



**SMHA EVALUATION
PROCEDURES AND POLICIES**



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1. Objectives

- Provide transparency to our members regarding evaluation procedures
- Formation of competitive teams within each age category where the athletes can develop and participate to the best of their abilities
- Ensure that players have every reasonable opportunity to be placed on a team appropriate to their skill level
- To provide a fair and impartial assessment of a player's hockey skills
- The selection process will attempt to only reflect on-ice performance during the evaluation period
- Consistent selection criteria for each age category
- All attempts and efforts will be made to ensure that the evaluation process is impartial and unbiased
- Form teams in a timely manner for league play at all levels

2. Evaluation Format Overview

- **Discovery & U7** - There will be no formal evaluations for these divisions.
- **U9** - Evaluations will consist of time trials followed by evaluation games. Time trial results determine placement in evaluation games. Evaluation game results determine final team placement.
- **U11** - Evaluations will consist of 1 Skill Session followed by evaluation games. Skill session results determine placement in evaluation games. Evaluation game results determine final team placement.
- **U13** - Evaluations will consist of 1 Skill Session followed by evaluation games. Skill Session results determine placement in evaluation games. Evaluation game results determine final team placement.
- **U15 & U18** - Evaluations will consist of 1 Skill Session followed by evaluation games and practices (in some circumstances). Evaluation game results determine final team placement.
- **Goalies** – U11/U13/U15/U18 (dependent on numbers) will have their own separate on ice skill sessions with Independent Evaluators who will rank them. They will also be evaluated during the evaluation games by the respective coaches of AA and Tier 1 and by dedicated Independent Evaluator(s) for the remaining tiers to determine an overall ranking and placement



- **Movement-** The evaluation process is structured to give players the opportunity to move between tiering groups based on their performance. Players may be moved up or down from a group at any time during the evaluation process. Decisions on player movement are made after each session, and any movement will be applied for the next evaluation session.
- **Evaluators-** The association relies on hired Independent Evaluators from outside the association. The cost for this varies but SMHA typically budgets \$10,000-\$15,000 annually.
- **Team Size and Tiering-** The number of tiers, and number of teams in each tier, is regulated by the [Alberta One Standardized Tiering Model](#) as determined by Hockey Alberta. The number of teams, and placement of teams, for the league tiering round will be communicated to the parent group during the evaluation process and is subject to change based on registration numbers.
- **Multiple Teams at same Tier-** If there are multiple teams at any tiering level, teams will be drafted by the Level Director using a 'snake draft' process based on evaluation rankings along with the input of the Head Coaches, with a view that all teams in a tier being of equal strength. There will be 1 or more leveling games to ensure blended and balanced teams within the same tier.
- **HA AA Model-** SMHA will be following the [Hockey Alberta AA Model](#) and a copy of this is available on the SMHA webpage.



3. Specific Level Evaluation Breakdowns

Please Refer to [SMHA Policies and Procedures: 5.6 \(Team Placements\)](#) for more information

3.1 - Discovery/U7

- All registered players will be divided onto teams of equal numbers with a view to teams being of equal strength. Player movement will be looked at by the affected coaches with the input of the level director on a case by case basis.
- Following 1 or more free skates, teams will be selected by the Level Director with the input of the coaches with a view to all teams being of equal strength.

3.2 - U9

- There will be 1 timed skill session in which all registered players will participate, and which will be set up and run by the level director. The session will consist of ~3 timed drills.
- Following the timed session all players will be assigned to an initial game evaluation slot based on the rankings from the timed session.
- All players will participate in 1 or more scrimmages and/or skill sessions as determined by the level director in consultation with evaluators.
- The players will then be placed on to the appropriate team.
- All U9 team rosters will be finalized by Level Director with input from Head Coaches.



3.3 - U11

There will be 1 skill session in which all U11 registered players will participate and be evaluated by independent evaluators hired by the Association to complete the skill evaluation.

Tier 1/2

- The players who pay the rep try-out fee will participate in 1 or more evaluation scrimmage(s).
- The top players from the skill session and scrimmage(s), to a maximum of 30 players and 4 goalies, will be selected to participate in 1 more scrimmage. If requested by the Coach, there will be 1 coach practice.
- The Coach will select the Tier 1 team with the input from the level Director or designate.
- Those players who paid the Rep tryout fee who were not selected for the Tier 1 team will participate in one or more scrimmages for the Tier 2 team.
- The top players from the scrimmage(s), to a maximum of 30 players and 4 goalies will be selected to participate in 1 more scrimmage. If requested by the Coach, there will be 1 coach practice.
- The Coach will select the Tier 2 team with the input from the level Director or designate.

Tiers 3-6

- Remaining players following the selection of the Tier 1 and Tier 2 teams plus those players who did not pay the Rep tryout fee will participate in 2 or more evaluation scrimmages and will be evaluated by Independent Evaluators.
- If there are multiple teams at any tiering level, teams will be drafted by the Level Director using a 'snake draft' process based on evaluation rankings along with the input of the Head Coaches with a view that all teams in a tier being of equal.
- There will be 1 or more leveling games to ensure blended and balanced teams within the same tier.



3.4 - U13

There will be 1 skill session in which all U13 registered players will participate and will be evaluated by Independent evaluators.

AA /Tier 1

- The players who pay the rep try-out fee will participate in 1 or more evaluation scrimmage(s).
- The top players from the skill session and scrimmage(s), to a maximum of 30 players and 4 goalies will be selected to participate in 1 more scrimmage.
- After the 'AA' Final Game the Head Coach will select a maximum of ~22 players to attend the Ice Breaker Tournament.
- At any time during the Ice Breaker players can be released from the team. The Coach will select the AA team with the input from the level Director or designate.
- Those players who paid the Rep tryout fee who were not selected for the AA team will participate in one or more scrimmages.
- The top players from the scrimmage(s), to a maximum of 30 players and 4 goalies will be selected to participate in 1 more scrimmage. If requested by the Coach, there will be 1 coach practice.
- The Coach will select the Tier 1 team with the input from the level Director or designate.

Tiers 2-6

- Remaining players following the selection of the AA and Tier 1 teams plus those players who did not pay the Rep tryout fee will participate in 2 or more evaluation scrimmages and will be evaluated by Independent Evaluators.
- If there are multiple teams at any tiering level, teams will be drafted by the Level Director using a 'snake draft' process based on evaluation rankings along with the input of the Head Coaches with a view that all teams in a tier being of equal.
- There will be 1 or more leveling games to ensure blended and balanced teams within the same tier.



3.5 – U15

There will be 1 skill session in which all U15 registered players will participate and will be evaluated by Independent evaluators.

AA

- The players who pay the rep try-out fee will participate in 1 or more evaluation scrimmage(s).
- The top players from the skill session and scrimmage(s), to a maximum of 30 players and 4 goalies will be selected to participate in 1 more scrimmage.
- After the 'AA' Final Game the Head Coach will select a maximum of ~25 players to attend the Ice Breaker Tournament.
- At any time during the Ice Breaker players can be released from the team. The Coach will select the team with the input from the level Director or designate.

Tier 1 (if applicable, dependent on registrant #'s)

- Those players who paid the Rep tryout fee who were not selected for the AA team will participate in one or more scrimmages. If requested by the Coach, there will be 1 coach practice.
- The Coach will select the Tier 1 team with the input from the level Director or designate.

Tiers 2-6

- Remaining players following the selection of the AA and Tier 1 teams plus those players who did not pay the Rep tryout fee will participate in 2 or more evaluation scrimmages and will be evaluated by Independent Evaluators.
- If there are multiple teams at any tiering level, teams will be drafted by the Level Director using a 'snake draft' process based on evaluation rankings along with the input of the Head Coaches with a view that all teams in a tier being of equal.
- There will be 1 or more leveling games to ensure blended and balanced teams within the same tier.



3.6 – U18

U16AA

- Players who have paid the Rep tryout fee will participate in 1 or more practice sessions as determined by the Coach
- The Coach will select a maximum of 30 players including goalies who will be invited to participate in the Ice Breaker Tournament. During the tournament the coach may release players and subsequently following the tournament.
- The Coach will select the AA team with the input from the level Director or designate.

U18AA

- There will be up to 4 practice sessions with the Coach in which the players who pay the Rep tryout fee will participate
- A maximum of 30 players including goalies will be invited to participate in the Ice Breaker Tournament. During the tournament the coach may release players and subsequently following the tournament
- The Coach will select the AA team with the input from the level Director or designate.

Tier 1

- Those players who paid the Rep tryout fee who were not selected for the U16AA or U18AA team will participate in one or more scrimmage. If requested by the Coach, there will be 1 coach practice.
- The Coach will select the Tier 1 team with the input from the level Director or designate.

Tiers 2-6

- Remaining players following the selection of the U16AA, U18AA and Tier 1 teams plus those players who did not pay the Rep tryout fee will participate in 1 skill session and 2 scrimmages as determined by the Level Director. Independent Evaluators will be used if our numbers warrant it.



4.0 - Player Movement and Placement

- Injured and absent players will be treated as fairly as possible. The level Director and Executive Committee member(s) will make decisions on placement of players that are injured or absent. The decisions of the Executive Committee will be final.
- In the rare occasion that positional movements are requested during the evaluation process, they will be allowed with consultation of the Level Director.
- For AAA/AA releases, please refer to [AAA/AA Second Tryout Process](#) which is posted on the SMHA website.

5.0 - Underage Players

- Underage player movement is outlined in Section 5.5.3 of the [SMHA Policy and Procedures manual](#).
- Underage players must advise the level directors of their intentions to try out for a higher level no later than August 30th.

6.0 - AA Model

- SMHA will be following the [Hockey Alberta AA model](#), a copy of this is available on the SMHA website.
- In the U13/U15/U18 levels, SMHA must form teams in a timely manner for league play at all levels.
- Should a player miss the Evaluation session(s) it will be at the discretion of the head coach and level director to decide if a spot will be held for that player.



7.0 - Evaluation Metrics

Skill Evaluation Sessions

Skating:

- Agility, Balance, Coordination (body position, technique)
- Forward and Backward Skating (Stride, crossovers, acceleration)
- Ability to turn and stop in both directions
- Transition abilities
- Edge control (tight turns, inside & outside edges, pivots, crossovers)
- Agility (evasive skating, acceleration, change of speed/direction)

Passing & Receiving:

- Forehand & backhand pass
- Passing to moving and stationary targets
- Best available option selected
- Effective pass reception
- Effective use of alternate types of passes (board, chip, saucer, area)

Shooting and Scoring:

- Effective technique
- Forehand & Backhand
- Perform multiple shot concepts
- Proper shot selection
- Velocity and Accuracy

Puck Handling:

- Control of the puck in tight spaces and under pressure
- Effectively stickhandling
- Effective puck protection
- Range of motion
- Creativity

Work Ethic and Compete:

- Win or lose puck battles
- Effort level
- Courage
- Maximize their opportunities

Does the player rank in the Top, Middle or Bottom?

Intersquad Game Evaluations: (To Include the above and the following)

Game Play/IQ:

- Understands positional play
- Support on the defensive and offensive side of the play
- Effectively communicates with teammates
- Read & react to the situation
- Creating time and space



Evaluation Drills

****At anytime during Evaluations the drills may be changed without notice****

[U9 Timing Drills](#)

[U11/U13/U15 Drills](#)