



CALGARY KNIGHTS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION EVALUATION POLICY

POLICY: To define the process followed across all divisions to evaluate player performance for team placement, ensuring that all athletes are assessed in a fair, unbiased, and neutral environment.

PURPOSE: To standardize the Calgary Knights Lacrosse Association (Knights) evaluation process for all divisions from U7 through U17. As the club continues to grow and as our understanding of the skills required for both competitive and recreational levels of play evolves, it is important to maintain consistency in how evaluations are conducted. This also ensures that athletes and families have a clear understanding of how team placement decisions are made

The Knights strive to make the evaluation process as fair as possible. Evaluations are conducted by individuals with lacrosse knowledge and experience. They are expected to apply consistent judgment and assess athletes to the best of their ability using the established evaluation criteria. 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.

This policy is intended to guide the Director of Evaluations and all evaluators in administering the evaluation process in a fair and consistent manner. The Knights recognize that, depending on each season's registration numbers and division structure, minor adjustments to the evaluation process may be required to effectively organize teams within each division.

EVALUATION PROCESS

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

GENERAL EVALUATIONS

Groupings

- Initial group placement will be based on athletes' age and level of play from the previous season
- Athlete groupings may be adjusted throughout the evaluation process as needed
- Group sizes will be kept as manageable as possible to ensure each athlete has sufficient opportunity to be observed and fairly evaluated

Scoring

- Athletes may be evaluated using a combination of:
 - Skill-based drills
 - Scrimmages
- Each division's evaluation sessions will include drills and game play appropriate for the age group and level of play. Evaluators will use defined scoring criteria for each activity but are not limited to assessing only those specific elements. Overall performance, effort, and game awareness may also be considered.



U7 & U9

At the U7 and U9 levels, evaluations focus on foundational skill development and general athletic ability. Players will be assessed in the following areas:

- Stick skills
- Offensive ability
- Defensive ability
- Athleticism

Athletes will receive a score in each category based on the scale below. Evaluations will include skill stations, structured drills, and small-sided scrimmages to support the creation of balanced teams. After initial teams are formed, parity games may be held to further assess overall team balance. Roster adjustments may take place following these games if needed.

Scoring Scale

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

U11 to U17

Players will be evaluated on Stick Skills, Offense Ability, Defense Ability, Transition and Athleticism.

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



Player scoring may include but is not limited to the following guidelines:

Scoring Scale

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

GOALIE EVALUATIONS

Goalies will be evaluated in the following skill areas:

- Stick Skills
- Positional Play
- Mobility
- Reaction Time
- Rebound Control
- Communication

Scoring for these skills will use the scale outline 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 more than one team exists within a division, athletes will be placed on parity teams.

Final evaluation scores will be compiled, and athletes will be ranked from highest to lowest. Team placement will be determined using the Snake Draft Method. The pattern will continue until all players are assigned.



Example of Snake Draft Method with three parity teams:

- Team 1: Players 1, 6, 7
- Team 2: Players 2, 5, 8
- Team 3: Players 3, 4, 9

Adjustments may be made during team formation to support overall team balance. Considerations may include player handedness, athlete size, positional distribution, and balancing of coach volunteers. Teams may participate in an exhibition or “icebreaker” game to help assess team balance.

Further roster adjustments may occur if required. If concerns arise regarding team placement, adjustments may be made at the discretion of and in consultation with the evaluators, coaches, Director of Evaluations and Knights Board of Directors Evaluation Committee (Knights BOD)

FRIEND REQUESTS

Friend requests will be considered **only** in the U7 and U9 divisions.

- Each player may submit **one** friend request.
- Requests must be **reciprocal** (both players must request each other).
- The Director of Evaluations and Knights BOD will make reasonable efforts to accommodate friend requests while maintaining balanced teams; however, requests **cannot be guaranteed**.

TEAM SIZE - GUIDELINES

Team sizes may vary by division based on registration numbers and league requirements. The following ranges represent **optimal roster sizes**:

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

Additional considerations:

- If a team does not have a dedicated goaltender, an additional runner may be added to the roster.
 - Final team sizes are determined by the Knights BOD in accordance with CDLA tiering guidelines and overall registration numbers.
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MISSED GENERAL EVALUATION CONSEQUENCES

Players must notify the Director of Evaluations **at least 24 hours in advance** if they are unable to attend a scheduled evaluation session. When possible, alternate arrangements may be made. The hope is that an athlete who misses an evaluation, **with proper notification**, is neither advantaged nor disadvantaged.

If unexpected circumstances prevent participation in evaluations, placement may be determined at the discretion of the Knights BOD, taking into consideration the athlete's age and previous level of play.

If a player misses **all** evaluation sessions without proper notice and a valid reason, they will be placed on the lowest-tier team within their division.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Players must wear ALL [required equipment](#) including a mouthguard, during evaluations. Athletes who do not have the proper equipment will not be permitted to participate.

Practice pinnies will be provided to athletes at check-in of each evaluation session. Pinnies will be collected PRIOR to athletes leaving the practice floor

EVALUATION APPEAL PROCESS

Following the completion of evaluations, a parent or guardian may submit an appeal if they wish to formally question their athlete's team placement.

A completed **Evaluation Assignment Appeal Form** must be submitted to the Director of Evaluations and President **within 48 hours** of notification of the athlete's final team assignment. Appeals submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

A **\$100 appeal fee** is required and must be paid in full before the review begins.

Appeals will be reviewed by the Knights BOD **Evaluation Committee**, which consists of the Director of Evaluations, Director of Governance, President and two additional appointed Knights BOD Members.

The complainant will receive the Knights BOD Evaluation Committee's decision by email within 24 hours of the completed review.

An appeal review may include, but does not guarantee, a meeting with the Director of Evaluations and the President to discuss the findings.

All Knights BOD Evaluation Committee decisions are **final**.



Scope of Appeal Review

The Evaluation Assignment Appeal review may include, but is not limited to:

- Confirmation that the evaluation process followed established policy
- Review of evaluator score sheets
- Review of athlete attendance, evaluation scores, and final ranking

No information about other athletes will be shared, and comparisons to other athletes will not be considered.

Invalid Grounds for Appeal

The following are **not** valid reasons for appeal, and appeals submitted for reasons below will be denied without review, and the appeal fee will be forfeited.

- Requests to play with, or avoid placement with, specific players or coaches
- Previous experience or prior season team placement
- Placement comparisons with other athletes
- Absence, injury, or illness during evaluations

If the Evaluation Committee determines that evaluation procedures were not properly followed and the athlete's placement is adjusted as a result, **\$50 of the appeal fee will be refunded.**

Any roster movement resulting from an appeal will only occur if:

- Team size remains compliant, and
- Movement aligns with CDLA guidelines and roster regulations

No athlete will be moved down to create space on a roster as the result of another athlete's appeal.



EVALUATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

Evaluators will not be assigned to evaluate a division in which their child participates unless unavoidable. In such cases, they may not evaluate their own child.

Evaluators must avoid conversations with athletes or parents in the division they are evaluating before, during, and after evaluations, except when required in their official role or when communicating with the Evaluation Committee or Knights BOD.

At the conclusion of each evaluation session, score sheets will be collected and verified by the Director of Evaluations.

The Director of Evaluations will not oversee a division in which their child participates and will appoint a Knights BOD member to manage score collection and validation.

Knights BOD members or appointed Evaluation representatives may assist with monitoring evaluation procedures.

Volunteers who have expressed interest in coaching may be asked by the Director of Evaluations to assist with opening and closing bench gates during Evaluations. These volunteers may not be a parent to a player on the floor or communicate instruction to players during evaluations.

HOKS A TEAMS

Evaluations for HOKS “A” teams are conducted in accordance with the **HOKS Evaluation Policy** and are managed by the HOKS Evaluation Committee.

CDLA GOVERNANCE

The Knights is a member of the **Calgary District Lacrosse Association (CDLA)** and must follow all CDLA rules and regulations related to team formation, tiering, and parity.

TIERING

Teams are formed by age group and skill level. CDLA regulations require that certain divisions field a designated number of “A”, “B”, and “C” teams based on the total number of teams registered within that division. Because the number of teams at each tier depends on total registration numbers, the final number of “A”, “B”, and “C” teams cannot be confirmed until registration is complete and evaluations have concluded.

The CDLA also determines how many teams at each tier may be formed according to divisional registration numbers.



- **“A” level** typically represents the highest level of competitive play within a division
- **“C” level** generally reflects a more developmental or recreational level of play
- When multiple teams exist within the same tier, they are formed as **parity teams**

COMMUNICATION

All questions or concerns regarding evaluations or team placement should first be directed to the Director of Evaluations. If further clarification or review is required, concerns may be escalated through the following chain of communication, as appropriate: Director of Evaluations > Director of Governance > President

EVALUATION SPECTATOR ETIQUETTE

During evaluations, parents and guardians are asked to remain in the designated spectator viewing areas

Evaluations can be a stressful experience for athletes. To help maintain a fair and focused environment, spectators must not communicate with players during their floor time. This includes coaching, cheering, or providing feedback. In the event of an emergency, a Knights BOD member should be found to assist. Spectators who do not follow these guidelines may be asked to leave the viewing area by a Knights BOD member until their athlete’s evaluation session is complete.

At no time should parents, guardians, or players approach Evaluators or Coaches to discuss scores, rankings, or team placement, nor should they attempt to advocate or campaign on behalf of an athlete. Failure to adhere to these expectations may result in disciplinary action.

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