



2022-2023

Blackfalds Minor Hockey

# Evaluator Package

## **OBJECTIVES OF PLAYER EVALUATION**

- To provide a fair and impartial assessment of a player's hockey skills during the skating and scrimmage sessions.
- To ensure that players have a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a team appropriate to their skill levels as determined during the on-ice evaluations of the current year.
- To provide uniformity and consistency in the evaluation process such that a player and parent expectations are consistent from year to year as players move through the various levels of the association's programs.

To form teams to maintain balanced and competitive play where the athletes can develop and participate equitably and have fun playing hockey during the season.

## **PLAYER SELECTION CRITERIA**

**Skating:** Acceleration, speed, mobility, agility, balance, stride, crossovers, pivots, acceleration out of turns, quick feet, controlled skating, change of pace.

- Can the players perform the basic forward and backward stride?
- Are the players knees well bent with the back slightly forward and the head up, or is the player hunched over, bending at the waist with little knee bend?
- 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 look smooth when they skate, or do they appear off balance?
- Can the player turn in both directions with little trouble or do they struggle to turn in one or both directions?
- Can the player stop in both directions? Younger players will often have trouble stopping in one direction?
- Can the player keep up with the play or do they struggle to stay with the other players on the ice?

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

- Can the player pass the puck to its intended target with minimal effort?
- Can the player make an accurate pass to a moving target?
- Can the player receive a pass on their backhand or do they tend to shift their body to receive the pass on the forehand?
- Can the player pass the puck off of the backhand with some speed and accuracy?
- Does the player call for the puck vs. banging their stick on the ice or saying nothing at all?
- Does the player passing the puck make eye contact with the intended receiver or do they just pass the puck blindly?
- Can the player execute a saucer pass over sticks and other obstacles?
- Can the player pass the puck off of the boards to another player?

**Puck Skills:** Head up, smooth and quiet, good hands, protection, in small spaces, in traffic.

- Does the player have the basic skills to execute a forehand pass?
- When the player passes the puck, do they slap at it or is the motion smooth with the player following through to the intended target?
- Does the player appear 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?
- Can the player keep his/her head up while carrying the puck?
- Can they execute dekes and fakes with the puck?
- Can't they stop quickly or change directions while handling the puck?
- Can the player continue to handle the puck while in traffic and under pressure?
- Does the player get pushed or checked off the puck easily?

**Shooting:** Power, accuracy, quick release, can shoot in motion, goal scorer, rebound control, variety of shots.

- Can the player execute the technique of a wrist shot and backhand?
- Does the player follow 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?

**Positional Play:** Ability to see the play developing both offensively and defensively and moves to support, judgment, anticipation, understands systems, disciplined.

- Does the player seem 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?

**Checking:** Concept of angling, good body position with balance and control, defensive side position, aggressive checker, strength, taking checks.

- Can the player execute basic stick and body checks?
- Does the player check properly with their hands down or do they get their arms up to give a check?
- Can the player receive a check properly, not turning their back and staying close to the boards?
- Can the player check and opposing player and pin them on the boards?
- Does the player shy away from other players?

## **EVALUATOR GUIDELINES**

As much as possible there should be a consistency of evaluators for a given age group or division. This continuity ensures that the players are being observed by a group of evaluators who have a benchmark for performance and knowledge of the overall ability of the group that they are observing. Generally, the evaluators should:

- Review all of the drills and skills to be observed so that you are clear on the on-ice process.
- Review the evaluation criteria prior to the process to ensure that all evaluators are evaluating the same skill with the same intent.
- Stay separate from the other evaluators and the spectators during the entire on-ice process.
- Make sure that all evaluators have the same evaluation page with the same piney numbers and colours.
- Review your marks at the end of the session to ensure you have not made any entry errors.
- Evaluation documents should be gathered by the Division Director at the completion of each ice session.
- Do not share your comments or opinions with any players/ parents or other interested observers.
- Refer questions, comments or complaints that you may receive to the Division Director, without offering comment on the question or complaint.

## **Evaluator Cue Card – Skater (LW, C, RW, LD, RD)**

### **Skating – speed, quickness, technique**

- Forward and Backward
- Turn both directions
- Stop both directions
- Are they in a good position for stability and strength

### **Passing – technique, control, vision**

- Forehand and Backhand
- To moving and stationary target
- Vision – do they take a look and select best option
- Advanced – board passes, chips, saucer passes

### **Puck Skills – technique, open ice, confined space**

- Open carry with speed
- Execute dekes and fakes on the 1 on 1
- Can they handle the puck in traffic and tight space
- Ability to maintain control while being checked

### **Shooting – technique, accuracy, velocity**

- Forehand and backhand
- Wrist shot, snap shot, slap shot
- Velocity
- Accuracy
- Shot Selection – do they select the best shot for the opportunity?

### **Game Understanding – Principles of Offence and Defence**

- Player understands positional play
- Player supports the puck on the defensive and offensive side of puck
- Player communicates with teammates
- Player has the ability to read and react.

## Evaluator Cue Card – Goaltender

### Skating Movements

- Speed
- Quickness/Powerful Strides
- Pivots
- Control
- Lateral Movement
- Knee Bend
- Edgework
- Agility
- Mobility/Balance
- Down Movement
- Good Stance
- Smoothness/Coordination

### Goaltender Sense

- Athletic ability
- Positioning & movement
- Mental Toughness
- Stops pucks
- Communicates
- Coachability
- Skills evident
- Style/Size

### Battle & Compete Level

- Battles for pucks
- Covers pucks
- Mentally prepared
- Body language
- Scrambles to make saves when necessary
- Set for shots

### Puck Tracking & Control

- Can catch pucks
- Gets stick on shots
- Tracks pucks off body into rebounds
- Knows where puck is
- Sees pucks through traffic
- Can control rebounds in chest
- Tracks pucks into body/hands
- Finds rebounds immediately
- Effectively follows passes
- Visual lead before movement

### Positioning

- Square to shots
- Set for shots
- Maximizes net coverage in all areas
- Makes good decisions on whether to be on feet or down





## **SOME MORE HELPFUL HINTS**

1. Depending on division numbers, each session will have a group of players on each side of the ice, both completing the same drills at the same time. This eases the load on the evaluators by focusing on a small group of players and allows us to physically distance. Evaluators will be assigned a different group every session for greater perspective. (Ex. 20 players on the ice split into two groups of 10. Four evaluators, two on each side, each responsible for only 10 players.) Total evaluation scores from the skills sessions will be weighted at 50%.
2. Follow the play away from the puck as well.
3. Try not to get caught up in the game. Watch the players, not the game!!
4. Follow all the players, without being influenced by the winning or losing team.
5. Stay with your criteria.
6. When filling out evaluation forms, if you put a number ranking in the overall ranking please put a couple of comments as to why that player has been given the number (write notes all over the form if necessary).
7. You cannot use half points in (i.e. 1.5, 2.5).
8. Do not compare notes with other people. Some will know what you are doing and pump you for information.
9. Be at the arena early enough in order to familiarize yourself with the players.
10. Game Considerations:
  - 1st period - Get line combinations and D-men pairings  
- Watch D-men first, then forwards
  - 2nd period - Watch forwards, then D-men
  - 3rd period - You can move closer to the middle now  
- Watch any missing players
  - All periods - Watch Goaltenders

The more notes the better, especially for goalies. Don't worry about terminology.

11. Rate what you see today, forget what you know from the past and be accurate, no fudged ratings.