# McKnight Hockey Association

## Evaluator Manual

2013-2014

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## Off-Ice Evaluators

The following highlights the responsibilities of the Off-Ice Evaluators:

- Reports to the Division Evaluation Coordinator;
- Sign the Evaluator's Code of Ethics form;
- Commit to be present during at least 80% of the scheduled evaluation sessions;
- Review and understand the drills and skills identified within the practice plans to ensure a clear understanding of the on-ice process;
- Attend training sessions as required;
- Evaluators must maintain impartiality at all times and are not to evaluate their own children or any other player they cannot make an impartial assessment;
- Evaluators should evaluate from the most advantageous area of the arena to properly assess the players away from the parents;
- To ensure impartiality and result independence, evaluators should remain in their designated areas, separate from each other and the parents) when recording results for the first three (3) ice times. The object is to obtain independent results not a consensus at this time. However, during game play ice times evaluators are encouraged to form collective opinions and compare data. No single evaluator should purposefully attempt to persuade others of their position;
- At the beginning of each evaluation session the Division Evaluation Coordinators will identify any problem situations (injury, placement issues, new players, etc.) to the evaluators to the extent those issues are known to them. It is not the evaluator's job to identify those issues to other evaluators but rather all such communications should go though the Division Evaluation Coordinator so that the communications are consistent and the message clear;
- Evaluators will identify their score sheets with their name and signature; failure to do so may, at the discretion of the Division Evaluation Coordinators, result in the score sheet not being utilized in the evaluation for a given evaluation session;
- At the end of each ice time the evaluators will provide their score sheet to the Data Entry Assistants and identify any problems they may have experienced (missed player, incomplete evaluation, etc.) in the notes section of the form;
- **In order to maintain the integrity of the process, discussions about the evaluation of specific players must not take place at any time**. However, discussions pertaining to the process of the evaluation are permitted, to the attention of the Division Evaluation Coordinators in private only;
- Evaluators are never to discuss any process or evaluation inquiries with any parents and should refer all such inquiries to the Division Evaluation Coordinators. The Division Evaluation Coordinators will address such concerns and/or pass those concerns onto the Head Evaluation Coordinator;
- After the initial ice times, the Evaluators may meet as a group with the Division Evaluation Coordinator to review individual and group assessments; such meetings shall

not be utilized for the purposes of persuasion but for the purposes of feedback and in an effort to allow communication of common objectives and principles;

- The Evaluators should always be fair and impartial in grading each of the players:
    - Ignore one-time mistakes and give credit for smart plays;
    - Give credit for positional play and other intangibles such as back-checking, hustling, passing, quickness and anticipation;
    - DO NOT over focus on goal scoring. This is a team sport, look at all positions;
    - Attempt to access the player's ability to give and receive body checks particularly for the upper level teams;
    - Evaluate only what group you are viewing, DO NOT carry over thoughts and comparisons of players from previous groups; and
- Highlight any players who seem misplaced or anomalous based upon their on ice performance.
- Sign the Evaluator Code of Ethics and turn it into the Division Evaluation Coordinator.

## What To Look For – Novice and Atom

The Novice and Atom evaluation programs are be designed to assess all skaters as athletes based on their general hockey abilities.

### Skating

- Can the players perform the basic forward and backward stride?
- The players knees should be well bent with the back slightly forward and the head up
- Good skaters will use long strides with a complete recovery of the stride leg before striding with the other leg. Their strides will look very smooth and appear not to require much effort to move around the ice.
- Does the player keep up with the play or do they struggle to stay with the other players on the ice?
- Player displays ability to skate forward with speed and control and also displays the ability to accelerate or change speed.
- Player displays the ability to skate backwards with speed and control and can accelerate or change speed.
- Executes all skating skills at top speed
- Is the players stick on the ice while skating with his/her upper body moving in sync with lower body?

### Agility – Turns and Edges

- Player can perform tight turns in both directions with both feet on the ice.
- Player's heads up and looking where he/she is going.
- Forward to backward pivots in both directions with balance, speed and power.
- Executes cross over turns both ways
- Player displays the ability to change directions quickly, change from forward to backward skating quickly.
- Player is sturdy on his/her skates and is well balanced.

## Stopping

- Stops in both directions with knees bent and uses both feet while stopping.
- Player can go from a standing position and accelerate and keep up with the play.
- Stops in short spaces with power.

## Passing

- Player passes the puck to its intended target with minimal effort?
- Player makes an accurate pass to a moving target?
- Player receives a pass on their backhand or do they tend to shift their body to receive the pass on the forehand?
- Player passes the puck off of the backhand with some speed and accuracy?
- Player call for the puck vs. banging their stick on the ice or saying nothing at all?
- Player passing the puck makes eye contact with the intended receiver or do they just pass the puck blindly?
- Player executes a saucer pass over sticks and other obstacles?
- Player passes the puck off of the boards to another player?
- Player displays the ability to keep control of the puck while skating and does not lose his/her skating speed with the puck.

## Puck Control

- Player appears to be comfortable handling the puck while skating or do they appear to fight the puck and have trouble skating with some speed while handling it.
- Player keep his/her head up while carrying the puck.
- Player executes dekes and fakes with the puck.
- Player stops quickly or change directions while handling the puck.
- Player continues to handle the puck while in traffic and under pressure.
- Does the player get pushed or checked off the puck easily?
- Executes tight turns with puck, on forehand and backhand.
- Able to protect the puck by using body to shield it from defender.

## Shooting

- Player executes the technique of a wrist shot and backhand.
- Player follows through to the target on all shots.
- Can the player raise the puck?
- Is the puck shot with some velocity?
- Does the puck sit flat in the air or does it wobble?
- Can the player execute a one-time shot?
- Is the player accurate when shooting?
- Shoots with power and accuracy
- Releases shot quickly

## Positional Play

- Player seems to understand where he/she are to play on the ice.
- Do they support the puck in defensive and offensive situations?

- Does the player show patience or do they tend to panic when pressured?
- Do they protect the mid lane and force opposing players inside out?
- Can the player angle another player off of the puck?
- Does the player force the play or do they wait too long?
- Player displays the ability to respond quickly to a change in puck possession.
- Player displays the ability to read the play and intercept passes or block passing lanes.
- Player demonstrates the ability to find open areas on the ice with an open passing lane to receive a pass from a team mate.
- Player displays the ability to provide pressure in the offensive zone to try and take the puck away from the opponent by using his stick and body to attack the opponent.
- After a change in puck possession the player skates back towards the defensive zone picking up an opponent or challenging the puck carrier.

### Checking Concept

- Does the player shy away from other players?
- Player uses his body to direct the opposition player in the direction of choice.
- Player display the ability to use his stick to knock the puck away from the opponent without losing his position or balance. A large sweeping action poke check is an example of what not to do.
- Player is not afraid to go along the boards or in the corners to battle the opponent for puck possession.

### General Game Play Criteria

- Hockey sense – fore check, back checking, understands offsides, hard on the puck, head up when they have the puck, head manning the puck, passing the puck, effort, does the player change at appropriate times, shift lengths, does the player take penalties consistently.

## What To Look For – PeeWee and up

The PeeWee, Bantam, Midget and Junior C evaluation programs are designed to assess players based on their preferred position, forward, defence and goalie:

### Forward: Individual Player Skills

#### General

- Player is able to play with and without the puck
- Player displays the ability to respond quickly to a change in puck possession.
- Player displays the ability to read the play and intercept passes or block passing lanes.
- Player anticipates well and plays with intensity
- Competitive spirit and desire for the puck.
- Strong work ethic
- Fitness able to play the entire allotted time

### Scoring Ability

- Soft hands in close, ability to make the goalie commit and make the first move
- Can get the puck up quick in close
- Always around the puck
- Finds a way to create chances

### Play Making and Puck Movement

- Head mans the puck quickly to player in better position
- Stays away from low percentage passes
- Looks for and uses quiet zones
- Plays well away from puck, supports puck carrier well
- Creates good passing angles, controls skating
- Creates open ice for himself and team mates
- Protects the puck when carrying it

### Defensive Play

- Committed to hard work in the defensive zone
- Head on a swivel, looking to pick up open players
- Not afraid to block shots

### Face Offs

- Neutralizes or win draws in defensive zone
- Ties up opposing player on each face off
- Directs players to where he wants them to go before puck is dropped

### Checking Skills

- Player uses his body to direct the opposition player in the direction of choice.
- Player uses shoulder to check the opposition without riding up and hitting the opponent in the head. Player maintains balance while giving the check and uses his legs to drive through the check.
- Player protects himself by turning into the check so that he is shoulder to shoulder with the opponent. Player stays against the boards or is out of the danger zone. If the player is knocked down he gets back up and gets into the play.
- Player gets into the play even if he is going to be checked and does not avoid the contact. It is acceptable for the player to use moves to slide a check.
- Player is not afraid to go along the boards or in the corners to battle the opponent for puck possession.

## Defence: Individual Player Skills

### General

- Player is able to play with and without the puck
- Player anticipates well and plays with intensity
- Competitive spirit and desire for the puck

- Ability to control the game when they are on the ice, communicates on ice with other players
- Strong work ethic
- Fitness able to play the entire allotted time

### Puck Movement/Play Making

- Moves puck quickly to best options
- Not afraid to jump up and be fourth man
- Shows patience with puck under pressure, looks for opportunity
- Reads the play and covers when defensive partner pinches in or jumps up into play
- Plays 1 on 1 well with good gap control in all situations
- Effectively uses stick and body while checking
- Player displays the ability to keep head up when making passes or when clearing the puck out of zone.
- Player displays the ability to keep control of the puck while skating and does not lose his/her skating speed with the puck.

### Net Play

- In the defensive zone the forward in front of the net is covered by a defensive player.
- Defensive player maintains defensive side position and keeps his stick active in the passing lanes.
- Maintains eye contact
- Doesn't get beat back to the net by opposition

### Board Play

- Ability to neutralize opponents in one on one situations
- Angles well
- Good body and stick position

### Read the Rush

- Ability to identify attack and support
- Defensive player positions his body so that he is between the opponent and the goal.
- On the odd man rush defensive player protects the mid-ice and forces that opposition to the outside.
- Willing to control the gap by being aggressive in the neutral zone
- Positioning player can anticipate the developing play and moves appropriately

### Skating

- Player displays the ability to skate backwards with speed and control and can accelerate or change speed.
- Good lateral movement, covers the ice well
- Player displays the ability to change directions quickly, change from forward to backward skating quickly.
- Player is sturdy on his/her skates and is well balanced

- Player displays the ability to make tight quick turns to remain in the play and not drift out of position.

### Checking Skills

- Player uses his body to direct the opposition player in the direction of choice.
- Player uses shoulder to check the opposition without riding up and hitting the opponent in the head. Player maintains balance while giving the check and uses his legs to drive through the check.
- Player protects himself by turning into the check so that he is shoulder to shoulder with the opponent. Player stays against the boards or is out of the danger zone. If the player is knocked down he gets back up and gets into the play.
- Player gets into the play even if he is going to be checked and does not avoid the contact. It is acceptable for the player to use moves to slide a check.
- Player is not afraid to go along the boards or in the corners to battle the opponent for puck possession.

## Evaluator Code of Ethics

- I understand that the evaluation process is in place to place players on appropriate teams based on skill level
- I will evaluate impartially, using skill and hockey sense as criteria and not let personal relationships influence my results
- I will not evaluate my own child
- I will evaluate on my own and not ask others about their evaluation results
- I will not compare notes, scores or rankings with other Evaluators
- I will not share comments or opinions with any parents, players or other interested observers
- I will not discuss my evaluations with others, even after the evaluation process is complete
- I will show up on time on days when I am evaluating
- I understand that if I breach my code of ethics I may be removed from my role

Signature _____

Date _____