

# Delburne Minor Hockey Evaluation and Team Selection Procedure

## Player Evaluation and Team Selection Disclaimer

In any given year, one of the most difficult tasks faced by a hockey organization is the process of player evaluation and team selection. The challenges are common, regardless of the size of the organization. It should be noted that there are many ways of approaching this process and all of them would be considered acceptable if, in the end, all players are given a fair and equal opportunity to exhibit their abilities, and the evaluators maintain their objectivity. This policy will present the procedure implemented by the Delburne Minor Hockey Association.

## OBJECTIVES OF PLAYER EVALUATION

- To provide a fair and impartial assessment of a player's hockey skills during the skating and scrimmage sessions.
- To ensure that players have a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a team appropriate to their skill levels as determined during the on-ice evaluations of the CURRENT YEAR.
- To provide uniformity and consistency in the evaluation process such that a 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 to maintain balanced and competitive play where the athletes can develop and participate equitably and have fun playing hockey during the season.

## Team Formation Policy

When numbers in a specified age division warrant that more than one team needs to be created as of July 1st, Delburne Minor Hockey will designate players to those teams as per the following specified methods:

**U7:** The objective is to have teams as equal to each other as possible. For this process a committee of no less than three volunteers will be established to choose those teams.

**U9 and above:** The objective and league requirements are to create tiered teams. To that end, Delburne Minor Hockey will implement a team selection process that is standardized, fair and transparent. Delburne Minor Hockey will establish a committee of no less than three volunteers to manage this process (Volunteers must be able to commit to the time required for the evaluations in their entirety). Delburne Minor Hockey may contract the services of independent third parties to assist with all or part of the process with DMHA board approval. Third party assistants must be requested as early as reasonably possible to provide a timely evaluation to meet league requirements.

Delburne Minor Hockey will strive to achieve the following team sizes:

U7 and U9: 9-12 players, U11 and U13: 11-15 players, U15 and U18: 14 -17 Players

## The Process

Players must be given a fair opportunity to display both their skills and how they think the game. The process presented here is not etched in stone and must remain flexible to ensure that fairness is maintained. Any deviations to this process must be submitted to the DMHA board for approval (for example splitting the teams based on age not skill). All levels should have 3 opportunities to skate before the evaluation process starts this could be practice, public skating, or shinney.

1. Evaluation committee's will be formed of volunteers with no less than 3 on the committee. The committee will need to be approved by the DMHA President and Vice President. This process will need to happen as soon as reasonably possible once the registrar has the player numbers for each age division that year.
2. Evaluation at each level shall occur during 3 ice sessions working on skills and scrimmage sessions. Players shall be divided into teams for each of the scrimmage

sessions. The teams shall be divided as evenly as possible according to age and previous playing levels.

3. For U9 and U11 player position is not required. For U13 and up the evaluation committee will need to add player position to the evaluation process. Player positions must be requested from the player and verified by a parent or guardian. Evaluators shall rank each of the players out of 5 (1 being poor and 5 being excellent) based on the following criteria:
  - a. **Skating** (fast, quick, agile, backwards, forward, stopping, turning)
  - b. **Puck Handling and Passing** (shooting, passing, receiving passes, stick handling, accuracy)
  - c. **Hockey Aptitude** (head up, seeing the ice, anticipation, team play, position play)
  - d. **Competition Level** (toughness, puck battles, position battles)
  - e. **Effort Level** (attitude, passion, determination)

Each evaluator will fill out the Evaluation Form individually then at the completion of the on-ice evaluations all the information will be collected and 1 form with the averaged rankings will be used for the final ranking. All forms must be kept by DMHA Vice President and/or President to be stored for one year.

4. For U9 Evaluation rankings at the conclusion of the ice sessions shall divide the players into three groups.
  - a. Group 1 the top 6 overall ranked players.
  - b. Group 2 the next 8 ranked players
  - c. Group 3 those players who were not ranked high enough for group 1 or group 2.
  - d. The evaluation committee will separate the players based on averaged ranking. Group 1 make the team. From Group 2 working with the head coach and assistant coaches for final selection. The coach's final selections for the team may be based on his/her discretion eg. needs more forward or defensive players, on playing side (shoots right or shoots left), or based on size, speed, strength, or maturity, or goaltender abilities.
5. For U11 Evaluation rankings at the conclusion of the ice sessions shall divide the players into three groups.
  - a. Group 1 the top 6 overall ranked players.
  - b. Group 2 the next 12 ranked players
  - c. Group 3 those players who were not ranked high enough for group 1 or group 2.
  - d. The evaluation committee will separate the players based on averaged ranking. Group 1 make the team. From Group 2 working with the head coach and assistant coaches for final selection. The coach's final selections for the team may be based on his/her discretion eg. needs more forwards or defense, on playing side (shoots right or shoots left), or based on size, speed, strength, or maturity, goalie selection.
6. For U13 and Up Evaluation rankings at the conclusion of the ice sessions shall divide the players into three groups.
  - a. Group 1 - The top 4 ranked forwards, top 2 ranked defensemen, and a goalie.
  - b. Group 2 – The next 13 ranked players.
  - c. Group 3 – those players whose evaluation rankings were not high enough to fit into Group 1 or Group 2
  - d. The evaluation committee will separate the players based on averaged ranking. Group 1 make the team. From Group 2 working with the head coach and assistant coaches for final selection. The coach's final selections for the team may be based on his/her discretion eg. needs more forwards or defense, on playing side (shoots right or shoots left), or based on size, speed, strength, or maturity. The second goalie if numbers permit will be is coaches' discretion.
7. After the higher tiered team is selected if there are still enough players to form two additional teams in an age division the evaluation committee and coach staff can work to split the remaining players evenly if the remaining skill is comparable OR if required

tryouts shall begin immediately following the completion of the first team tryouts and shall follow the same general format as the higher tiered evaluations. All players not selected for the higher tiered team shall take part in one additional scrimmage skate for selected coach observation.

8. Players (including goaltenders) absent or injured before or during evaluations shall be added to the coach's selection (Group 2) list at the highest appropriate level, as decided by the Team Selection / Player Evaluation Committee taking into consideration their evaluation ranking at the time of injury and/or playing level in previous years.
9. Goaltenders shall participate in specific goaltender evaluation sessions. Goaltenders will also be evaluated during scrimmage sessions at each level. Goaltender evaluations will determine the top goaltender to be assigned to the teams tried out for. Additional goaltenders determined from the evaluation rankings may be added to the coach's selection list to allow the coach to play several goalies in practices / exhibition games before making his final selection.

### **Final Decisions**

The choice of the last two or three players is always the most difficult and usually there are only minute differences between the abilities of the five or six players from which the last choices are made. The coaches do have the option of having these players /goaltenders play exhibition games before making the final decisions. However, dragging the process out can be difficult on the players and deadlines for the final selections may be set by the DMHA President and/or Vice President as determined by league deadlines.

### **Player Notification**

Players and parents/guardians will be notified as soon as reasonably possible following the team selection process. Players will be notified via email of the team selection.

### **Grievances**

Concerns with respects to the evaluation process or evaluators must be submitted to the board in writing within 7 days. Any grievance only challenging the ranking and subsequent team placement of a particular player will not be accepted as a legitimate grievance. Parents/guardian can request the averaged ranking of their player but can not ask for an individual evaluators rankings.