



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

403.710-2213

August 23, 2023

OMHA Members,

This year we are making a few changes to the evaluation process at the U11 and U13 levels. The major difference will be the initial group placement of players at the beginning of tryouts. Instead of grouping them based on what tier they played the previous year, we will be creating tryout teams that will consist of an even mix of all tier levels that will compete against each other for the first 2 evaluation skates.

There will not be any pre-determined groups based on previous tier level. Every player will have an equal opportunity to compete against each other in the first two skates which will determine which group they will fall into after that.

In the first 2 skates they will be evaluated with a score of (1-5). 5 Being the highest and 1 being the lowest. After the second skate is finished, all the scores from the evaluators will be combined to give an average score for each player. (Ex. 3.7) We will then rank the players based on their scores to place them into groups with players of similar ability. Once these groups are set, skates 3-5 will carry on with our previous ranking/movement process we have followed before.

By making this change we are also eliminating the Skills Session to provide enough scrimmage time to properly place players. We feel the "Coaches Skate" is a better environment to assess individual skills in a practice like environment when making final decisions on players rather than at the beginning of evaluations.

Execution Plan

- Registered players will be placed on tryout teams and given a color and a number. These teams will be formed using an even number of players from each tier that they played in the previous season.
- Each Tryout Team will play two scrimmages against two of the different teams (Ex. Game #1 - Green vs. Yellow, Game #2 – Green vs. Blue)
- After the first two skates are finished and each player has an average score from 1-5, they will be grouped according to that score.
- Skates 3-5 will move forward with the ranking/movement process we have followed before bringing us to our coaches skates and finalizing rosters.



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We feel that this format will provide an equal opportunity for players to compete against each other without a bias of where they played last season. This will open the door for players who have worked hard on their game and their conditioning in the off season to compete head-to-head against everyone at their age level regardless of their previous season's placement. We feel it will create a positive start for players knowing their placement will be entirely dependent on their performance. The byproduct of this format will be fair and unbiased optics to the membership.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions regarding these changes.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Rollins".

Geoff Rollins

VP of Player Development

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