**Player Evaluation and Team Selection - IMHA**

**Goals**

To provide a fair, comprehensive, and timely evaluation that will be consistent with Innisfail Minor Hockey Association philosophies.

To place players in appropriate groups based on age, skills, and maturity levels. To clearly communicate the criteria for evaluation prior to the evaluation camp.

**Player Evaluation and Team Selection Procedures**

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 Innisfail Minor Hockey Association.

**Objectives**

It is useful for associations to establish objectives before the process begins. The following are objectives which have been used as a guideline.

1. Being well organized throughout the entire process.
2. Ensuring IMHA provides sufficient ice time so that goals of fair and comprehensive player evaluation may be accomplished.
3. Using an efficient number of volunteers.

**Administration**

The process is people intensive and requires several volunteers who are prepared to be involved throughout the entire process. The following points outline the requirements for volunteers who must be organized prior to the commencement of the process.

The Vice-President shall chair the Team Selection / Player Evaluation Committee and shall appoint a coordinator who will be responsible for the workings of the entire procedure. The coordinator is generally the Director of Hockey Development.

Members of this committee shall include the Division Directors, Hockey Development Director, and President.

Evaluators shall be chosen based on their level of hockey knowledge with a view to assembling the best people within the organization. The evaluators should have the ability to rank the player's Hockey Playing Ability relative to the group they are trying out with.

Additional volunteers will be asked to supervise dressing rooms, conduct on-ice drills, and supervise player benches during scrimmage sessions. Division Directors will assign pinees with individual numbers to each of the players for evaluation sessions. Evaluators will only be given the players’ pinee number.

Individuals who have applied to Coach a particular level shall not be involved in the initial evaluations of players at that level, however, Coaches at all levels will work with the Chairperson and Co-Ordinator of the Team Selection / Player Evaluation Committee in determining the final selections for each team.

Any appeal of an evaluation ranking must be submitted by the team coach to the Team Selection / Player Evaluation Committee for a final ruling.

Parents, or guardians of players on the ice will also not be involved in the initial evaluations.

Goalies shall be evaluated during each ice session as well as during a specific goalie evaluation session. Evaluators of goalie sessions shall have a sound goaltender background.

**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. Variations to the evaluation format will require the approval of the evaluation chairperson and the evaluation coordinator. The following is a session-by-session detailed description of the evaluation / team selection process.

1. Players at the U9, U11, U13, U15, and U18 levels shall indicate at the time of registration their intent to try out for A Team, B Team, C Team. Players shall also indicate their last level played as part of their registration.
2. Evaluation at the U9 level will occur within a combination of skills and scrimmage sessions.
* Evaluations for U9 shall be 1 skills session followed by 1 scrimmage sessions.
* Evaluations at the U11, U13, U15, and U18 levels shall occur during scrimmage sessions only. 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, by the age group director.
1. The evaluation process shall begin at the A Team level. Evaluation numbers will be totaled at the conclusion of the ice sessions after which players will be ranked.
2. Evaluators shall rank each of the players out of 6 (1 being poor and 6 being excellent) based on the following criteria - overall these are referred to as Hockey Playing Ability:

**-Skating** (speed, quickness, agility, backwards, forwards, stopping, turning)

**-Puck Handling** (shooting, passing, receiving passes, stickhandling)

**-Effort Level** (attitude, passion, determination)

**-Hockey Intelligence** (head up, seeing the ice, anticipation, team play and positional play)

**-Competition Level** (toughness, puck battles, position battles)

1. With 1 scrimmage skate remaining, we will remove up to the top 5 evaluated players, and they will be selected for the team. (if there are ties, we will require the participants to skate in the last evaluation skate). If there is a shortage in the number of players remaining, 5 players may not be removed. The remaining skate will decide the remainder of the roster. Evaluation rankings at the conclusion of the ice sessions shall divide the players in each of the levels within the division into three groups.

**Group 1** – Top 70% of players selected will be based on Evaluation Numbers. **IE.** If the team size is 15, Top 10 Evaluated players are selected for the team. Always rounded down. The Top evaluated Goaltender will make the final roster.

**Group 2** - an additional ten players based on the next group of player rankings shall be given to the team coach from which he may draw his final team selections. Coach's criteria in making the final selections for the team may be based on his/her discretion IE. needs more forwards or defense, on playing side (shoots right or shoots left), or based on size, speed, strength, or maturity. Injured/Ill, (absent players will be at the team selection committee’s discretion) players will also be on this list.

**Group 3** - those players whose evaluation rankings were not high enough to fit into Group 1 or Group 2 shall begin evaluations at the next Team level.

1. “B” tryouts shall begin immediately following the completion of the “A” tryouts and shall follow the same general format as the “A” evaluations. All players not selected for the “A” Team shall begin evaluations with the “B” group. No evaluation numbers shall be carried forward with these players moving from “A” to “B” tryouts.
2. All players released from “B” tryouts as well as those indicating “C” as their playing preference shall be divided evenly among the “C” teams when “C” consists of 2 or more teams. These players may be evaluated as well only to ensure an even split among the “C” teams.
3. Players (including goaltenders) absent or injured before or during evaluations shall be added to the coach’s selection 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.
4. 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 director or evaluation coordinator