



# BROOKS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



## Brooks Minor Hockey Player Evaluation Policy

*Revised – August 2024*

The procedures and process within this document are based on the criteria outlined by Hockey Canada “Minor Hockey Development Guide ~ Player Evaluation and Selection” and the Hockey Alberta “Player Evaluation Process”. This document is to be used by Brooks Minor Hockey Association (BMHA) for the evaluation and placement of athletes from U7 to U18. U5 will follow a different process that is appropriate for their age group. All BMHA members involved in the evaluation processes leading up to, during, and following the evaluation process are subject to the BMHA Code of Conduct.

### 1. Evaluation Objectives

The Objectives of Player Evaluation Process

- To provide a fair evaluation of a player’s hockey skills.
- To ensure that players have a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a team appropriate to their skill levels.
- To provide consistency in the evaluation process such that 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 where the athletes can develop and participate equitably and have fun playing hockey during the season.
- To eliminate political maneuvering and interference from the player selection process and let players be evaluated on their own individual skills and development.

### 2. Evaluation Process and Criteria

The selection of players will be based on their hockey skills.

The evaluation process at all levels will be based on the following three categories: individual skills, tactical skills, and competitive situations including team play situations and scrimmages. These categories can be referenced within Hockey Canada’s long term athlete development model.

All players in the evaluation process will participate in on-ice sessions designed to evaluate their skills and understanding of the game. The evaluation sessions and practice plans will be designed to provide the very best conditions for the players to showcase their skills and provide a fair opportunity for the player to be seen as often as possible and in as many situations as possible. Each division’s number of ice sessions will be determined based upon registration numbers in the age category and ice availability.



# BROOKS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



U7, U9 and U11 evaluations will consist of warm-up skates, skills sessions, small area games session and scrimmages.

U13 and up will consist of warm up skates, skills session and scrimmages.

Goalie evaluations will be based on all evaluated sessions and separate goalie only sessions.

An evaluation committee will consist of the Vice President, Division Governor, Coach/Player Director and Coach/Player Coordinator.

### 3. Roles and Responsibilities

- **President**

The President's overall responsibility will be to oversee the Evaluation Committee. The President of BMHA will not be an Evaluator. The President will ensure that any unacceptable behavior is dealt with immediately and where necessary refer conduct for a Code of Conduct Discipline hearing. The President will facilitate all player assignments and team selections within all divisions.

- **Vice President**

The Vice President will assist the Player/Coach Director. The Vice President will be responsible for the distribution and collection of evaluation sheets to and from all evaluators. The Vice President will be responsible for collection and management of all evaluation forms. Evaluation results and forms are strictly confidential and not intended for public knowledge. After each evaluation session the Vice President will input the player evaluation data and determine aggregate player scores. Once teams are organized and finalized all player evaluations are to be handed in to the President to be kept on file. The Vice President will work to ensure data integrity, and confidentiality at all times throughout the process. The Vice President will confer with the President, Division governor and Player/Coach Director on player assignment.

- **Player/Coach Director**

BMHA Player/Coach Director will appoint evaluators. The Player/Coach Director must ensure that all equipment including pucks, pylons and other ice time equipment are present for the beginning of the session and returned to designated location at the end of the ice session. Player/Coach Director will be responsible for overseeing the scheduling of evaluations and the development of the session plans for each division. They will work closely with the Evaluation Committee, Division Governors and On-Ice Coaches to implement and facilitate the session plans to ensure compliance with the intent of the BMHA Evaluation Policy.

- **Division Governors**



# BROOKS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



The Division Governors will assist the evaluation process for their specific division ensuring compliance with the intent of the BMHA Evaluation Policy. Division Governors cannot change the evaluation process. Division Governors will ensure the confidentiality and integrity of the process at all times. The Division Governors will communicate the evaluation process to the user group through the Parent and Player Communication Letter and notification of evaluation sessions. The Division Governors will be visible and accessible throughout the process to answer questions from parents and players. For each ice session Division Governors must ensure that each player has their assigned jersey or piney with the correct number corresponding to their tryout number at least 30 minutes prior to the ice time. When players are on ice, Division Governors must share player absences with evaluators to ensure accuracy of the process. Other tasks may include dealing with any late arriving players or players who have attended the incorrect ice session and coordinate dressing room supervision.

- **Evaluator**

BMHA has hired an independent group to complete the player evaluations. It is important the evaluators stay separate and not interact with parents during the evaluation process. The evaluators will not share comments or opinions with any players/parents or other interested observers. They must maintain confidentiality of player scores and rankings at all times. Evaluation forms will be handed in to the Vice President immediately after the completion of each ice session. Refer any questions, comments, or complaints to the President/Vice-president or Division Governors.

- **On-Ice Coaches**

The Player/Coach Director will review the practice plans and drills with the On-Ice Coaches prior to the session time, creating a clear understanding of the on-ice process, ending in a proper evaluation. They will encourage the players to perform to the best of their ability in small or large group settings. Coaches must be aware of the perceptions of the evaluation process when individual feedback is given. They will check that all players have the proper protective equipment and ensure players understand the drills and have equal opportunity to participate.

#### 4. **Ranking Procedure**

- **Players**

1. One of the most important factors is skating. Simply because you must be able to skate to play the game and compete. Looking at skating involves a few different aspects, and they are as follows:
  - **Skating** - Acceleration, speed, mobility, agility, balance, stride, crossovers, acceleration of turns, quick feet, pivots, controlled skating, change of pace. Forwards and backwards



# BROOKS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



2. Other key points that factor in the decision are listed below. These key points are not in any specific order.
  - **Passing** - Passing, receiving, passing choices, on back hand, unselfish with puck, presents a good target, receives, and retains with control, tough 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.
  - **Positional Play** - Ability to see 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
  
- **Goalies**
  1. Probably the most important factor 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:
    - **Angles**
      - Lateral Movement (can he/she get across the net fast enough and in position)
      - Good balance (strong on skates)
  2. Other key points that factor in the decision 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 must stay on your skates.)
      - Not shying away from shots.
  
    - **Rebounds**
      - Ability to stop the first shot.
      - Since most 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?



# BROOKS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



- Know where to put the puck when they need to play it.
- Know when to stop the play and get a whistle.

## 5. Evaluation Rankings

Players will be evaluated on a scale of 1-6 for player selection criteria. The scale meaning:

1. Poor
2. Below Average
3. Average
4. Above Average
5. Great
6. Exceptional

Players are "assigned" to different teams within their divisions based on evaluation data. An overall score averaged for the number of skates attended by the player will be used to determine rankings.

Players must be present for a minimum of two skates that are evaluated to be eligible for assignment to the top tiered team. In situations where injury or illness prevents an athlete from participation in evaluations, the evaluation committee will make decisions on athlete assignment on a per case basis.

### Goaltenders:

All players who wish to be a goaltender for the year from U11 to U18 will attend all sessions in their division dressed as goalie. They will also be given a Goalie Only Evaluation session. For U7 and U9, all players will evaluate as skaters, as there are no full-time goaltenders in these divisions.

### Positions:

For U13, U15 and U18, players are asked to declare their preferred position they plan on being evaluated for. Please pick the position you have the most confidence in, so they are evaluated fairly, not the position you think you have the best chance of making the team in. For all game sessions, if there is a preferred position (F/D), please inform the room personnel and/or have the athlete inform their bench coach. It is not necessary to declare a position in U7, U9, and U11.

## 6. Team Selection

Players will be assigned to teams based on their aggregate scores as ranked by the Evaluators. For U13, U15, and U18 positional players will also be considered during team selections. The number of teams in each division will be dependent on the total number of registrants and the team size. President, Vice-president, divisional governors and Player/Coach Director will assign the players to each team based on the ranking of the individual aggregate scores.

- **U5, U7, U9 house**

Teams will be created by the divisional governor, VP and Player/Coaches to create equal teams



# BROOKS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



- **U9 Rep and up**

Teams will use a hybrid selection procedure. The following selection procedure relies heavily on the integrity of the independent group's 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/her team.

Coach's player selections will be completed based on the chart below. If no coach has been selected, the team will be formed based entirely upon the Evaluator's rankings. Players coming back from higher level tryouts will be looked at individually by the evaluation committee for proper placement.

Skaters on Team	Evaluators Rankings	Coach Selects	From the Next
9	Top 7	2 Skaters	4 Ranked
10	Top 8	2 Skaters	4 Ranked
11	Top 8	3 Skaters	6 Ranked
12	Top 9	3 Skaters	6 Ranked
13	Top 9	4 Skaters	8 Ranked
14	Top 10	4 Skaters	8 Ranked
15	Top 10	5 Skaters	10 Ranked
16	Top 11	5 Skaters	10 Ranked
17	Top 12	5 Skaters	10 Ranked

## Goalie Placement Process

- First goalie will be chosen by evaluator rankings
- Second goalie will be chosen by the coach from second and third place evaluated goalies.
- Goalies coming back from higher level tryouts may replace either of the goalies chosen

## 7. Goalie Numbers

If there are too few or too many goalies for a division, goalie rankings will be used to determine movement. For U11 and above:

- The highest ranked second year goalie will be given the first opportunity to play on the bottom team of the age category above.
- For movement down, the lowest ranked goalie will be given the first opportunity to play on the lowest team of the age category below. This movement would be in accordance with Hockey Alberta's Overage Player regulations.
- All movement would be voluntary by each goalie and their families.



# BROOKS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



- If no goalie chooses movement, the lowest ranked goalie would be asked to compete as a player.

## 8. Appeal Process

“The grounds for an appeal are limited: an appeal will only be heard if the promotion was not made according to the rules or process, if the Evaluation Committee were biased or if the decision was grossly unfair or unreasonable. The merit or substance of the decision is not a valid ground for an appeal.” Player promotion appeals will only be accepted for looking at process or mathematical errors that would have resulted in a grossly miss-tiered assignment of a player.

Should satisfactory resolution not be made between the parents and the President/Vice-president, a request for a formal appeal must be made in writing and sent to the Appeal Committee. The committee will not accept verbal communication as an acceptable appeal. The Appeal Committee will expeditiously review the player’s evaluation and will rule on the final placement of the player in writing which will be tendered back to the parents, BMH President and Vice-president and will be submitted to the board upon completion. The Appeal Committee will consist of the President, two different division governors, and two members from the board of directors.