



Evolution Goaltending Corp.  
Evaluation Proposal

# Canmore Minor Hockey Association

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# Philosophy

Evolution Goaltending Corp (EGC) views the goaltender evaluation process as the first stage of an enjoyable hockey season and as a means of setting up each individual for success. Thus, our goal is to assign individuals to a level in which they can thrive and flourish.

The EGC philosophy can be broken down into two key concepts, *Effectiveness* and *Consistency*. *Effectiveness* is the degree to which a goaltender is able to produce a desired outcome, and *consistency* is their ability to produce these desired outcomes repeatedly.

*Effectiveness* can be demonstrated by an athlete's ability to use their individual methods to make saves. Embedded into the definition of effectiveness is *efficiency*, which can be interpreted as "the ability to make a save with little or no wasted effort or energy." For example, it is more efficient that a goaltender's methods allow them to control first saves rather than to allow rebounds. Although two techniques can achieve the outcome of a 'save,' the technique that is classified as *more efficient*, that is, the one that allows for control of saves in this example, will be categorized as *more effective* and thus ranked higher.

Since it is possible for a goalie to be effective without being efficient, the concept of *effectiveness* involves the integration of both **outcomes** and **methods**. It accounts for whether or not

saves are made, as well as the skills and tactics employed in the save process.

*Consistency* can be conceptualized as “the repeatability of a goaltender’s effectiveness.” The effectiveness of a goaltender can fluctuate over time, and a change in the goaltender’s methods is usually the reason for this. By evaluating the consistency of a goaltender’s methods over numerous time points, we can determine whether their skills and tactics may allow them to make saves continuously into the season.

In sum, the overall question that is asked when we are evaluating goaltenders is “Is the goaltender employing methods that allow them to make saves with little wasted effort or energy, and do they employ these same methods over numerous performances?”

By integrating the concepts of *effectiveness* and *consistency*, we can evaluate and compare goaltenders’ abilities without prejudice to any specific skill, tactic, or style. For example, the 2018-2019 Vezina Trophy finalists were Robin Lehner, Andrei Vasilevskiy, and Ben Bishop. All three differ vastly in abilities and style of play, yet they were considered the three most effective and consistent goalies of the past season. The goaltenders that display the greatest effectiveness over the course of the evaluation process will receive the highest ranking.

## The Save Process

A goaltender's effectiveness is demonstrated through their *Save Process*. The *Save Process* is defined as "the steps that a goaltender must progress through every time he/she/they attempts to make a save." A goaltender proceeds through these steps on every single save attempt, irrespective of the situation.

The *Save Process* consists of three distinct steps; 1) Shot Preparation, 2) Save Execution, and 3) Post-Save Response. All three steps are critical in determining the effectiveness of a goaltender.

### 1. Shot Preparation

- Shot preparation is defined as "a goaltender's ability to attain optimal position to make a save." This, by definition, includes both their stance and their mobility from feet (i.e., t-push, butterfly slide, and shuffle), as every time a puck is distributed a goaltender must utilize their mobility to re-establish optimal position.
- 'Optimal position' does not entail one specific position for every player or circumstance. A goaltender may position themselves differently depending on the situation, and two goaltenders may choose different positions for the same situation and be equally effective. What determines effectiveness is their ability to make a save from the position they choose.

## 2. Save Execution

- Save execution is defined as “a goaltender’s ability to make a save.” This is determined by how a goaltender reacts once a shot is released, and it consists of numerous details including (but not limited to); how a goaltender tracks the puck, when a goaltender begins their save attempt, and how/whether a goaltender activates their head, body, and hands towards the puck.
- A goaltender’s ability to make a save is often demonstrated by how well they can *control* first shots. Athletes with strong save execution can generally control pucks better than athletes with weaker save execution, and thus are more effective overall.

## 3. Post-Save Response

- Post-Save response is defined as “a goaltender’s ability to re-establish optimal position after a save.” In other words, this is their ‘recovery.’ Post-save response may also be thought of as a goalie’s shot preparation in order to make a secondary save on a rebound.
- In almost all cases, post-save response includes a goaltender’s mobility from their knees, as nearly all

saves will be made going down.

# Evaluation Methodology

## Evaluation Criteria/Weighting

Scoring and ranking for all provided evaluation sessions (i.e., 2 technical sessions and 4 gameplay sessions) will be balanced equally, thus giving a weighting of  $\frac{1}{3}$  to the skills portion and  $\frac{2}{3}$  to the gameplay portion. This weighting will apply to all age groups.

The main point of the evaluation process is to evaluate and rank goaltenders on their ability to be effective in games. Although technical sessions are designed to emulate gameplay scenarios, it is paramount that the majority of a goaltender's placement be based on gameplay.

Since consistency is a pertinent factor in a goaltender's effectiveness, equal weighting across ice times prevents outlying fluctuations in performance (i.e., one bad session that is weighted at 25%) from being a determining factor in an athlete's final placement.

## Skills Sessions

EGC skills sessions are designed to evaluate a goaltender's save process in a controlled environment with limited external factors. The drills chosen for each session are intended to reflect actual

scenarios that a goaltender encounters throughout the course of a game.

## Skills Session Procedure

### 1. Pre-Ice Briefing - 15 Minutes prior to session

Having received the drills beforehand, the goalies receive a pre-ice briefing 15 minutes prior to the start of the session. The briefing will include details about the execution of the ice time, as well as provide an opportunity for the goaltenders to ask any questions before the commencement of the session.

### 2. Self-Directed Warmup - 4 Minutes

Once the session begins, the goaltenders will be given four minutes to stretch and warm-up how they see fit. This allows them to go through any personal pre-ice routines and rituals to prepare for the session.

### 3. Position Specific Movement ~ 10 Minutes

After the warmup has elapsed, goaltenders will be guided through two, non-evaluated *Position Specific Movement* patterns. The patterns will be standardized across all athletes, in that they will all do the same movements and complete the same amount of repetitions.

### 4. Skills Stations ~ The Remainder of Session

The evaluated portion of the ice time consists of four stations monitored and executed by an EGC evaluator. Each drill is designed to simulate a different aspect of the game in a controlled environment.

Goaltenders will be divided randomly into four groups, with a maximum of three athletes per group, and each group will be assigned to a different station.

Once at the station, the EGC evaluator will explain and demonstrate the drill for the goaltenders. The explanation will include; the positions the goalies are expected to move to, the movements they are to utilize in the course of the drill, and where the shots are to be located. The explanation WILL NOT include details of how a goaltender 'should' make a save or execute specific movements, as this would undermine individual differences in techniques or styles.

The first station will determine the order in which goaltenders will complete each drill. In order to standardize the work/rest ratio, the goaltenders shall maintain the same order of participation at every station. For example, the goaltender who is evaluated first, will continue to go first for the remainder of the session, and likewise for the second goaltender and the third goaltender.

To standardize the amount of evaluation time, each drill will have a SET number of repetitions. This number will depend on the

drill, as some drills may require more time than others (see appendix for drill packages) to complete the repetitions.

All drills are symmetrical, and thus require evaluation from both sides. Because our priority is to evaluate skill rather than fitness, the drills are broken up into two sides. Each goaltender will perform their set number of repetitions on the first side, and then rest while the remainder of the group completes the first side. The evaluator will then switch the drill to the other side of the ice, and complete the same procedure. This ensures that each goaltender sees no more than four consecutive repetitions, avoiding considerable fatigue.

At the completion of the first drill, goaltenders will be asked to wait at their station until all of the drills are complete. Athletes WILL NOT be permitted to take any more repetitions in the net, and any actions performed during this time (i.e., movement outside the net) WILL NOT be evaluated. Once all of the drills are completed, the goaltenders will rotate stations, and repeat this procedure until each goaltender has concluded all four stations.

### Technical Drills

Each session will consist of four drills reflecting different facets of the game. For an example of the drills for U11 Skills Sessions 1 and 2, see appendices 1 and 2 respectively.

### Skills Session Evaluation

Each technical station will be managed by an EGC provided evaluator. This entails that, to ensure quality and consistency, a

member of our staff will be responsible for conducting every aspect of the station including all of the shots administered.

The same evaluator is responsible for the scoring and ranking of each goaltender at their specific drill. This minimizes variability and maximizes control by having evaluators conduct all of the shots a goalie receives. Thus, no volunteer shooters will be required.

Each goaltender will receive a score out of 10 at each station, reflecting their effectiveness in that specific situation (see appendix 3 for skills session evaluation sheet). At the end of the session, scores from each station will be summed, providing an overall score out of 40 (which will be converted to a score out of 50). Goaltenders will then be ranked based on this overall score for the ice time.

Scores and rankings for both skills sessions will be averaged to identify the groupings preceding the gameplay analysis portion of the evaluation.

## Gameplay Analysis

Each game will be monitored and evaluated by one EGC staff member. Every goaltender will be appraised based on their effectiveness as demonstrated through five different categories (see appendix 4 for sample gameplay analysis).

Each goaltender will receive a score out of 10 in each category. These scores will be summed to provide a total score out of 50.

The goaltenders' overall scores shall then be used to obtain the rankings for each goaltender over the course of the scrimmage sessions.

## Expertise and Experience

Evolution Goaltending Corp. has been effectively conducting minor hockey evaluations in Calgary and the surrounding area since 2015. We have evaluated Bow River Minor Hockey Association (since 2015), Canmore Minor Hockey (since 2014), Southwest Minor Hockey Association (since 2017) and Airdrie Minor Hockey Association (since 2020). The fact that we have held contracts successively for half a decade is a testament to the quality and consistency EGC provides.

This is due to the excellence of our staff. Every EGC staff member available for minor hockey evaluations has been coaching and evaluating for a minimum of four consecutive years. Many of our staff have experience coaching Major Junior and Junior A, and we have a number of professional goaltenders as regular clients (see [EvolutionGoaltending.com](http://EvolutionGoaltending.com) for a complete staff list). This assures that you will always receive a detailed and experienced coach and evaluator as opposed to someone who has merely played goalie.

## Grievances

The assistance provided for grievances and/or appeals will be dependent on CMHA's bylaws and format of conducting such procedures. Previously, EGC has assisted in grievances by sitting as a representative on a panel of board members in which the grievant is able to further inquire about the placement decision.

Our role as respondent in this situation is to answer questions regarding our evaluation process, the grievant's scores and rankings, and to share feedback regarding the grievant's evaluation in the observed sessions. EGC WILL NOT provide information about any goaltenders other than the grievant.

This process can be discussed further, as EGC's role is contingent on CMHA's individual grievance and appeal policy.