

	Title	Player Evaluations
	Policy #	Operational – 8.1
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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, to group our athletes, so that we can provide them with a meaningful competition for the season.

This policy covers the evaluations process for skaters being evaluated within the U11 to U18 divisions at the Competitive, RHL and City levels. The evaluations for the High-Performance teams (AAA and/or AA) will be provided by the individual team coaching staff.

The evaluation process for U9 and U7 will be in the Intro to Hockey Evaluation document Operational – 8.2.

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 evaluations.
- 2.2 If timed trials are utilized in a divisions evaluation process, 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 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 a player remains anonymous to evaluators during evaluations. Players that are moved from AAA/AA to Competitive or from Competitive to RHL/City will need to ensure that their helmet stickers remain on their helmets until after the last evaluation or parity skates.

- 2.4 All skaters will need to have 1 black jersey and 1 white jersey for every game skate during the evaluation process. Jersey's that have numbers, names or logos on them will need to be worn inside out so that the logo 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 skaters must participate in all levels of evaluations according to the schedules that will be emailed out prior to and during the evaluation process.

These steps could include:

- 2.6.1 Time Trials (1 per skater) if applicable to your division
 - 2.6.2 Evaluation Skates (up to 4 per skater/stream)
 - 2.6.3 Parity Skates (up to 3 per skater in City/RHL stream)
- 2.7 Players dropping from AAA and/or AA tryouts to Competitive will be placed based on where they played last year for the first skate.
 - 2.8 Players dropping from Competitive to RHL/City Evaluations will not repeat Time Trials (TT). TT data will determine their initial placement within the RHL/City evaluation process or for U15 (Bantam) and U18 (Midget) they will be placed based on where they played last year.
 - 2.9 For all Evaluation and Parity Skates, AMHA commits to try to have a minimum of 10 volunteer evaluators made up of parents and potential coaches from various divisions.
 - 2.9.1 Evaluators need to have experience with player evaluation.
 - 2.9.2 Suitable 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 Ability to evaluate for the full-time frame to help with consistency and continuity.
 - 2.9.5 Volunteer evaluators may be non-AMHA members provided they have the basic hockey knowledge, are committed to attend all evaluations and are approved by the stream Coordinator and Director.
 - 2.9.6 Hired AA Coaches are expected to help out with the Competitive evaluation skates to help them identify their affiliate players.
 - 2.10 All data from Time Trials and Evaluation/Parity skates will be input into the designated Software to rank the players using the data collected. No player should be contained in any other application besides the designated Software.
 - 2.11 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 Operational Policy – 8.1.2 Evaluation Grievance Policy)

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

- 3.1 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 composed of the applicable Director and Coordinator of the Division, Evaluations Coordinators, AMHA Executive and Office 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 their 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 via the Operational Policy – 8.1.1 - Injured Player Policy. The Evaluation Committee shall be entitled to utilize 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 a lower tier than expected.
- 3.5 The numbers gathered in the Evaluations process will be the data used to place players on teams, note that injured players may cause changes in the data and/or placement.
- 3.6 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 to the Operational Policy 8.1.1 - Injured Player Policy.
 - 3.6.1 If player misses Time Trials, they will be automatically placed in the lowest group.
 - 3.6.2 If player misses an Evaluation skate, they will fall one group for the next evaluation skate.

4.0 COMPETITIVE EVALUATION PROCEDURES

- 4.1 Based on the Time Trial data gathered for each Competitive division, players will be ranked top to bottom. For U11, players will be placed in groups of approximately 30 skaters to form 2 (non-parity) teams for each of the initial evaluation skates.

For U13 they will be ranked top to bottom 18 forwards and 12 defencemen based on the Time Trial data and what position they registered with on their registration.

U15 and U18 skaters will be placed in a group based on the division/tier that they played on last year, since they will not be doing Time Trials.

Group A = Top 30 skaters (18 F & 12 D for U13 & up) from Time Trial data for 1st skate or previous skate data for all remaining skates.

U11 Team Black = 1 to 15

U11 Team White = 16 to 30

U13 thru U18 Team Black and Team White created as parity.

Group B = Skaters ranked 31 to 60 (18 F & 12 D for U13 & up)

U11 Team Black = 31 to 45

U11 Team White = 46 to 60

U13 thru U18 Team Black and Team White created as parity

Group C = Skaters ranked 61 to 90 (18 F & 12 D for U13 & up), etc.

- 4.2 The Evaluation Skates will be 5 on 5, run-time game play, with 60 to 90 second shift intervals, live puck depending on division. For the U11, being non positional, 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 in U11 and positionally (top to bottom Forwards and Defence) for U13 and up. 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. In addition, it is possible that players may be asked to sit out of evaluation skates if it is clear to evaluators that the player will be locked onto a team. This is a tool the evaluations team may (or may not) utilize to assist in identifying applicable players for the teams.
- 4.4 After each evaluation game skate, players ranked significantly below the skating ability of the Competitive stream may be released to the City/RHL Evaluation process according to the following schedule. Please note, the following schedule may change season to season based on guidance from HA, applicable leagues and registration numbers:

	Required Number of Players to form CAHL teams				Minimum #'s to keep after 1st Game Skate			Minimum #'s to keep after 2nd Game Skate			
	# teams	Total # Players	Forwards	Defence	Goalies	Forwards	Defence	Goalies	Forwards	Defence	Goalies
U11	5	75	75		10	90		12	85		12
U13	5	75	45	30	10	54	36	12	51	34	12
U15	4	68	40	28	8	50	35	10	46	32	10
U18	3	51	30	21	6	40	28	8	36	25	8

Players will be released in order from the lowest ranking up and will be notified by the Division Coordinator prior to notification of other players' skate times. In the event that

player rankings are not significantly below cut lines, less players may be released. The values shown in the table above are the MINIMUM required to be kept in the evaluation process. Injured players within the Competitive Evaluation process will only be released early when all 'Tagged' players are also released. See Operational Policy 8.1.1. Injured Player Policy for description of tagging.

- 4.5 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 of 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.
- 4.6 After all of the Evaluation Skates the final movements will be made and then the Evaluations committee will move to Team Creation process taking into account any Injured Players, etc. (See Operational Policy 8.4 – Team Creation)
- 4.7 Those players that do not get placed on a Competitive team will be released to the RHL/City Evaluation skates which will start after the completion of the Competitive skates.

5.0 RHL and CITY EVALUATION PROCEDURES

- 5.1 All RHL/City skaters will have a minimum of two evaluation skates to determine placement for the Team Draft.
- 5.2 Based on the Time Trial data gathered for each City division, players will be ranked top to bottom and placed in groups of approximately 30 skaters to form 2 random teams for each of the evaluation skates. Competitive players that are moving down to the RHL/City Evaluations will be sorted based on their initial Time Trial ranking, if done or placed based on where they played last year. For U13 and up they will be grouped top to bottom 18 forwards and top 12 defenseman.

Group A = Top 30 skaters (18 F & 12 D for U13 & up) from Time Trial data or previous skate data (including all movements) for all remaining skates.

U11 Team Black = 1 to 15

U11 Team White = 16 to 30

U13 thru U18 Team Black and Team White created as parity.

Group B = Skaters ranked 31 to 60 (18 F & 12 D for U13 & up)

U11 Team Black = 31 to 45

U11 Team White = 46 to 60

U13 thru U18 Team Black and Team White created as parity

Group C = Skaters ranked 61 to 90 (18 F & 12 D for U13 & up), etc.

- 5.3 The Evaluation Skates will be 5 on 5, run-time game play, with 60 to 90 second shift intervals depending on division, live puck. For the U11 (Atom), being non positional, all skaters must play all positions during each evaluation skate.
- 5.4 During the Evaluation Skates the Evaluators will be ranking the players top to bottom in U11 and positionally (top to bottom Forwards and Defence) for U13 and up. 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 After the two Evaluation Skates, the players will be ranked top to bottom for U11 and top to bottom positionally for U13 and up. The Evaluations committee and Head Coaches will move to Team Creation process via draft, taking into account any injured Players, etc. (See Operational Policy 8.4 Team Creation).
- 5.7 The Evaluation Committee, Division Coordinator and the selected Head Coaches for each division will complete a draft. Each Head Coach may 'lock' one player associated with the Assistant Coach of their choice. Any other special requests for player placement must be approved by the Division Coordinator in advance and are limited to requests due to extenuating circumstances ONLY (ie. severe illness, family relations). The list of players for the draft is divided based on the number of set teams in each tier (Blue/Red, etc.).

Setting up the Draft:

Assuming all the coaches are present for the draft, or the Division Coordinator has designated someone to act in a vacant spot, the players are grouped by Overall Ranking into blocks with 2 players per team. For example, if 3 parity teams are being created, starting at the top of the rankings, blocks of 6 players are identified. Each coach chooses 2 players from the block before moving onto the next block.

- 5.7.1 Each coach must pick their own player, so when they get to that block a choice is predetermined.
- 5.7.2 Each coach must select the player associated with their designated Assistant Coach, so when they get to that block a choice is predetermined.

- 5.7.3 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). Additionally, parents of siblings within the same division but separated across the Red/Blue cut line should be approached regarding player placement.
 - 5.7.4 Depending upon the number of female players within the division, predetermine if all female players will join a single team or be equally divided amongst all teams. If division of female players occurs, ensure a minimum of pairs are kept together. This needs to be identified prior to the draft commencement, as it will affect specific draft choices for each coach.
 - 5.7.5 Where 'Coach Pick' is utilized, the 'bubble' block is enlarged for selection of final players. See Operational Policy 8.4 Team Creation.
 - 5.7.6 Predetermine a draft order and stick to it. If possible, look at the list of players and set the coach selection order to match the order of when their player will be next in line.
 - 5.7.7 Goalies should be picked either first or last but not in with the players.
- 5.8 The next skate is a parity skate where the drafted teams play a game with the Assistant Coach on the bench. All Head Coaches from the division should monitor the parity skates (ie. all Blue Head Coaches "evaluate" the parity of all Blue level teams). If the teams look good then no changes are required. If uneven teams exist then, after the first parity skate, the Evaluations Committee may make player movements based on Head Coach recommendations to get the teams as equal as possible.