



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, Alberta T1S 1B2

403.710.2213 Operations Coordinator 403.201.7984 FAX

www.okotokshockey.com

2016-2017 Evaluation Procedure

Participants

Please note that the procedure below mainly explains the procedure for all travel teams in the OMHA. OMHA House team evaluations are done by OMHA volunteers as the purpose of those evaluations are to pick balanced teams. House teams are all Initiation, Novice A and B House and Atom House. OOA evaluations are run separate from the OMHA evaluation process.

Philosophy & Objectives

Player evaluation can be one of the most difficult tasks for a Minor Hockey Association to handle. However, it can also be the foundation for which an association is built. In most cases these evaluations are used to place individual players onto teams. An important factor that is missing in many cases is that most Minor Hockey Associations do not use player evaluations as a tool for coaches to develop players based on their individual strength and weaknesses. The following are the Objectives of OMHA during our evaluation and selection procedure:

- This procedure is put in place annually by the OMHA Board to create a fair, open, and impartial assessment of a player's total hockey skills during both the skating and scrimmage sessions.
- To ensure all players have a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a team appropriate to their skill levels as determined during on-ice evaluations of the current year.
- To provide coaches with the opportunity and flexibility to build a team based in part of the evaluation procedure and on their own coaching philosophy and knowledge of players skills and attitude.
- Provide consistency and uniformity in the evaluation process so that both players and parent expectations are consistent from year to year.
- Form teams to maintain balanced and competitive play where athletes can develop and participate equitably in a fun environment through out the season.

We recognize that it is very difficult to satisfy the expectations of all stakeholders in the evaluation process. Extraordinary / unusual circumstances will be dealt with by the OMHA Executive Committee.



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Evaluation by Position

OMHA evaluates by position for Peewee, Bantam, & Midget. Players will be evaluated for the position they have indicated on their registration form. Players are not allowed to change position once evaluations have begun.

Initiation, Novice and Atom players will not be evaluated by position except for Atom goaltenders.

Grouping Players

Players will be grouped for evaluations by using age category and division from the previous year as a guideline. Evaluation group 1 will be the smallest for the first of 6 evaluations. Evaluation group 2 will be a little bigger and so on for the amount of groups we have. This format creates a positive environment for the players, by allowing the majority of players to move upwards. It will not eliminate backward movement, but hopefully will minimize it. The objective is to have all of the groups contain approximately the same number of players by the final evaluation.

Player Movement

Players will be moved according to their evaluation rankings following both skill & skating sessions, and remixed into groups of similar ability. As the players progress through the skill & skating sessions and scrimmages their ranking will be combined and will see players placed accordingly. This will allow for player movement based on performance.

Evaluators

For the 2016 Evaluations OMHA has recruited an independent evaluation team.

The evaluation process will start approximately Sept 13, 2016 and end Oct 1, 2016.

Evaluators must sit separate from parents and make their assessments independent of other evaluators or parents influence.



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Evaluation Rankings for an OMHA member can only be requested in writing for that individual only and only AFTER the final evaluation. This must be done through the division director. 24 hour rule is in effect.

Drills, Scrimmages, and Evaluation Criteria

Players will be evaluated during separate ice sessions as follows:

- Initiation: 2 Tune-Up skates & 2 ice/scrimmage sessions
- Novice House: 2 Tune-Up skates & 4 scrimmage sessions
- Novice Travel: 2 Skills & Skating sessions & 3 scrimmage sessions
- Atom House: 2 Tune-Up skates & 4 scrimmage sessions
- Atom Travel: 2 Skills & Skating sessions & 3 scrimmage sessions
- Peewee: 1 Skills & Skating sessions & 4 scrimmage sessions
- Bantam 1 Skills & Skating sessions & 4 scrimmage sessions
- Midget: 4 scrimmage sessions
- Female 1 Skills & Skating sessions & 2-3 scrimmage sessions

Players trying out in an age category will arrive at the evaluation ice time 30 minutes prior to their ice time to check in and be assigned a team and jersey. They will receive instructions, and information regarding the evaluation session at this time.

- An evaluation criterion for players and goalies is attached as Appendix I and II.

Goalies

Atom, Peewee, Bantam, and Midget goaltenders will be evaluated in a separate goalie evaluation session, as well as during regular scrimmage sessions. Goalies will be required to be on the ice during the Skill & Skating sessions, but will not be evaluated.



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Team Selection

OMHA will place teams in the following league age categories for the 2016/2017-hockey season **(subject to change, based on registrations received)**.

House League (Okotoks Only)

- Initiation: 12 teams
- Novice: 12 teams mixed and 3 female
- Atom: 8 teams
- Peewee: 3 teams
- Bantam: 2 team
- Midget: 2 teams

Central Alberta Hockey League (CAHL)

- Novice: 2 teams
- Atom: 5 teams
- Peewee: 6 teams
- Bantam: 6 teams
- Midget: 3 teams

Rocky Mountain Female League (RMFHL)

- Atom: 3 team
- Peewee: 3 or 4 teams
- Bantam: 2 teams
- Midget: 1 team

After the evaluation process is complete, there will be a practice held with all eligible players for the first team. The coach will finalize his team after that practice. The second team will then have their practice with all eligible players. The process will continue until all teams have been selected. All coaches can handle the practice at their discretion (i.e. drills, scrimmage or combination).

***Please note players may have to attend two practices back-to-back based on evaluation ranking.**

The number of players placed on each team will be determined by registration.



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Hybrid Evaluation Process - Each of the two Travel teams in Novice will see the top 8 players (16 total) become a lock based on evaluation ranking. Atom will see the top 8 skaters and 1 goalie become a lock. Each Novice and Atom CAHL team will see the top 8 skaters being protected on each roster. This is based on no positions being taken into account for Novice and Atom. PeeWee, Bantam and Midget teams will be picked with the top 5 Forwards, 3 Defence, and 1 goalie based on a players individual ranking through the evaluation procedure being locked on the roster.

The remaining players based on evaluation ranking will form the remainder of each group for the coaches skate, where a coach will pick his remaining players. Those not chosen on team 1 will be a lock on team 2. Each coach skate will see enough skaters on the ice to facilitate the 8 players being released are a lock on the team below. For example, if Atom 1 is taking 14 skaters, the coach skate will feature 22 players. Those 8 released skaters become locked on team 2. For example, in PeeWee if they are taking 15 skaters (9 forwards/6 defence) then the coach skate will feature 23 players (14 forwards/9 defence). Players based on ranking will round out each coach skate group based on evaluation ranking once the locked skaters have dropped down. This process and larger coach skates provide coaches with additional choices for player selection and allows skaters who may have missed the previous "cut" to skate and earn a position on a higher ranked team, with the guarantee of being locked on the team below. The top ranked goalie is a lock. The next ranked 2 Goalies will compete for the remaining 1 Goalie spot and the next ranked Forwards and Defence will compete for the remaining Forward and Defence positions. This process will continue on and down through the teams until selections are complete.

The OMHA Directors and Executive Board reserve the right to adjust the size of coach skates based on the rostered skaters required for each team and or division (14/22, 15/23, 16/24, 17/25).

Players entering the program after evaluations, please refer to page 10 for full guidelines. These players do not qualify for any locked position.

For the purpose of team selection in the PeeWee, Bantam, Midget Divisions, players should be listed by position (forward, defence, and goaltender). Team selection will then be made as follows:



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FORWARDS

Forwards team 1

If choosing 9 forwards Coach gets list of top 14 with ranking. If choosing 10 or 11 then the top 15 or 16. Coach chooses his forwards whether it is 9, 10 or 11 out of this. The top five forwards based on evaluation ranking are a lock, coach then picks his remaining 3, 4 or 5 forwards. The 5 forwards not picked on now a lock on the team below.

Forwards team 2

Any forward not taken on team 1 becomes an automatic lock on 2. If choosing 9 Forwards, the list is given to the coach for the next 14 (these include the locks). If choosing 10 or 11 then the next 15 or 16 (these include the locks). Coach chooses his forwards out of this whether it be 9, 10 or 11 with the the locks being those that have come down. The 5 forwards not picked on now a lock on the team below.

Forwards team 3

Any forward not taken on team 2 becomes an automatic lock on 3. If choosing 9 Forwards, the list is given to the coach for the next 14 (these include the locks). If choosing 10 or 11 then the next 15 or 16 (these include the locks). Coach chooses his forwards out of this whether it be 9, 10 or 11 with the the locks being those that have come down. The 5 forwards not picked on now a lock on the team below.

Forwards team 4

Any forward not taken on team 3 becomes an automatic lock on 4. If choosing 9 Forwards, the list is given to the coach for the next 14 (these include the locks). If choosing 10 or 11 then the next 15 or 16 (these include the locks). Coach chooses his forwards out of this whether it be 9, 10 or 11 with the the locks being those that have come down. The 5 forwards not picked on now a lock on the team below.

This process continues until all teams in the division are selected.



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DEFENCE

Defence team 1

Coach gets a list of the top 8 or 9 defence with ranking, his top 3 are locks based on ranking during the evaluation process. Coach then chooses his final defence whether it is 2 or 3 out of the remaining 5 or 6. The 3 defence not picked now become a lock on the team below.

Defence team 2

Any defence not taken on team 1 becomes an automatic lock. The coach gets a list of the next 8 or 9 available (these include the locks) and must choose his defence whether it be 2 or 3 out of the remaining 5 or 6. The 3 defence not picked now become a lock on the team below.

Defence team 3

Any defence not taken on team 2 becomes an automatic lock. The coach gets a list of the next 8 or 9 available (these include the locks) and must choose his defence whether it be 2 or 3 out of the remaining 5 or 6. The 3 defence not picked now become a lock on the team below.

Defence team 4

Any defence not taken on team 3 becomes an automatic lock. The coach gets a list of the next 8 or 9 available (these include the locks) and must choose his defence whether it be 2 or 3 out of the remaining 5 or 6. The 3 defence not picked now become a lock on the team below.

This process continues until all teams in the division are selected

GOALIES

Goalies team 1

Coach will get a list of the top 3 goalies with ranking. Top ranked Goalie is an automatic lock. He must then chose his final Goalie from the 2 remaining.



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Goalies team 2

Any goalie not taken on team 1 becomes an automatic lock. The coach gets a list of the next 3 goalies (these include the locks) and must choose his 1 Goalie from the 2 remaining with the only lock being the goalie not selected for team 1.

Goalies team 3

Any goalie not taken on team 2 becomes an automatic lock. The coach gets a list of the next 3 goalies (these include the locks) and must choose his 1 Goalie from the 2 remaining with the only lock being the goalie not selected for team 2.

Goalies team 4

Any goalie not taken on team 3 becomes an automatic lock. The coach gets a list of the next 3 goalies (these include the locks) and must choose his 1 Goalie from the 2 remaining with the only lock being the goalie not selected for team 3.

Continue until all teams in the division are selected

** If a team is mandated to take only 1 goalie, then in this instance the coach will get a list of the next 2 goalies and must pick 1. There will be no lock in this instance. In certain situations goalies may be placed on teams in various orders due to limited numbers. For example: T1 - 2 goalies, T2 - 1 goalie, T3 - 2 goalies, T4 - 1 goalie, T5 - 2 goalies.

For the purpose of team selection for the Novice and Atom CAHL team(s) the following procedure shall apply:

Team 1

In Novice Travel the two Head Coaches get a list of top the top 37 skaters with ranking. Of the top 37 skaters, the top 16 players will be a lock with 8 players being drafted to each of the two teams. The Novice coaches will then pick their final skaters to round out each roster from the 21 remaining skaters. The Novice Director along with the VP Development and VP Programs will oversee that the team selections for the Novice Travel create fair and equal teams.



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In Atom the coach gets the top group of 22 skaters and 3 goalies. In this group the top 8 skaters and top ranked goalie will become a lock. From the remaining group of skaters the coach will make his final selections.

Team 2

Any Novice player not taken for Travel team 1A or 1B will be placed in House evaluations and placed in either Novice A or B House. For Atom the list is given to the coach for the next group of skaters (this includes his top 8 locked skaters and top ranked locked goalie). Coach then chooses his final players out of these with the locks being those not taken on team 1.

Team 3

For Atom the list is given to the coach for the next group of skaters (this includes his locked top 8 skaters and top ranked locked goalie). Coach then chooses his final players out of this group with the locks being those not taken on team 2.

Continue until all teams in the division are selected.

** If a team is mandated to take 1 goalie only, then in this instance the coach will get a list of the next 2 goalies and must pick 1. No locks will apply in this situation.

With this selection Procedure it relies heavily on the integrity of the Evaluators overall rankings, however it allows the Coaches some flexibility and additional accountability during selections. The coach can make choices (within the eligible rankings) based on previous performance, player attitude, and other intangibles to build his team. Requests for playing with another player can not be accommodated for players on CAHL teams.

***Players trying out for an OAAA team, but have yet to be selected must attend OMHA evaluations if your ice times do not conflict. If they don't evaluate with the OMHA they will not be guaranteed a position. They will be put in a selection pool in their respective divisions.**



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House League Teams

OMHA players must choose Travel or House when registering. By choosing House you will not be made to travel and will only be considered for the house league teams, you will not have a later option of moving to Travel tryouts. By Travel it only means you would like to try and play there. Players remaining after travelling team rosters are selected will go into the House league pool.

OMHA players on house league teams shall be evaluated in accordance with these OMHA guidelines and procedures for House evaluations and shall be placed on teams in an effort to make each house league team in an age category of equal calibre. Members must understand that teams may not be equal all year long. Many factors play into this such as coaching, player improvement, goalie identification, etc.

Requests for House League teams are HIGHLY discouraged, as the majority of players and teams will be playing on the same day and similar times. Exceptions may be granted in the House leagues, upon approval of the Executive Committee, however they cannot be guaranteed.

Team Selection Notification

Players will be notified which team they have been selected for, and when the next ice time for their team will be. It will be either a letter format or verbal from the Head Coach of that particular team. Depending on division.

Notification of all players in a division will be done on a date to be determined by the OMHA VP Programs, the Division Director and the Coaches. For Peewee, Bantam, and Midget, this date will be no earlier than the final date AA team rosters are announced.

Players entering program after evaluations

The OMHA Executive Committee has determined the following procedure will be implemented for players entering OMHA's hockey program after evaluations:

- Players entering the program after evaluations that are new to the community will be placed on a team in the middle of the age category to evaluate their skill level during several ice times and will then be moved to an appropriate team, assuming spots are available.



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- If a Player is injured before or ill during evaluations, the players placement will be at the sole discretion of the Division Director and OMHA Executive Board.
- A player who has been deemed unevaluated due to school, sickness, vacation, injury or otherwise but can attend a selection skate may be added as an extra, not taking another players spot. In this case the player never becomes an automatic and may skate until a team does select them.
- If a player enters or returns after team selections have been finalized, the players placement will be at the sole discretion of the Division Director and OMHA Executive Board.
- Any player entering the program after evaluations does not qualify for any locked position.

Any questions or concerns regarding the Evaluation Procedure should be directed to the VP Programs, OMHA.

Appendix I: Evaluation Criteria

The key points that evaluator's look at when watching players are as follows:

1. One of 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 of turns, quick feet, pivots, controlled skating, chance of pace.
2. Other key points that factor into an evaluator's decision making are listed below. These key points are not in any specific order.

Passing

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



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Positional Play

- Ability to see the play developing both offensively and defensively and moves to support. Judgment, anticipation, understands systems, disciplined.

Checking Concept

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

Appendix II: Evaluation Criteria

The key points that evaluator's look at when watching goalies are as follows:

3. Probably the most important factor an evaluator looks at is Skating. Not in the sense of a player, but more for movements around, in and out of the net. Looking at skating involves a few different aspects, and they are as follows:
 - Angels
 - Lateral Movement (can he/she get across the net fast enough and in position)
 - Good balance (strong on skates)
4. Other key points that factor into an evaluator's decision making are listed below. These key points are not in any specific order.

Positioning

- Can he/she read the play, and react accordingly.
- Can he/she decide when to stay on their feet, or go down to stop a shot. (using the butterfly is effective, however there are times when you have to stay on your skates.)
- Not shying away from shots.

Rebounds

- Ability to stop the first shot.
- Since the majority of goals are scored on rebounds, can they control rebounds or react to them quickly enough.

Playing the Puck

- Can they show they know when to play the puck and when to leave it for a player.
- Know where to put the puck when they need to play it.
- Know when to stop the play, and get a whistle.



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Work Ethic

- Possessing a constant work ethic through the entire camp. Not just in games and not just when getting shots
- Doing extra "goalie stuff" in the corners when not getting shots