



## Calgary Knights Lacrosse Association 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 assessed in an unbiased and neutral environment.

**PURPOSE:** To standardize our evaluation process for all divisions from U7 to U17. As our lacrosse club continues to grow, and as we 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 (Knights) 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 with varying degrees of applicable lacrosse knowledge and who are encouraged to apply their best and consistent judgment of how the athletes are ranked. Additionally, the Knights may use Third Party Evaluators (such as Junior and/or Senior A and/or B Coaches and/or Players) to complete the group of evaluators.

The following policy has been developed to assist the Director of Evaluations and Evaluators with the evaluation process to ensure the best result for all athletes. We recognize that, depending on registration numbers, these processes may not fully encompass the necessities needed to organize each division.

### **EVALUATION PROCESS**

The criteria below outline the Knights' evaluation process for the upcoming lacrosse season.

### **GENERAL EVALUATIONS**

#### **Groupings**

- Initial placement in groups will be based on athletes' age and level of play from the 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 completed using a combination of
  - Drills
  - Scrimmage
- Each age group's evaluations will be structured with drills and scrimmages appropriate for the age and division. Evaluators will look for certain scoring criteria for each drill but will not be limited to scoring only those criteria.



## U7 and U9

Players will be assessed on stick skills, offensive ability, defensive ability, and athleticism. They will receive a score from 1 to 3 in each category. Evaluations will involve skills assessments, drills, and mini scrimmages to distribute the players into balanced teams. Once the process is complete, the teams will compete in games against each other to ensure the teams are as evenly matched as possible. Please remember in these divisions, player movement may occur until after the parity games have been played.

### Scoring Scale

- 3 - Above Average
- 2 - Average
- 1 – Below Average

## U11 to U17

### Players

Players will be evaluated on Stick Skills, Offense Ability, Defense Ability, Transition and Athleticism. Player scoring may include but is not limited to the following guidelines:

Sticks Skills (1 - 7)	Offensive Ability (1 – 7)	Defensive Ability (1 – 7)	Transition (1 – 7)	Athleticism (1 – 7)
<b>Passing</b> Proper Technique Accuracy Quality and Speed	<b>Position</b> Proper side of the floor Stick up in triple threat	<b>Floor Position</b> Recognizes where to be	<b>Timing</b> Line changes at the correct time Speed of line changes	<b>Acceleration and Speed</b> Quickness
<b>Shooting</b> Proper Technique Accuracy Velocity	<b>Player Movement</b> Do they cut, pick and or drive to the net	<b>One on One Defence</b> Ability to react Ability to stop attack	<b>Reaction</b> Quick decision to fall back to D, fast breakout/hustle	<b>Agility</b> Ability to stay on feet
<b>Catching</b> Proper Technique Consistency in catching Ability in catching less than perfect passes	<b>Awareness</b> Do they see what teammates are doing and adjust	<b>Awareness</b> Do they pick up loose players Read picks Defensive switches	<b>Awareness</b> Do they carry the ball away from the bench	<b>Aggregation</b> Ability to win loose balls
<b>Cradling</b> Proper technique Ability to protect the ball	<b>Ball Handling</b> Choice of plays; shoots vs run vs pass		<b>Ball handling</b> Choice of plays; pass vs run down the floor	<b>Strength</b> Overall physicality
<b>Loose Balls</b> Proper Technique Speed and Ability				



### **Scoring Scale**

- 7 - Exceptional Skills
- 6 - Above Average
- 5 - Proficient Skills
- 4 - Average
- 3 - Moderate to weak
- 2 - Below Average
- 1 - Poor

### **Goalies**

Goalies will be evaluated on Stick Skills, Positional Play, Mobility, Reaction, Rebound Control and Communication. Scoring for these skills will use the Score Scaling below.

### **Scoring Scale**

- 7 - Exceptional Skills
- 6 - Above Average
- 5 - Proficient Skills
- 4 - Average
- 3 - Moderate to weak
- 2 - Below Average
- 1 - Poor

### **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 players will be ranked from highest to lowest.
- Players will be placed on teams based on their evaluation scores using the following method:

Snake Method

Example using 3 parity teams:

Team 1 gets players 1, 6 and 7.

Team 2 gets players 2, 5 and 8.

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

- Adjustments may be made during the process of making teams to address floor balance (right-handed and left-handed players), size of athletes, and to ensure coach and manager volunteers are balanced, at the discretion of the Registrar and the Evaluation Director.
- Teams may play an icebreaker game to ensure team parity.
- Teams will be reviewed by the Board of Directors if issues or concerns arise.



## Friend Requests

Friend requests will be considered at the U7 and U9 age divisions ONLY. A player may make one friend request, which must be reciprocal (i.e. each player must request the other friend). Coordinators will make best efforts to accommodate the friend request while still building parity teams and this cannot be guaranteed.

## Team Size - Guidelines

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

U7: 7 - 10 runners  
U9: 14-16 runners  
U11: 14-16 runners  
U13: 15-18 runners  
U15: 15-18 runners  
U17: 15-18 runners

- Team sizes may vary and are dependent on registration numbers in each division.
- 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 and the Division Coordinators to accommodate the CDLA tiering formula.

## Missed General Evaluation Consequences:

- Players must notify the Director of Evaluations and Division Coordinator 24 hours in advance if they will be absent from an evaluation. If possible, the Director of Evaluations will work with the player to make other arrangements.
- The intention is that an athlete who misses an evaluation (with proper notification) should not benefit nor be penalized for missing a session.
- If unexpected circumstances prevent a player from participating in evaluations, they may be assigned to a team at the Board of Directors' discretion, considering the athlete's age and level of play from the previous year.
- If a player misses all evaluations without proper notification and a valid reason, they will be placed on the lowest level team in their division.

## EQUIPMENT

Players are required to wear ALL [necessary equipment](#) including mouthguards. 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**

After 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 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 to each appeal submitted and must be paid in full before the start of the review.
- Appeals will be reviewed by the Evaluation Committee, consisting of the Director of Evaluations and two appointed Board Members.
- The complainant will receive a 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, scoresheets, 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 being overturned, \$50 of the initial fee will be reimbursed to the complainant.

- Athlete movement following an appeal will ONLY occur if it will not affect team size and the movement is compliant with CDLA guidelines and requirements for team size.
- No athlete will be moved down a team as a 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 they are 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 Director of Evaluations.
4. The Director of Evaluations will not be involved in a division in which their child(ren) are participating. They will assign an Evaluation Associate to collect and validate scores.
5. Evaluation Associates will be involved in monitoring the evaluation results.
6. Parents may be asked by Division Coordinators to assist in opening and closing bench gates. Parents who are asked to help will not be allowed to coach or talk to the participating players.

## **HOKS A TEAMS**

Evaluations for the HOKS A Teams are managed by the HOKS evaluation committee and HOKS evaluation policy. Refer to the HOKS evaluation webpage for more details.

## **CDLA GOVERNANCE**

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

## **TIERING**

Teams are formed by age group and skill level. The CDLA requires that certain age groups field a specific 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 the number of "A," "B," and "C" teams that can be formed in relation to registration numbers per division. "A" players are typically 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.

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 evaluations are 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 as follows (as appropriate):

Division Coordinator > Director of Evaluations > President

## **EVALUATION SPECTATOR ETIQUETTE**

During your player's evaluation, we ask that parents/guardians move to the spectator viewing area (Calgary Soccer Centre – spectator seating area or 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 with their evaluation. Players and spectators are also asked not to speak to the evaluators during the floor time. It is unacceptable for parents, guardians, and players to speak to the evaluators or coaches about scores at any point, and/or to campaign for their player. Failure to comply could result in disciplinary action.

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