AMHA Player Evaluations

2022-2023 Season

Evaluation Goals

AMHA recognizes that the Evaluation process is important yet stressful to players, parents/guardians, evaluators and the Association. The goal of AMHA's Evaluation process is to allow every player to demonstrate their hockey ability through a fair, transparent and unbiased process, yielding teams of like-skilled players, competitive in the respective leagues.

The Evaluation information contained within pertains to all age groups participating in CAHL (Competitive), RHL and City leagues. Further explanation can be found in Operational Policy 8.1 thru 8.4 on the [AMHA website](#).

AAA and AA Teams

Our AAA and AA teams are coach picked and do not fall under the AMHA Evaluation Process.

If your player is trying out for a AAA or AA team they will be evaluated by the applicable teams coaching staff. If selected they will make the team, if released then they will fall into the AMHA Evaluation process for CAHL and/or RHL teams.

Emails

All notifications regarding Evaluations are done via email and sent to the email addresses provided at the time of registration. Evaluations notifications come from *notifications@1click.software*, not AMHA.

Some email providers consider emails from our Evaluation software to be junk mail and hold them at the server level. In order to ensure delivery, a @gmail.com email is best. Some examples of email providers that may not deliver Evaluations emails include

- @hotmail.com
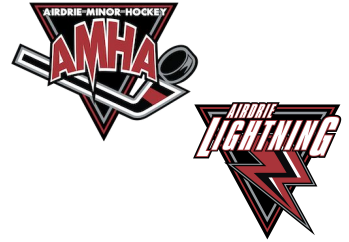- @live.com
- @shaw.ca
- @telus.net

Helmet Stickers

At the first skate, all players at all levels, will be given a numeric helmet sticker.

This identifier is to be affixed to their helmet and kept on until the player is notified which team they have made.

Players transferring from CAHL to RHL tryouts will NOT be issued a new helmet sticker.

Schedules

Once registration is closed (Aug 2, 2022), the Evaluations schedule will be posted on the AMHA website. Please refer to it when planning other activities during the evaluation period. Often, scheduling of the next skate session has less than 24hrs advance notice.

In general, AAA prep camp and tryouts begin before the Sept long weekend, AA skates start immediately after the Sept long weekend, CAHL skates begin mid Sept and RHL skates start the end of Sept. (Tentative dates were posted to our web before registration opened in May)

U7 and U9 skates are on weekends, but all other age divisions can skate any day of the week.

All evaluations are complete before Thanksgiving.

Tips for Success

Be ready to skate. Make use of a conditioning camp and do your own warm up. When your icetime starts, so does your evaluation.

Get plenty of rest, hydration and fuel. Evaluations can be a grind, mentally, physically and emotionally. After every disappointment, your player will be expected to get back on the ice and perform, usually the very next day.

Manage your expectations. Registering at the highest level of hockey may exhaust your player before success is achieved. Don't use tryouts beyond your players ability as 'extra icetime'.

Volunteer! Evaluations are entirely volunteer run and the easiest way to be in-the-know is to volunteer.

Skill Skates (U7, U9, U11, U13 RHL)

Skill Skates (also called Time Trials) are used in the younger divisions to properly organize players prior to further evaluation skates and team placement. The groupings for Skills Skates are irrelevant (ie. Group 1 isn't designed to be any better/faster/stronger than Group 6). Skill Skates are managed by a paid, 3rd Party Service Provider which helps them to run smoothly.

Arrival for Skills Skate session should be 30 to 45 minutes prior to skate time. This allows time for the check-in process, helmet sticker application, wrist band accessorizing and changing. Jersey colour for Skill Skates is irrelevant. Full equipment, including a stick, is required.

Skill Skate Drills

Dependent upon the age group, players will be asked to perform some or all of the following:

- Straight line 100ft Forward Skate (with and/or without puck)
- Straight line 100ft Backward Skate
- 4 Cone Weave (with and/or without puck)
- Transition skate (forwards to backwards and back to forwards in a box pattern)

The younger the age group, the simpler/less number of skills performed (ie. U13 is timed when performing the weave with puck control, U7 does not use pucks for any of the skill skates.)

All skaters wear an RFID bracelet, which performs the timing and transmits the data to the 3rd Party Service Provider. It is recommended that the bracelet be worn on the dominant hand. All participants get a practice (non-timed) attempt before being timed. Should a player fall during the 'real' attempt, they will be given one additional chance.

Parity Skates (U7 & U9)

Based on Skill Skate data and registration numbers, players in U7 and U9 will be divided onto parity teams. If numbers warrant, 2 tiers per age group are generally made. The upper tier is called 'Blue Division' while the lower tier is called 'Red Division'. Teams can be made by either a Coach Draft or the Coordinator/Director, dependent upon the number of coaches identified prior to the process occurring. **These parity teams are NOT final.**

Players are required to bring both a black and a white jersey to the Parity (Game) skate, as they need to be identifiable as belonging to a specific team. At the Parity skate, coaches and other evaluators will be looking for any player clearly outside the skill set currently being demonstrated. Players are not individually ranked. Evaluators may ask for a player to swap teams or play again in the next group in their attempts to make parity teams.

Evaluation Skates (U11 thru U18)

Evaluation Skates are 5 on 5, full-ice, game scrimmage format where Evaluators are watching and ranking play on the ice. Evaluation skates are an hour in duration, with little to no warm-up time. Goalies are utilized and may swap out during game play. All players must bring both a black and a white jersey to Evaluation Skates, as the team they play on is predetermined and may change game to game.

For divisions where players do not complete Skill Skates/Time Trials, the initial groupings of players is based on the team on which they participated last year. Players who did not participate in AMHA last season can expect to be placed in the middle of their age groupings.

Evaluation Skates (U13 and older)

For U13 and older, skaters are broken into Groups determined by ranking or previous year team (1st Skate only). Group 1 contains approximately 2 teams worth of skaters ranked higher than Group 2, etc. Groups skate in reverse order, so Group 3 plays the first game for an hour, then Group 2, then Group 1.

The teams are automatically generated within the Group to be equal, so the black/white designation is irrelevant. Players must wear the jersey colour indicated at check-in as Evaluators are looking for a specific jersey colour with a specific helmet #. Evaluators are observing and ranking all players within a position within the Group (ie. all Forwards on both the black and white teams are ranked together, top to bottom).

During Evaluation Skates it is important that players play their position. Even if a Group is short on Defence, a Forward must be evaluated while playing Forward.

Evaluation Skate

When the Evaluation skate is completed, the Evaluators return their rankings for entry into the Evaluation software.

The average ranking by each Evaluator for a single player is used to rank all players from the group.

The software compares entries for all Evaluators and identifies anomalies, which may be disregarded. After all Groups have skated, based on the rankings generated and the Evaluator's input, 15-20% of skaters will move. The top skaters from a Group will move up a level and the bottom skaters from a Group will move down a level. This forms new Groups for the next skate.

Evaluation Data

This screen shot of the Evaluations software shows a typical example of mocked-up Evaluations data. Players (identified only by Helmet #) are shown sorted by Position and Average Rank.

Green data is statistically good, Yellow is borderline acceptable. Evaluators with Red data points show anomalies, significantly distant rankings when compared to the average of the other Evaluators.

Should that data be determined to be contributing significant error to the Player, it will be disregarded. Players at the top of the position would move up a Group, while players at the bottom would move down.

x	Helmet Number	Color	Pos	Last Team	Start Rank	⇧⇩	End Rank	Team Lock	❓ Parity	Average Rank	Evaluator 1	Evaluator 2	Evaluator 3	Evaluator 4	Evaluator 5	Evaluator 6
U13 CAHL	102		G	U13 T4	1		1	0		0						
U13 CAHL	103		G	U13 T5	2		2	0		0						
U13 AA	2		F	U11 T5	6		1	0		1.67	2	3	1	2	1	1
U13 AA	1		F	U13 Blue	5		2	0		2.83	1	4	2	3	5	2
U13 AA	4		F	U11 Blue	3		3	0		3.5	4	2	8	1	3	3
U13 AA	3		F	U13 Blue	4		4	0		3.83	3	1	3	8	4	4
U13 AA	5		F	U11 T3	7		5	0		5.33	5	6	7	7	2	5
U13 AA	7		F	U13 Blue	2		6	0		6.33	7	5	6	4	10	6
U13 AA	6		F	U13 T3	8		7	0		6.67	6	10	4	5	8	7
U13 AA	8		F	U11 T2	9		8	0		7.83	8	7	5	10	9	8
U13 AA	10		F	U13 Blue	1		9	0		8.5	9	8	12	6	7	9
U13 AA	11		F	U13 T4	10		10	0		9.17	10	12	9	9	5	10
U13 AA	14		F	U13 T1	11		11	0		10.67	11	9	10	11	12	11
U13 AA	16		F	U11 T4	12		12	0		11.5	12	11	11	12	11	12
U13 CAHL	52		D	U11 T1	3		1	0		1.83	1	2	1	2	1	4
U13 CAHL	54		D	U11 Blue	1		2	0		2.5	3	1	2	3	4	2
U13 CAHL	53		D	U11 T2	2		3	0		2.5	2	3	4	1	2	3
U13 CAHL	58		D	U11 T3	4		4	0		3.17	4	4	3	4	3	1

Evaluation Skates

This same procedure is used for all Evaluation Skates, such that everyone has an opportunity to move groups, finding the proper fit.

Using many different evaluators, preferably from outside the division helps eliminates bias. Statistically, provided there are enough Evaluator data points, a single evaluator's rankings can't skew the overall results without being identified. Should a single evaluator have an abnormal amount of anomalous data, they are disqualified from continuing.

During CAHL Evaluations, players consistently and significantly below the minimum skating ability for the last CAHL team may be released to the RHL Evaluations without completing all CAHL Evaluation skates. This allows players skating around the cut-line to have more ice time, such that Evaluators can make better decisions.

Similarly, players consistently and significantly above the Group 1 average may be asked to sit out the final Evaluation Skate, having already been guaranteed a spot on the Tier 1 team. This allows players skating around the cut-line to have more ice time, such that Evaluators can make better decisions.

Injured Players

Players experiencing an Injury or Illness are not detrimentally penalized. Following the AMHA Injured Player Policy (8.1.1), injured players can expect to be placed on a team based on a combination of factors.

- Any completed Evaluation from current year
- Coach ranking from previous AMHA season
- Placement of skill-matched equivalent players
- Discussion with previous coach and/or association

Players experiencing an injury must immediately notify their Division Coordinator, prior to the next scheduled skate. Notification of an injury after missing a skate results in 0's.

Goalie Evaluation

Goalies are evaluated by a 3rd Party Service Provider.

Goalies will perform preset drills in a Skills Skate setting, followed by Game Skate evaluation. Both settings are evaluated. The Skills Skates will occur over 2 dates, with skills demonstrated on-ice. After the Skills Skates rankings, goalies will be assigned to Game Skates based on best fit scenarios. Goalies are notified of assigned Game Skates via the automated software, in the same manner as players. Multiple goalies will be assigned to each Game Skate, and goalies may be asked to swap ends during games or play only partial periods. Every effort is made to ensure each goalie has equal ice time.

In ideal scenarios, 2 goalies are assigned per team, based on final rankings. In the event that there are insufficient goalies to fill the required spots, some teams may be assigned only a single goalie.

For further information on Goalie Evaluations, please refer to the Operational Policy 8.3 Goaltender Evaluations, found on the AMHA website.

CAHL Team Creation

Prior to the completion of skates, the size of each team is determined. Generally, it follows

U11 - 15 skaters, 2 goalies

U13 - 9 Forwards, 6 Defence, 2 goalies

U15 - 10 Forwards, 7 Defence, 2 goalies

U18 - 10 Forwards, 7 Defence, 2 goalies

CAHL Team Creation

After the final skate data has been entered, analyzed and discussed, teams are created using all skate data. Players are sorted by an overall ranking, which looks at rankings after each skate session in determining a master list.

Starting at the top, players are assigned teams until all assigned spots are filled. The final 3 spots are part of our Coach Pick program (Policy 8.4 # 4) whereby the Head Coach selects the final 3 players from amongst the bubble players to the pool. Using a U11 example, this means the Head Coach for U11 Tier 1 is assigned the top 12 players from Evaluations. They are then given the choice of 3 players coming from players ranked 13-18 (the bubble group). The 3 bubble players not selected to Tier 1 are automatically assigned to Tier 2, along with the next 9 players in the list. The Tier 2 Head Coach is then invited to make 3 selections from the Bubble group to Tier 2.

Female Team Creation

Female Evaluations include Evaluation Skates where players are ranked, similarly to CAHL and RHL Evaluation Skates.

As there is typically only 1 team being formed in each age division, Evaluators are tasked with determining the 'breakpoint' of the group, however if there are enough females for a second team we will consider it. This point represents the cut-line between adequate skill to compete with the remaining team and substandard skill.

While teams strive for 15-17 skaters, team makeup is determined more by the skills demonstrated. Female players released from Female Evaluations are required to skate in RHL Evaluations, such that proper team placement and parity is achieved.

Released Players

Immediately upon completion of Team Creation (within 24hrs of final Evaluation Skate), players that are unsuccessful in making a CAHL team will be notified via email of release. It is required that released players participate in all RHL evaluations in order for proper team placement.

There are no releases from RHL tryouts. Every player in RHL Evaluations will be assigned to a team.

RHL Parity Skates

RHL Evaluation Skates are completed exactly the same as CAHL Evaluation Skates.

Based on Overall ranking data from Evaluation Skates and registration numbers, players will be divided onto parity teams. Based on RHL league guidelines, 2 tiers per age group may be formed. Teams can be made by either a Coach Draft or the Coordinator/Director, dependent upon the number of coaches identified prior to the process occurring. **These parity teams are NOT actual teams, nor final.**

Parity teams will play in a series of games where coaches and other evaluators will be looking for any player outside the skill set currently being demonstrated and/or imbalanced teams. Players are not individually ranked. Evaluators may ask for a player to swap teams or play again in the next group in their attempts to make parity teams. Teams are not finalized until all teams have completed parity skates and the Evaluation team/Coordinators are satisfied that parity has been achieved.

Team Requests

Team placement requests are not available.

Each Head Coach within RHL/City league may request 1 Assistant Coach (assuming the players align within the same tier). Additionally, in draft situations RHL/City Head Coaches may acquire specific players of their choice. These players are not locked to the team and may be moved in order to create parity.

Siblings will be placed on the same team should both fall within the same tier. In the event that siblings cross tier lines, parents will be contacted regarding placement. Siblings crossing tier lines will not be grouped together unless specifically requested by the parents, as both would be required to play on the lower team.
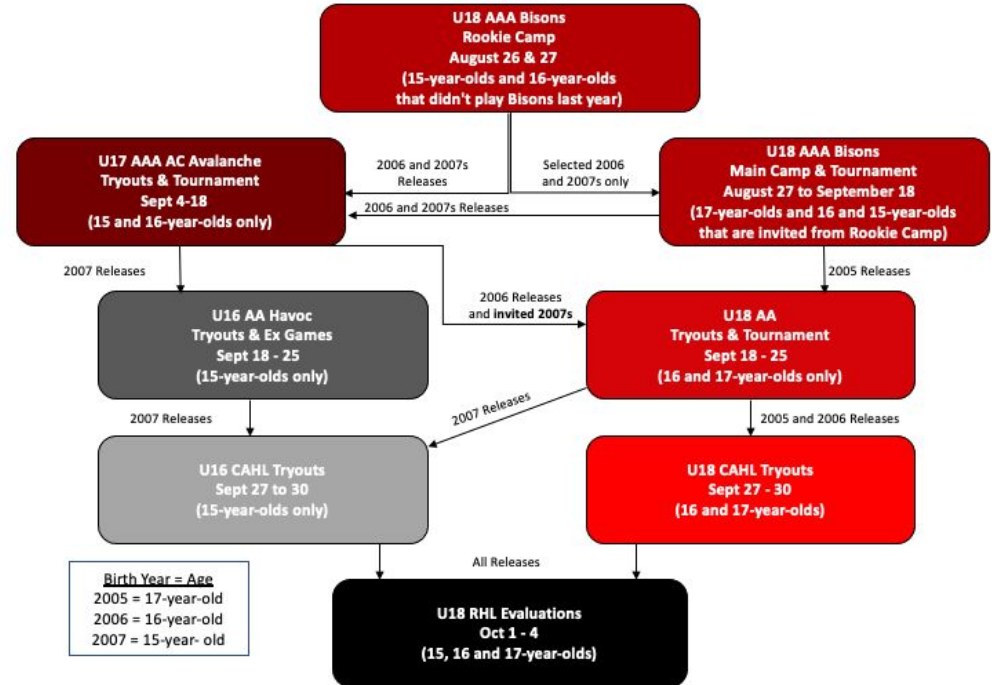
Any additional requests may be granted under extenuating circumstances, at the discretion of the division coordinator.

U18 Evaluation Progression

The U18 stream consists of players from 3 birth years (15, 16 and 17 year olds) and placement can be on multiple teams at the AAA, AA, CAHL or RHL levels.

The flowchart shows the possible progression of players.

Players may register for any portion of the chart.

Thank you for taking the time to get familiar with the AMHA Evaluation Process

If you still have questions please contact the AMHA Office staff, your players Division and Stream Coordinator or the Evaluations Coordinator directly.