

# Calgary Knights Evaluation Policy

**POLICY:** To define the process that will be adhered to by all division levels to evaluate a player's performance for team placement, and to ensure that all athletes are evaluated in an unbiased and neutral environment.

**PURPOSE:** To standardize our evaluation process from the 6U through to the 16U levels of play. As our lacrosse club continues to grow, and as we become more mature in our understanding/appreciation of the skills required for play at either a competitive or recreational level, it is necessary to ensure consistency in our process and to ensure that both the athlete and parent base understand how the process works.

The Calgary Knights Lacrosse Association strives to make the evaluation process as fair as possible. It must be understood that evaluating athletes' performance is not an exact science, and a degree of subjectivity is always at play. The evaluations are governed by a base of volunteers who have a varying degree of applicable lacrosse knowledge and who are encouraged to apply their best and consistent judgment of how the athletes are ranked and a paid Sr Lacrosse team to complete the group of evaluators.

To this end, the following policy elements have been developed to assist the coordinators and evaluators work through the process in a manner that achieves the best result for the athletes. This evaluation policy is also posted on the Knights website, which is available for access by the general public.

## **EVALUATION PROCESS**

The criteria listed below outlines the Knights process for evaluations for the upcoming lacrosse season.

### **GENERAL EVALUATIONS**

#### **Groupings**

- Initial placement in groups will be based on athletes' based on age and level of play from previous year.
- Athlete groupings will be adjusted throughout the evaluation process.
- Group sizes will be kept as manageable as possible to help ensure athletes have ample opportunity to be thoroughly evaluated.

## Scoring

- Scoring may be done by a combination of:
  - Drills
  - Scrimmage
- Each age group's evaluations will be arranged slightly different. Drills and scrimmages will be structured to be appropriate for the age and division. Evaluators will be looking for certain scoring criteria for each drill but not limited to only score that particular criteria.

### 6U and 8U

We will have drills and mini scrimmage to separate the kids into even teams. Once we think the process is complete we will have them play games against each other to make sure they are as even as possible. Please remember at these age groups there might be team movement until after the parity games take place.

### 10U to 16U

- Stick Skills, Offense, Defense, Transition, Athleticism
- Players scoring include but are not limited to the following guideline:

Stick Skills (1-7)	Offensive Ability (1-7)	Defensive Ability (1-7)	Transition (1-7)	Athleticism (1-7)	
<b>Passing</b>	Proper side of the floor	Ability to stop attack	Line changes at the correct time	Acceleration and Speed	1- Poor
Proper Technique	Stick up in triple threat	Floor Positioning - recognizes where to be	and speed of line changes	Quickness and ability to stay on feet	2-Below Average
Accuracy	Player Movement- does he/she cut, pick and or drive to the net	One on one defence ability	Choice of plays, pass vs run down the floor	Aggreation on loose balls	3- Moderate to weak
Quality and Speed	Awareness - does he/she see what teammates are doing and adjust	Awarness to react	Awarness- does he/she carry the ball away from the bench	Strength to battle physically	4- Average
<b>Shooting</b>	Ball handling	Pick up loose player	Reaction - quick decision to fall back to D, fast breakout/hustle		5- Proficient Skills
Proper Technique	choice of plays - shoots vs run vs pass	Read picks			6- Above Average
Accuracy		Defensive switches			7- Exceptional Skills
Velocity					
<b>Catching</b>					
Consistency in catching					
Ability in catching less than perfect passes					
Proper Technique					
<b>Cradling</b>					
Does he/she do it					
Proper technique					
Ability to protect the ball					
<b>Loose Balls</b>					
Proper Technique					
Speed and Ability					

## Goalies

Goalies will be evaluated on Stick skills, Positional Play, Mobility, Reaction, Rebound Control and Communication

## Team Placement

- When there is more than one team at a certain level, athletes will be placed on parity teams.
- Final evaluation scores will be tabulated, and athletes will be ranked highest to lowest.
- Athletes will be placed on teams based on their evaluation scores using the following method:

### Snake Method

Example using 3 parity teams:

Team 1 gets player 1, 6 and 7.

Team 2 gets player 2, 5 and 8.

Team 3 gets player 3, 4 and 9 etc...

- Adjustments may be made during the process of setting teams to address floor balance (right handed and left handed players), the size of athletes, and to ensure coach and manager volunteers are balanced, at the discretion of Coordinators and the Evaluation Director.
- Teams may play an icebreaker game to ensure team parity.
- Teams will be reviewed by the Coordinators as well as the Board of Directors if issues or concerns arise.
- **Friend Requests** – will only be considered at the 6U and 8U age divisions. A player may make one friend request, which must be reciprocal (ie each player must request the other friend). Coordinators will make best efforts to accommodate the friend request, while still building parity teams, and cannot be guaranteed.

### **Team Size - Guidelines**

- Different age groups may require different sizes of teams
- The following are optimal sizes per age group:

6U:	9-12 runners
8U:	10-14 runners
U10:	14-16 runners
12U:	15-18 runners
14U:	15-18 runners
16U:	15-18 runners
- If a team does not have a dedicated goalie, they will be given an extra runner.
- Team sizes are determined by the Board of Directors, in conjunction with the Division Coordinators to accommodate the CDLA tiering formula.

### **Missed General Evaluation Consequences:**

- The Division Coordinator must be notified 24 hours in advance for an evaluation that a player will be absent for. The Division Coordinator will work with the player to make other arrangements if possible.
- The intention is that an athlete who misses an evaluation (with proper notification) should not benefit nor be penalized for missing a session.

### **EQUIPMENT**

Players are required to wear ALL equipment including mouth guards. If they do not have all the proper and required equipment, they will not be allowed to participate in the evaluation. Pinnies/jerseys will be provided when athletes check in for each session.

### **EVALUATION APPEAL PROCESS**

At the conclusion of the evaluation process, should a specific athlete's final team placement be called into question, the parent/guardian of the athlete may request an Evaluation Assignment Appeal.

- A completed 'Evaluation Assignment Appeal Form' must be completed and submitted to the Evaluation Director and the President NO LATER than 48 hours of notification of the player's final team assignment; appeals submitted after this time will NOT be considered.
- A \$100 fee will apply for each appeal submitted, and must be paid in full, prior to start of the review.
- Appeals will be reviewed by the Evaluation Committee, consisting of the Evaluation Director and two appointed board members (as determined by the Evaluation Director).
- The complainant will receive response with the Evaluation Committee decision upon full review via email, within 24 hours upon receipt of appeal.
- Appeal may include, but does not guarantee, a scheduled meeting with the Evaluation Director and President to review the Evaluation Committee report.

- All Evaluation Committee decisions are final, and non-negotiable.

The Evaluation Assignment Appeal will consist of, but is not limited to the following:

- Full review of the evaluation process, to ensure compliance with the Evaluation Policy throughout all evaluation sessions.
- Review of evaluator score sheets.
- Review of athlete attendance, scores sheets, and final ranking.
- No information will be provided for any other athlete and there will be no comparison/consideration made between other athletes.

The following will NOT be considered as valid reasons for appeal:

- Requests to play with, or not be placed, with a specific player(s) and/or coach(es).
- Previous experience or prior season team assignment.
- Placement in relation to another player(s).
- Absence, injury or illness.

Any appeal submitted for the above said reasons will be denied without review, and full forfeiture of the \$100 fee.

In the event the Evaluation Committee determines procedures inconsistent with the evaluation process resulting in the final team placement of the named athlete be overturned, \$50 of the initial fee will be reimbursed to complainant.

- Athlete movement following an appeal will ONLY occur if it will not affect team size, and said movement is compliant with CDLA guidelines and requirements for team size.
- No athlete will be moved down a team as result of the appeal from another athlete to make room on the roster.

## **EVALUATION RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- 1) Unless it is completely unavoidable, an evaluator will NOT be allowed to evaluate a division in which their child is participating. If an evaluator is required to score in a division in which their child participates, they will NOT be allowed to score their own child(ren).
- 2) Evaluators should refrain from talking to athletes and parents in the division he/she is evaluating before, during and after the evaluation (except for the Evaluation Committee and Division Coordinators).
- 3) In all divisions, immediately after the floor time ends, scores will be collected and validated by the Evaluation Associate.
- 4) Evaluation Associate will not be involved in a division which their child(ren) are participating.
- 5) Evaluation Associates will be involved for monitoring the evaluation results.
- 6) Parents may be asked by Division Coordinators to assist in opening and closing bench gates. Parents that are asked to help will not be allowed to coach or talk to the participating players.

## **CDLA GOVERNANCE**

The Knights belong to the Calgary District Lacrosse Association and must adhere to the rules set out by the CDLA Board in regard to tiering and parity.

## **TIERING**

Teams are formed by age group and skill level. The CDLA requires that certain age groups field a number of "A", "B" and "C" skill level teams based on the total number of teams registered for a given division.

The CDLA also governs how many "A", "B" and "C" teams can be formed in relation to registration numbers per division. "A" players are typically associated with being the most skilled players within the division, involving the most competitive level of play. "C" players are typically associated with a more recreational level of play. Multiple teams in any division will be parity teams.

For 12U Division: The "A" Division has been split into two tiers, "A1" and "A2". These are tiered teams, not parity.

Since the number of teams is based on the registration numbers per given division, how many "A", "B" and "C" teams cannot be determined until registration and evaluation is complete.

## **COMMUNICATION**

All questions and concerns should be directed to your Division Coordinator (refer to our website for details). If the Division Coordinator is unable to answer your question or needs to escalate your concern, the chain of communication is follows (as appropriate):

Division Coordinator → Evaluation Director → President

## **EVALUATION SPECTATOR ETIQUETTE**

During your child's evaluation, we ask that parents move to the spectator viewing area (NE Genesis Centre – upper level. Please keep in mind that evaluations/tryouts can be a stressful time for your player(s). We ask that you do not speak to your player(s) during their floor time (i.e. no coaching, no cheering, etc), unless there is an emergency. Spectators who do not respect this request may be asked to leave the area until their player(s) is done their session.

Players and spectators are also asked not to speak to the evaluators during the floor time.

It is unacceptable to speak to the evaluators or coaches about scores at any point, including prior to coach pick sessions for the A Tryouts to campaign for their player. Failure to comply could result in disciplinary action.