



PLAYER EVALUATION AND TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

It is understood that no evaluation process is perfect, but HCMHA strives to evaluate players in a manner that is as objective, fair and accurate as possible. It is our goal to provide each player with the opportunity to play on a team that best matches his or her skill level at the same time recognizing that as a small association, we seldom have more than 2 teams at each age division. On any given team, there will be players that are playing both above and below their personal skill level. Fortunately, hockey is a TEAM sport where players can learn to make the most of each other's strengths and help each other to develop skills. Failing to attend all of your evaluation times may impact your team placement.

HCMHA is required to follow Hockey Alberta and CAHL guidelines for team sizes and enter teams into tiers according to CAHL guidelines. Teams that start in a tier that is not suitable to their development level could be moved to an appropriate tier.

Team Selection Process

HCMHA works with outside evaluators. The first night will consist of drills and a shorter scrimmage. This is where evaluators will notice any skating deficiencies, and what skills the players possess or lack. During the session, players are ranked 1-28 (or however many players are on the ice). There are 3 evaluators so that any discrepancies will be noted. Evaluators do not talk amongst themselves about players until the session is over. This is when discrepancies are ironed out.

Groupings may be changed after the first session, at the evaluators' request, to better compare players. This is not to be interpreted as an indication of where a player may end up. The second session is more game play, and evaluators will notice more things like hockey sense, puck pursuit, positioning and checking skills. Players are ranked 1-28 (for example) again, and given an average from the 2 nights to determine their final ranking.

At the end of the sessions the evaluators will provide the board of directors with that numbered ranking for each player. The board of directors will then split the age division into teams based on the rankings. (1-14 on one team, 15-28 on the other). There may be some players who the evaluators identify as having relatively equal skill levels. In this situation the board of directors will decide where to place the players.

Once the teams are selected, coaches will be notified of their rosters and will contact the players. This is usually done within 24 hours of the final evaluation session.



Evaluation Criteria

The key points which are looked at when watching skaters are as follows:

1. The most important factor an evaluator looks at is skating, simply for the reason that you have to be able to skate to play the game and compete. Looking at skating involves a few different aspects, and they are as follows:

- Acceleration, speed, mobility, agility, balance, stride, crossovers, acceleration of turns, quick feet, pivots, controlled skating, change of pace

2. Other key points that factor in the decision, in no specific order, are as follows:

- Passing - Passing, receiving, passing choices, on backhand, unselfish with puck, presents a good target, receives and retains with control, tough passing

- Puck Control - Heads up, smooth and quiet, good hands, protection, in small spaces, in traffic

- Shooting - Power, accuracy, quick release, can shoot in motion, goal scorer, rebound control, variety of shots

- Positional Play - Ability to see the play developing both offensively and defensively, moving to support, judgment, anticipation, understands systems, disciplined, good hockey sense.

- Checking Concept - Angling, good body position with balance and control, defensive side position, aggressive checker, strength, taking checks





Parental Input for Placements

1. Parents may request that their children be placed on the lower tiered team if they believe it will better serve the child's interests. Requests should be made, preferably in writing, to a board member **prior** to evaluation.
2. Parents may request that siblings (who are in the same division) play on the same team. **The players will still be evaluated**, and if the evaluation places them on different teams, they will be placed on the team that matches the **lower** ranked sibling.
3. Over Age Players: Sometimes either the association or a parent may identify a child that is not ready to play in their normal age division. The parent may seek permission from Hockey Alberta and CAHL, via the Board of Directors, to have the child play down a division. There are strict criteria that must be met to allow a player to "over-age". If you feel your child should over-age, contact the Registrar for more information. Over-age players are not eligible to play in provincials.
4. For 24 hours after team announcements, parents may ask a HCMHA Board Member where their child ranked during evaluations. They will be given their child's number (12th out of 28 skaters, for example), as that is the only information received from evaluators. Board Members do not receive detailed information pertaining to why a player ranked where they did. 2 days after team announcements, this information will be electronically deleted.

Unevaluated Players

1. Players who choose not to be evaluated will be placed on the lower tiered team. It is up to the players/parents to ensure that the players are registered prior to evaluation and learn the evaluation schedule. The schedule is available on the web site, posted at the arena and sent out through HCMHA newsletters.
2. Players who are unable to attend evaluations because of significant medical issues, emergency reasons or other extenuating circumstances, may submit a request for an individual evaluation after the teams are selected. The board of directors will consider such requests on a case by case basis and will be dependent on space on the division teams. If a request is granted, the evaluation will be done by individuals of the board of directors' choosing.



Goalie Evaluations (only applicable to U11, U13, U15 & U18)

U11, U13, U15 & U18 Goalie Evaluations

At the U11 level, HCMHA has implemented that kids will designate as goalies and must evaluate as a goalie during the evaluation process in order to play as a goalie during the season. Designated goalies on the U11 "B" team may play as positional players when not in net if there is more than 1 goalie per team. This is at the coach's discretion. Designated goalies on the U11 "A" team may only play as goalie and NOT as positional players.

At the U13 level and above, as per Hockey Canada, goalies must be designated. Kids who evaluate as goalies will be the designated goalies for whichever team they are placed. They cannot play as positional players. All designated goalies will be expected to be dressed as a goalie for each game but may not play each game.

Goalies may be affiliated to the age group above and not necessarily to the next direct team.

Goalie evaluation breakdown will be as follows:

1 Player - Evaluates as goalie

That goalie will be placed on the higher team.

2 Players - Evaluate as goalies

One will be placed on the higher team one will be placed on the lower team.

3 Players - Evaluate as goalies

One will be placed on the higher team two will be placed on the lower team. This will allow the higher placed team to affiliate a goalie from the lower placed team in case of injury or illness.

One will be placed on the higher team two will be placed on the lower team. This will allow the higher placed team to affiliate a goalie from the lower placed team in case of injury or illness.

4 Players - Evaluate as goalies

Two will be placed on the higher team two will be placed on the lower team.

5 or more Players - Evaluate as goalies

Two will be placed on the higher team the others will be placed on the lower team.

Example Play Schedule (Based on approx 25 Games in a season including tournaments and playoffs)



Team has 1 Designated goalie:

Designated goalie may play all 25 games - Coaches Discretion

(If designated goalie needs a rest a suitable player can fill in or a call up of an affiliated goalie)

Team has 2 Designated goalies:

Designated goalies play all 25 games split out - Coaches discretion

Team has 3 Designated goalies:

Highly unlikely, but will be dealt with if it ever arises

