



Exceptional Player Policy (14-Year-Old)

Background

As a matter of principle, Hockey Nova Scotia has determined that 14-year-old male players should **not** be permitted to play any U18 Major 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 exceptional athletes whose development would be impaired significantly if they were not permitted to participate in U18 Major hockey. As any “exceptional player” would be of outstanding capability, **Hockey Nova Scotia will only consider applicants who possess the ability to excel at the U18 Major Level.**

Definition of Exceptional

The term “**exceptional**” refers to athletes who may come along only **once in a generation**. An exceptional athlete must:

- Possess hockey skills superior to players their own age, as well as those **two to three years older**.
- Be capable of competing for a position on **Hockey Nova Scotia’s Under-16 provincial team**.

In addition to hockey skills, the exceptional athlete must demonstrate:

- **Physical maturity**
- **Psychological maturity**
- **Social maturity**
- **Educational ability**

The player must be well-rounded in all aspects of their development.



The Application Process

To be considered for exceptional status:

1. The player's **parent(s) or legal guardian(s)** shall submit an application by **January 20th** to the Hockey Nova Scotia Executive Director, including:
 - A completed application
 - An application fee of **\$500.00** payable to Hockey Nova Scotia
2. Upon receipt, the Executive Director will determine if all required material has been submitted.
 - Incomplete applications will result in the **\$500.00 fee being returned**, and the applicant will be declared **ineligible**.
 - This decision is **final and binding**.

The Evaluation Process

If the application is complete, Hockey Nova Scotia will evaluate the applicant to determine if they meet **exceptional player status** requirements.

Step 1: U15 High Performance Spring Camp

- The applicant **must register** with the **Hockey Nova Scotia High Performance Program Spring Camp** at the Under-15 Level.
- During this camp, the applicant will be evaluated among their peers.
- To proceed further, the applicant must achieve **the highest standing within the rankings at their position**.

Step 2: U16 High Performance Summer Camp

- If successful in the Spring Camp, the applicant will attend the High Performance Program **Summer Camp at the Male U16 level**.
- The applicant must place within the **top 25% at their position** during this evaluation.
 - Example: If there are 24 forwards, the applicant must rank within the **top six forwards**.



The Decision

If the applicant meets the evaluation objectives:

1. Hockey Nova Scotia will notify the player of its decision **within 7 days** of the completion of the Summer Camp.
2. This decision is **final and binding**; no appeals will be allowed.

Refund Policy:

- **Positive evaluation:** \$250.00 will be returned to the applicant.
- **Negative evaluation:** No monies will be returned.

Rules Governing U18 Teams Concerning 14-Year-Old Players

1. **No U18 team** shall:
 - Place a 14-year-old on a registration certificate unless declared eligible under this process.
 - Invite, offer, or include a 14-year-old in **any tryout, practice, scrimmage, or other activity** unless declared eligible.
2. **Violation Consequences:**
 - Any violation will result in a **suspension** for the individuals involved.
 - The team's **General Manager and Head Coach** will face suspension:
 - **First Violation:** Suspension length determined by Hockey Nova Scotia.
 - **Second Violation:** One-year suspension.
3. Any **14-year-old applicant** who participates in a U18 activity before completing the process will be declared **ineligible**.



Area of Competition

- An applicant declared eligible must play for a **U18 team within their region** at the time of the application.
- **Failure to abide** by this geographical requirement will result in ineligibility.
- If an eligible applicant is **not selected** for a U18 team, they will return to the **U15 level** for the season.
- The player **cannot move to another region** to join another U18 team.

Timelines

Date	Milestone
January 20th	Application submitted by the applicant.
January 30th	Applicant notified by HNS Executive Director if the application is accepted.
February 25th	HNS skill evaluation concludes; notification of Spring Camp eligibility.
May	HNS High Performance Spring Camp evaluation concludes.
May	Applicant notified of results from Spring evaluation.
July	High Performance Summer Camp evaluation concludes.
July	HNS informs the applicant of final results.



Exceptional Player 14-Year-Old Application Form

This application is submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions established by **Hockey Nova Scotia** for identifying an **exceptional 14-year-old hockey player**. The applicant agrees to be bound by all matters relevant to this application as outlined by Hockey Nova Scotia.

Applicant Agreement

1. The applicant(s) agree to provide any additional information as deemed necessary or desirable by Hockey Nova Scotia regarding this application or the applicant's status.
2. The applicant(s) acknowledge and agree that:
 - The decision to grant or deny **exceptional player status** is based solely on the **judgment and discretion** of Hockey Nova Scotia.
 - The decision is **final and binding** upon all parties.
 - No appeals shall be permitted to Hockey Nova Scotia or Hockey Canada.

Application Fee

- Enclosed is a **certified cheque** in the amount of **\$500.00** payable to Hockey Nova Scotia.
- This fee will be applied to the expenses incurred by Hockey Nova Scotia in investigating all aspects of the application.

Refund Policy

- **Positive Evaluation:** Hockey Nova Scotia will return **\$250.00** to the applicant.
- **Negative Evaluation:** No monies will be returned to the applicant.



Exceptional Player 14-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:



Please list an additional hockey reference:

Reference Phone:

Reference Email:

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

Date: