

2005 Midland NHL Selection Policy

To enable a clear understanding of how the Midlands Men's NHL Team will be selected for the 2005 season the following are the criteria for your information. There are 10 areas of interest and all are important, they are:

1. The X factor
2. Basic skills
3. Physical qualities
4. Set play Skills
5. Mental
6. Versatility
7. Coachability
8. Form
9. Team factor
10. History

Some detail on each of these points's follows:

1 The X Factor

This is largely an undefinable factor but some players have special qualities that cannot be categorised but are important within a sporting team environment. Generally speaking an exceptional goal scorer has "The X factor", it could be as simple a special agility or acceleration or some unusual skill.

2 Basic Skills

To be able to play hockey the basic skills of hockey are essential these skills are:

- Receiving (both forehand and reverse stick)
- Hitting (both forehand and reverse stick)
- Pushing
- Sweep hitting
- Overheads
- Tackling
- Elimination skills
- Leading
- Marking

The expectation is that players will be able to execute these skills to a high level of quality.

3 Physical Qualities

Hockey is a game for athletes and athletic individuals. If an individual has a special physical commodity that cannot be learnt then that is an important fact that should not be overlooked. This could mean exceptional pace or physical size etc

Speed is of particular interest here as that is an attribute that can be very beneficial. Speed in a defender could mean that players can be higher as the speed can get them back in the correct position. Speed in an attacker can mean loose balls recovered or opposition defenders are more cautious or the use of space with balls that otherwise were not possible

4 Set Play Skills

Set plays win international games of hockey. We must have hockey players that are extremely efficient at set plays. We cannot afford to compete at international level without a very good penalty corner, penalty stroke takers and any other set play requirements.

5 Mental Strength

This is another difficult area to define but there are a range of attributes that show an athlete's mental strengths such as

- Cool heads under pressure
- Dealing with adversity
- Discipline
- Proper preparation

This is not an exhaustive list but it gives an idea of the types of qualities that can contribute to outstanding hockey players.

6 Versatility

In the world of modern hockey it is becoming unacceptable for players to be categorised in one position only. Players with ability to play more than one position form an important part of a touring team.

7 Coachability

Within the New Zealand Hockey environment the players are not together much as a squad. It then becomes essential that players listen well, think carefully and act on advice from their coaches. Along with this players should be prepared to try things out when suggestions are made and are prepared to debate and discuss issues as appropriate.

8 Form

Is the player playing well? Form slumps of short nature are a common occurrence for athletes. When selecting this squad, players must prove they are good enough during games to be in the squad.

9 Team factor

Players involved in the NHL environment are often in enclosed environments for an intense relatively short space of time.

To ensure the team functions at its best for that duration the players must be able to “get on”. Compromise, understanding and acceptance are important attributes for individuals to achieve that goal.

10 History

Have players produced special plays at key times in matches? This could be considered when players are struggling with current form or returning from injury. We cannot afford to discard players who may not have had a good “last game” but have been proven to be quality hockey players previously.