

	Title	Intro to Hockey Evaluations U9 and U7
	Policy #	Operational – 8.2
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	Owned By	Executive Committee

1.0 OVERVIEW

Airdrie Minor Hockey Association (AMHA or the Association) recognizes that the evaluation process is important to players, parents/guardians, evaluators and the Association. All efforts are directed to ensuring that the evaluation process allows a player to demonstrate their hockey ability and skills through a fair unbiased process.

This policy covers the evaluations process for skaters being evaluated within the Intro to Hockey U7 and U9 divisions.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 All registration and tryout/evaluation fees must be paid in full, or arrangement made to pay by payments prior to the player attending Intro to Hockey evaluations.
- 2.2 If timed trials are utilized, reasonable effort will be made to ensure that an independent company will be hired to facilitate the time trial session through a variety of different age appropriate drills.
- 2.3 During evaluations players will be assigned a helmet sticker number and all AMHA evaluations shall be completed utilizing that players number to identify them. Every effort should be made to ensure players remain anonymous to evaluators during evaluations.
- 2.4 All skaters will need to have 1 black or white jersey for every skate during the evaluation process. Jersey's that have numbers, name bars or logos on them will need to be worn inside out so that the logo, name and numbers are not visible.
- 2.5 All skaters will also need to wear either **plain** black or white socks during the evaluation process.
- 2.6 All players must participate in all skates of the evaluations according to the schedules that will be emailed out prior to and during the evaluation process.

These steps include:

2.4.1 Time Trials (1 per skater)

2.4.2 Evaluation Skates (maximum of 2 per skater/stream)

2.7 For all Evaluation Skates, AMHA commits to have a few volunteer evaluators made up of parents and potential coaches from various divisions to observe the skates and to rank the players.

2.9.1 Evaluators need to have some experience with player evaluation.

2.9.2 Background in hockey either as a player or coach.

2.9.3 Preferably from a different division than they have children in.

2.9.4 If possible, the ability to evaluate for the full-time frame to help with consistency and continuity.

2.8 All data from Time Trials and Evaluation/Parity skates will be input either into the designated Software or Excel to rank the players using the data collected. The Time Trial data will rank the players from top to bottom and this data will be used to divide the players up into groups for the evaluation skates.

2.9 The teams will be created after the evaluation skates and approved as per the Team Creation section 5.0 below.

2.10 All questions concerning the decision or process of the Evaluation Committee shall be directed to the Division Coordinator. Player evaluation and placement is not subject to the right to appeal. (See Grievance Policy #8.1.2)

3.0 EVALUATION PHASE

3.1 No evaluation skates prior to or during the first week of school.

3.2 Must provide a minimum of 4 skates before evaluation begins, this will be in the form of the Prep Skates included in the registration fee.

3.3 Must provide a minimum of 2 evaluation skates before grouping of players on teams.

4.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

4.1 Although it is impossible to eliminate all subjectivity, or previous coach/player experiences, the selection process will attempt to only reflect on-ice performance during the evaluation period based on the data provided by the evaluators.

3.2 Evaluations are documented and remain confidential. Individual evaluation scores and rankings are not released, as our purpose is to form teams, not to rank players on their individual skills. The evaluation sheets and the ranking criteria are only made available to the Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee at each level will be comprised of the applicable Director and Coordinator of the Division, Evaluations Coordinator, AMHA Executive and Staff.

3.3 Any Evaluator or member of the Evaluation Committee will remove themselves from any discussions or decisions that are required to be made regarding his or her own child.

- 3.4 Any injury, illness or other absence which prevents a player from completing the evaluations will be dealt with by the Evaluation Committee on an individual circumstance basis. The Evaluations Committee will look to the Operational Policy – 8.1.1 Injured Player Policy for guidance, however with players new to hockey or players that were not ranked at the end of the past season, it will be hard to use the software, therefore for the Competitive U9 teams the Evaluations Committee may use prior season evaluations, prior season level of play and prior coach reviews in making a determination of placement. Please note however that all players are strongly encouraged to make every effort to attend evaluations as relying on previous season information is not as accurate and may result in your child being placed in the City league.
- 3.5 Attendance during the Evaluations is mandatory. Failure to participate in any scheduled evaluation session will result in the following, unless it is due to an injury or serious illness and then you would refer above or to the Operational Policy 8.1.1 – Injured Player Policy.
- 3.5.1 If player misses Time Trials, they will be automatically placed in the lowest group
- 3.5.2 If player misses an Evaluation skate, they will fall one group for the next evaluation skate

4.0 EVALUATION PROCEDURES

- 4.1 Based on the Time Trial data gathered for all U7 and U9, players will be ranked top to bottom and placed in groups of approximately 36 skaters to form 2 (non-parity) teams for each of the evaluation skates cross ice skates.
- Group A = Top 30 skaters from Time Trial data for 1st skate or previous skate data for all remaining skates
Team 1 = 1 to 18
Team 2 = 19 to 36
- Group B = Skaters ranked 37 to 54
Team 3 = 55 to 72
Team 4 = 73 to 90
- Group C = Skaters ranked 91 to 118, etc.
- 4.2 The Evaluation Skates will be 4 on 4, with a player in net, half ice, run-time game play, with 60 second shift intervals, live puck. All skaters must play all positions during each evaluation skate.
- 4.3 During the Evaluation Skates the Evaluators will be ranking the players top to bottom. At the conclusion of each division's skates for the day, the Evaluations Committee will then decide based on the ranking numbers, given by all evaluators, that were input into the designated Software, of how many skaters will move up or down for the next skate based on the mathematical breaking point. There could be anywhere from 0 – 8 players approximately move groups after each skate.
- 4.4 When in the "war room" discussing the rankings of each skater the Evaluations Coordinator will mediate the room and will need to deal with any "Red number/outside the standard deviation" rankings that come up. They will need to either remove them if

it is not detrimental to the skater or have more discussion as to why the evaluator ranked them as such and make notes beside the player for later discussion and information.

- 4.5 After the two Evaluation Skates, the players will be ranked top to bottom. Each season based on registration number analysis, the Executive Committee will determine the number of teams in Blue and Red for each division. The top players will be placed on the Blue teams, striving for 18 players per team and the rest of the players will be divided up into the remaining number of Red teams.
- 4.6 The Evaluation Committee and possibly all of the selected Head Coaches for each division will complete a draft. If coaches are not set yet, AMHA could elect to complete a "Ghost draft". If the coaches are picked and available, they can attend and try to accommodate any special requests for players on their teams due to car-pooling, etc. Otherwise the list of players for the draft will be divided up by the number of set teams in each division (Blue/Red, etc.).

For example:

At the draft, with the "Blue" coaches in the room, they will go around the table and each choose 1 player from each group.

- 4.6.1 They have to pick their own child, so when they get to that group the choice is a lock for them.
- 4.6.2 Each coach can also have a pre-selected Assistant Coach that they would like to work with, so they can also lock their child onto their team selections.
- 4.6.3 Siblings that are in the same division must also be identified so that they are both taken on the same team. (Be aware of stepchildren with different last names)
- 4.6.4 Look at the number of females in each division and decide if we want all the females go together or if we are dividing them equally amongst all teams? Are we keeping them in pairs or threes as a minimum? Or is there no required consideration?
- 4.6.5 Predetermine an order of picking players and stick to it, if possible, look at the list of players and put the coach selection order in the order of when their child will be next in line, if possible.

5.0 TEAM CREATION

5.1 U9

Players will be drafted onto the predetermined amount of Blue and Red parity teams, striving for 18 players per team.

5.2 U7

Players will be drafted onto the predetermined amount of Blue and Red parity teams, striving for 18 players per team.