by Hockey Nova Scotia.
  - A second violation will result in a **one-year suspension** for both the team's President and Head Coach.

**Important:** Any 12-year-old who participates in U15 Major activities **before completing the evaluation process** will be declared **ineligible** for exceptional player status.

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### Area of Competition

If an applicant is declared eligible under the exceptional player status process:

- The player is restricted to play for the **U15 Major team** in the **region** where they reside at the time of application.
- Failure to comply with this geographical requirement will result in ineligibility.
- If the player is **not selected** for their regional U15 Major team, they must return to the **U13 level** for the season. Moving to another region's team will **not** be permitted.



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## Timelines

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>January 20th</b>	Application submitted by applicant.
<b>January 30th</b>	Applicant notified if application will be considered.
<b>February 25th</b>	Conclusion of skill evaluation; notification of Spring Camp acceptance.
<b>May</b>	High Performance Program concludes Spring Camp evaluation.
<b>May</b>	Applicant notified of Spring Camp results.
<b>July</b>	High Performance Program concludes Summer Camp evaluation.
<b>August</b>	Hockey Nova Scotia informs applicant of final evaluation results.



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## Exceptional Player 12-Year-Old Application Form

### Exceptional Player 12-Year-Old Application Form

The applicant(s) agree to provide any additional information that **Hockey Nova Scotia** may consider **necessary or desirable** regarding any aspect of this application or the status of the applicant(s).

The applicant(s) further agree that:

- The decision to **grant or refuse** exceptional player status will be based solely on the **judgment and discretion** of Hockey Nova Scotia.
- Hockey Nova Scotia's decision will be **final and binding** on all parties.
- No appeals will be permitted to **Hockey Nova Scotia** or **Hockey Canada**.

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### Application Fee

- A **certified cheque** in the amount of **\$500.00**, payable to Hockey Nova Scotia, must accompany this application.
- This fee will be applied toward expenses incurred by Hockey Nova Scotia in **evaluating and investigating** the application.

### Refund Policy:

- If the player receives a **positive evaluation**, Hockey Nova Scotia will return **\$250.00** to the applicant.
- If the player does **not** receive a positive evaluation, **no refund** will be provided.



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## Exceptional Player 12-Year-Old Application Form

**Players Full Name:**

**Player Date of Birth:**

**Player Position:**

**Current Team/Level:**

**School:**

**Parent/ Guardian(s) Name:**

**Parent/ Guardian(s) Phone:**

**Parent/ Guardian(s) Email:**

**Current Coach:**

**Current Coach Phone:**

**Current Coach Email:**



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**Please list an additional Hockey reference:**

**Reference Phone:**

**Reference Email:**

**Signature of parent(s)/guardian(s):**

**Date:**