

Evaluation & Team Formation Process

U18AA, U16AA, U18A, U18B
2024-2025 Season



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Purpose

Evaluations is a challenging undertaking for all minor hockey organizations. The purpose of this process is not only to establish teams to commence the hockey season but is also intended to do so in a manner that creates the foundation for development and competition within the season to come.

This evaluation and team formation process document is intended to establish guidelines and procedures, while increasing transparency and understanding of the player evaluation and team formation process within the U18AA, U16AA, U18A and U18B division tiers.

Overview

1. For U18 and U16, the City will be divided into one (1) zone.
2. The number of players on each team in a given tier will be determined by registration numbers.
3. For determining the number of teams, the following grid will be used as a guideline:

# of skaters registered for U18	AA	U16	A
150 - 194	3	1	3
195 - 219	3	1	4
220 - 274	3	1	5
275 - 329	3	1	6
330 - 379	3	1	7

4. Evaluators will be the short-listed coaches and contracted independent evaluators. For AA and A, the coach's grades will account for a maximum of 40% of the final grade.

Player Eligibility

1. Evaluations for U18AA, A and B are open to all U18 aged hockey players (male and female) that are, as per Hockey Regina (HRI) regulations, registered with HRI and paid the appropriate evaluation fee.
2. Upon registration, a player will have the ability to register to evaluate for U18 AA, U16 AA, U18 A or U18B. It is the understanding that registering for AA, or A does not guarantee a placement on an AA or A team.
3. To be eligible for the U18AA or A tiers team selection draft, all players must be registered for and attend the evaluations of that tier. An exception may be granted, at Director discretion, if a player is unable to attend the evaluation sessions due to an extenuating circumstance (i.e. – an injury).
4. Players must communicate their absence to the Division Director and Hockey Regina office, prior to their assigned session. Failure to communicate their absence may make that player ineligible for the team selection draft.
5. Injured players may be asked to supply a medical report to the Division Director and Hockey Regina office.
6. Once the U18AA or A evaluations have started, late registrations and transfers for U18AA and A will be accepted up to the registration deadline. 2024 registration deadline is September 11, 2024.



Evaluation Process

Criteria

During the course of the evaluations, the evaluators will be evaluating and grading players on criteria that includes the following:

- **Skating** – Acceleration, speed, mobility, balance, stride, crossovers, pivots, acceleration out of turns, quick feet, controlled skating, change of pace
- **Puck control/passing** – giving/receiving pass, passing choices, unselfish with the puck, presents a good target, heads up, good hands, puck protection
- **Shooting** – Power, accuracy, quick release, can shoot in motion, variety of shots
- **Compete level** – can the player follow instruction, overall attitude towards the game, overall desire to compete, does the player shy away from other players?
- **Hockey sense** – Ability to see the play developing both offensively and defensively and moves to support, judgment, anticipation, disciplined
- **Goalies will be evaluated on the following skills:**
 - **Balance** – Retains ready position after blocking shots, holds ready position in movement, recovery (retains position after scrambling)
 - **Mobility** – Skating ability, moves with speed and in control in ready position, reacts well to puck movement in zone, ability to recover from knees/side
 - **Quickness** – Reacts well to quick shots, effective in close, reaction time
 - **Concentration/Consistency** – Alert at all times, follows puck at all times, able to make key saves, able to perform in pressure situations

Overview

1. For all sessions, the players will be divided into equal groups based on numbers.
2. Players will be provided with a jersey that they will use for the evaluations. At the conclusion of the final scrimmage session of that tier, players are required to return the jersey to the registration person.
3. **New for 2024**, no socks, pant shells or helmet stickers identifying previous non-HRI teams or AA teams are to be worn by players.
4. All evaluators will be given a list of players/numbers for the ice session. Each evaluator will give all players one overall grade between 1 and 6. At the conclusion of each ice session, the evaluators will hand in their completed forms to the evaluator coordinator.
5. The coaches will not evaluate their own child, or the children of other coaches (**new for 2024**).
6. The evaluator coordinator will record the grades for all the players. Each player will receive a single score between 1 and 6 based on the average of all the evaluators' grades for the sessions of that tier. For AA and A, the coach's grades will account for a maximum of 40% of the final grade.



Note: Any parent interfering in the evaluation process may be subject to disciplinary action.

U18AA

1. The evaluation process for U18AA is a two-stage process. The first stage will consist of the following:
 - One (1) skill session
 - One (1) goalie session
 - Two (2) controlled scrimmages
2. After completion of the first stage of evaluations, using the team selection process, each U18AA coach will select up to twenty (22) skaters and three (3) goalies.
3. In stage two of the evaluations, each team will have approximately three (3) practices and two (2) exhibition games.
4. At the conclusion of the practices and games, the coaches will meet to finalize their team of 2 goalies and 17 skaters.
5. After the U18AA evaluations have started, a player can choose to opt out of AA and request to be placed in A or B. To opt out a player must submit their request in writing to the Division Director and Hockey Regina office prior to the second scrimmage of the AA evaluations. Placement for any subsequent requests made after the second scrimmage will be at the discretion of the Division Director.
6. At the conclusion of the first stage of the evaluation process, the players will be ranked from 1 to n based on their grade.
7. Once the team selection draft has occurred, players not placed on a U18AA team will be advised of the U18A evaluation dates via email. If these players are eligible for U16AA, they will enter the U16AA team selection draft.

U16AA

1. The evaluation process for U16AA will consist of the following:
 - One (1) skill + goalie session
 - Two (2) controlled scrimmages
 - One (1) practice
2. The skill session will consist of players who registered for U16AA. The controlled scrimmages and practice will consist of players who are eligible for U16AA but registered for U18AA and were released after the first U18AA evaluation stage.
3. After the U16AA evaluations have started, a player can choose to opt out of U16AA and request to be placed in U18 A/B if they wish. To opt out they must submit their request in writing to the Division Director prior to the second scrimmage of the U16AA evaluations. Placement for any subsequent requests made after the second scrimmage will be at the discretion of the Division Director.
4. At the conclusion of the evaluation process, the players will be ranked from 1 to n based on their grade.
5. Once the team selection has occurred, players not placed on the U16AA team will be advised of the U18A evaluation dates via email.



U18A

1. The U18A evaluations will be for all players not placed on a U18AA or U16AA team and the players that registered directly to U18A.
2. The evaluation process will consist of the following:
 - One (1) skill session
 - One (1) goalie session
 - Two (2) controlled scrimmages
3. After the U18A evaluations have started, a player can choose to opt out of U18A and request to be placed in U18B. To opt out a player must notify the Division Director or Hockey Regina office prior to the second scrimmage of the U18A evaluations. Placement for any subsequent requests made after the second scrimmage will be at the discretion of the Division Director.
4. At the conclusion of the U18 evaluation process, the players will be ranked from 1 to n based on their grade.
5. Once the team selection draft has occurred, all players not making a U18A team will be advised of the U18B evaluation dates via email.

U18B

1. The U18B evaluations will be for all players not placed on a U18A team and the players that registered directly to U18B.
2. The evaluation process will consist of the following:
 - One (1) skill session
 - One (1) goalie session
 - One (1) controlled scrimmage
3. At the conclusion of the evaluation process, players will be ranked from 1 to n based on their grade.

Team Selection Process

Overview

1. The U18 teams will be determined via a draft process.
2. Prior to the draft, the coaches will be given a list of eligible players with associated rankings.
3. The final appointed Head Coach shall be allowed to attend the draft. Subject to the approval of the Division Director, the Head Coach may bring an independent person into the draft.
4. The drafting order will be decided at the beginning of the draft by random selection (i.e.- pulling numbers from a hat). A reverse order format will be used.

Example (assumes 4 teams):

Player Type	Draft Round	Draft Order
Goaltenders	Round One	1, 2, 3, 4
Goaltenders	Round Two	4, 3, 2, 1
Skaters	Round Three	4, 3, 2, 1
Skaters	Round Four	3, 2, 1, 4



Skaters	Round Five	2, 1, 4, 3
Skaters	Round Six	1, 4, 3, 2

- The coaches' child is selected in the round that they evaluate out at (except for AA if they are returning to the team – see Player Protection under AA).

Example (assumes 4 teams):

Round player will be selected in:	If player's ranking is between:
Round One	Ranked 1 to 4
Round Two	Ranked 5 to 8
Round Three	Ranked 9 to 12
Round Four	Ranked 13 to 16
Round Five	Ranked 17 to 20
(and so on pending where the player is ranked) ...	

- A Head Coach will not draft the child of another Head Coach at the same drafting table.
- All individuals participating in the draft are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner.
- Discussion that takes place within the draft is to remain confidential. Anyone that partakes in the drafting process shall not communicate to players or parents, information related to the draft, final rankings, or grouping of players (including goalies).

U18AA

- Each player will be assigned a final ranking of 1 to 6 to the nearest decimal point that allows for a list of approximately the top 81 skaters and top 10 goalies (assumes 3 teams).
- Each coach will be able to protect up to a maximum of six (6) players from the previous year's team. Included in the six (6) players protected will be the Head Coaches child, (even if it is the child's first year on the team). Protecting players will result in the coach forfeiting their 1st, 2nd, 3rd... (up to 6th) round draft pick with the exception of a coach's child that is new to the team (i.e.- this is their first year in the division or they played in a lower tier the previous year), they will be drafted in the round they rank at in evaluations. The list of protected players must be given to the Division Director and Hockey Regina office at the conclusion of the first stage of evaluations.
- A coach will have the ability to draft any player in the top 81 skaters or 10 goalies. Note that any registered injured/absent player will be eligible to be selected at any time in the draft.
- The highest ranked 30 skaters and highest two ranked goalies must be selected in the draft. These are considered locked players. Note this assumes 51 skaters and 6 goalies are selected. The exact roster size will be determined by registration numbers.

U16AA

- Each player will be assigned a final ranking of 1 to 6 to the nearest decimal point that allows for a list of approximately the top 25 skaters and top 4 goalies.



2. The coach will have the ability to select any player in the top 25 skaters or 4 goalies. Note that any registered injured/absent player will be eligible to be selected.
3. The highest ranked 10 skaters and highest ranked goalie will be placed on the team; these are considered locked players. This assumes 15-17 skaters and 2 goalies will be placed on the team.

U18A

1. Each player will be assigned a final ranking of 1 to 6 to the nearest decimal point that allows for a list of approximately the top 100 skaters and top 12 goalies (assumes 4 teams).
2. A coach will have the ability to draft any player in the top 100 skaters or 12 goalies. Note that any registered injured/absent player will be eligible to be selected at any time in the draft.
3. The highest ranked 40 skaters and highest ranked 3 goalies must be selected in the draft. These are considered locked players. Note this assumes 68 skaters and 8 goalies are selected. The exact roster size will be determined by registration numbers.

U18B

1. Each player will be assigned a final ranking of 1 to 6, to the nearest decimal point.
2. Based on the final rankings, players will be grouped in flights of n , whereby n is the number of teams. A coach will be able to select a player from the current group only. The first group of players will consist of the first three flights. When there are " n " players remaining in a group, then the next flight of players will be introduced.

Example (Assume 6 teams):

Group A = 1 to 18 (Flights 1-3)
Group B = 19 to 24 (Flight 4)
Group C = 25 to 30 (Flight 5)
Group D = etc.

1. The draft will start with Group A. When 6 skaters remain in a group the next group of skaters will be introduced. This will occur from group to group every time 6 skaters remain. Note that any registered injured/absent players will be selected after all other players have been selected, in the last flight.

