



EVALUATION RANKING PROCEDURE

2024-2025



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

Table of Contents

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES	3
PARTICIPANTS	3
EVALUATORS	4
SELECTION OF TRAVEL OR HOUSE LEAGUE	4
PLAYER CODING	4
RANKING BY POSITION	4
RANKING CRITERIA- PLAYERS.....	5
RANKING CRITERIA- GOALIES	5
ENTERING THE PROGRAM AFTER THE RANKING PROCESS IS COMPLETE.....	6
EVALUATION PROCEDURE.....	7
U7	7
U9	8
U11 – HOUSE	9
U11 AA	10
U11 – TRAVEL	11
U13 – HOUSE	12
U13- TRAVEL	13
U15 – RHL	14
U15 – TRAVEL	15
U16 – TRAVEL	16
U18- RHL	17
U18 – TRAVEL	18
U11- U18 – FEMALE	19
TRAVEL TEAM SELECTION PROCESS	20
U11 AA CAHL TEAM SELECTION.....	20
TEAM SELECTION NOTIFICATION	21
RANKING PROCESS BY POSITION	22
FORWARDS.....	22
DEFENSE	22
GOALIES	23



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

Player ranking can be one of the most difficult tasks for a minor hockey association to handle. However, it can also be the foundation for which an association is built. In most cases, these rankings are used to place individual players on teams of similar skill set base. An important factor that is missing in many cases is that minor hockey associations do not use players rank as a tool for coaches to develop players based on their individual strengths and weaknesses. The following are the objectives of OMHA during our ranking and selection procedure.

- ◇ This procedure is put in place annually by the OMHA Executive Board to create a fair, open and impartial assessment of a players total hockey ability compared to their peers during both the skill (if applicable) and scrimmage sessions.
- ◇ To ensure all players have a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a team appropriate to their skill levels as determined during on-ice rankings of the current year.
- ◇ To provide coaches with the opportunity and flexibility to build a team based in part on the ranking procedure and on their own coaching philosophy and knowledge of players skills and attitude.
- ◇ Provide consistency and uniformity in the ranking process so both players and parent expectations are consistent from year to year.
- ◇ Form teams to maintain balanced and competitive play where athletes can develop and participate equitably in a fun environment throughout the season.
- ◇ We recognize that it is very difficult to satisfy the expectations of all stakeholders in the ranking process. Extraordinary/ unusual circumstances will be dealt with by the OMHA Executive Committee.

PARTICIPANTS

This policy explains the procedure for all house and travel teams in OMHA. Travel team evaluations are conducted by a paid, third-party group of hockey evaluators from around the province. OMHA House and RHL team rankings are done through a combination of both non-parent volunteers and paid evaluators. Both ranking processes are done with the same goals of ensuring our teams are developed with parity of skill in mind. The OMHA House and RHL teams include all U7, U9, U11 House, U13 House, RHL U15- U18.

**Players trying out for an OAAA team but have yet to be selected must attend OMHA evaluation skates if your ice times do not conflict. If they don't evaluate with the OMHA, they will not be guaranteed a position. They will be put in a selection pool in their respective divisions. **



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

EVALUATORS

For the 2024 rankings, OMHA has recruited an independent group to oversee the process.

The ranking process will start approximately September 22nd, 2024- October 6th, 2024.

This group will sit separate from parents and each other to make their assessments independent of each other and independent from parent influence. This group will have a marked off section where they will sit in each arena, parents are expected to not interact with them before, during or after the evaluations.

Rankings for an OMHA player can only be requested in writing from their parent/guardian AFTER team formation is complete. This must be done through the division director, a minimum 24 hours after that division travel team selection skates are complete.

SELECTION OF TRAVEL OR HOUSE LEAGUE

OMHA players must choose Travel or House when registering. By choosing house, you will not be made to travel and will only be considered for the house league teams, you will not have a later option of moving to travel evaluations once evaluations have started. Players remaining after the travel team rosters are selected will go into the house league pool.

OMHA players on the house leagues will be ranked in accordance with the guidelines in this policy and shall be placed on teams to make each house league team in an age category of equal caliber. Members must understand that teams may not be equal all year long, many factors play into this such as coaching, player improvement, goalie identification, etc.

PLAYER CODING

Prior to the beginning of evaluations, each player will be assigned a code number that will be used through the duration of try-outs. Code numbers will be assigned by the respective division director.

Once the master list is made with the player name and code, the list will be sent to the OMHA President and kept sealed for the duration of try-outs.

The division director will then make the initial groupings for the evaluations using the code numbers assigned. For travel evaluations, groupings by code numbers will be sent to the OMHA General Manager. For House, groupings by code number will be sent to the Manager of Directors / Director of Programs.

Evaluators will rank players by their jersey number/ code number. At no time during the evaluation process will the evaluators be able to see the player names.

RANKING BY POSITION

OMHA will rank players by position for U13, U15 and U18 as per the Hockey Alberta guidelines. Players will be ranked for the position they have indicated on their registration form. Players are not allowed to change position once the ranking process has begun. Parents/guardians are encouraged to confirm their players selected position prior to evaluations through the division director.

In U7, U9 and U11, players will not be ranked by position except for goaltenders in U11 and U11AA.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

RANKING CRITERIA- PLAYERS

The key points which are looked at when evaluating players are:

1. One of the most important factors is skating because you must be able to skate to play the game and compete. The skating skills being looked for are:
 - Acceleration, speed, mobility, agility, balance, stride, crossovers, acceleration of turns, quick feet, pivots, controlled skating, change of pace.
2. Other key points that factor into the ranking process are listed below. These are not in any specific order.
 - **Passing-** delivering, receiving, passing choices, forehand/backhand, unselfish with the puck, presents a good target, receives and retains with control, tough passing.
 - **Puck Control-** Heads up, smooth and quiet, good hands, protection in small spaces, protection in traffic.
 - **Shooting-** Power, accuracy, quick release, can shoot in motion, goal scorer, rebound control, variety of shots.
 - **Positional Play-** Ability to see play developing both offensively and defensively and moves to support. Judgement, anticipation, understanding systems, disciplined.
 - **Checking Concept-** Angling, good body position with balance and control, defensive side positioning, aggressive checking, strength, be able to take checks.

If two or more players are tied in rankings following the final skate, the player with the highest skating score will be ranked higher.

RANKING CRITERIA- GOALIES

The key points that are looked at when watching goalies are as follows:

1. One of the most important factors is skating. Not in the sense of a player, but more for movements around and in/out of the net. Looking at skating involves a few different aspects:
 - Angles
 - Lateral movement- can the player get across the net fast enough and in position
 - Good balance- strong on their skates
2. Other key points that factor into the ranking process are listed below. These are not in any specific order.
 - Positioning
 - Can the player read the play and react accordingly
 - Can the player decide when to stay on their feet and when to go down to stop a shot. The use of the butterfly is effective, however there are times where you must stay on your skates.
 - Not shying away or flinching at shots.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

- Rebounds
 - Ability to stop the first shot.
 - Since many of the goals are scored on rebounds, can they control rebound or react to them quickly enough.
- Playing the Puck
 - Can they show they know when to play the puck and when to leave it for a player
 - Know where to put the puck when they need to play it.
 - Know when to stop the play and get a whistle.
- Work Ethic
 - Possessing a constant work ethic through the entire evaluation process, not when they are just in games and not when they are getting shots.
 - Doing extra "goalie stuff" in the corners when not getting shots.

U11, U13, U15 and U18 travel goaltenders will be evaluated in 1 or 2 separate goalie sessions. Goalies will also be ranked in the scrimmages with the weight of 75% goalie sessions and 25% scrimmage sessions. All goalies will be required to attend these sessions to be ranked.

U11 AA and U16 teams will not have specific on ice goalie sessions. Selections for those teams will be via observations in the scrimmage sessions.

ENTERING THE PROGRAM AFTER THE RANKING PROCESS IS COMPLETE

The OMHA Executive board has determined the following procedure will be implemented for players entering the OMHA's hockey program after the ranking process is complete:

- Players new to the community, who enter after the ranking process is complete, will be placed on a team in the middle of the age category to observe their skill level during several ice times. Then they will be moved to an appropriate team, assuming there are spots available. The placement will take into consideration what level the player played the previous year.
- IF a player is injured or ill, before or during the ranking process, the players placement will be determined by a committee consisting of the Division Director and the OMHA Executive Board and will consult the teams coach as well.
- A player who has not been ranked due to school, sickness, vacation, injury, or otherwise but can attend a selection skate may be added as an extra, not taking another players spot. In this case, the player never becomes an automatic lock player and may skate until a team does select them.
- Any player entering the program after the ranking process is complete does not qualify for any locked position.
- If a player enters or returns after team selections have been finalized, the players placement will be at the sole discretion of the Division Director and OMHA Executive Board.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

EVALUATION PROCEDURE

OMHA will place teams in the age and league categories outlined below for the 2024/ 2025 hockey season (subject to change, based on registrations received).

Players trying out will arrive for their ice time 30 minutes prior to check in and be assigned a team and jersey by the division director. They will receive instructions and information regarding the ranking session at this time.

Requests for playing with another player cannot be accommodated for players on CAHL, RMFHL or RHL teams.

U7

Ice Sessions

- 2 skill sessions

Ranking by Position

- Players will not be ranked by position in U7.

Player Coding

- U7 players will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 101.

Player Ranking & Grouping

- Ranking will be done by non-U7 parent volunteers
- Players will be ranked from a score of 1-10 (ten being highest)
- For the first skill session, players will be split by birth year.
- For the second skills session, players will be split based on their rankings from session #1.

Team Selection

- U7 will be split by ability level instead of birth year.
- U7 will be split into three divisions based on their evaluations from the two skates (Division A, Division B and female Division).
- 9 - 12 mixed teams and 2 even female teams
- It is believed that grouping players by ability level will accelerate their development. They will get more puck touches and in-game opportunities competing with players of similar levels. It will also help coaches plan a more balanced practice.
- Coaches will be selected following the evaluations and coaches will select their teams.
- The draft format will be set through the division director in consultation with the Manager of Directors and Executive.
- Team selection will be done to ensure each team is evenly matched.

Requests to play with specific coaches or other players will be accepted, but not guaranteed. Exceptions will include siblings and twins. In the event of a sibling exception, where one sibling is the A and the other sibling is in B, the A division player will tier down to B if they are wanting to stay together.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

U9

Ice Sessions

- 1 skills session and 3 half ice scrimmage sessions

Ranking by Position

- Players will not be ranked by position in U9.
- Players must complete their evaluation sessions as a skater.
- Players interested in playing goalie may volunteer to play goal in a different evaluation session but will not be evaluated as a goalie. All players will be evaluated as skaters.

Player Coding

- Players will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 101.

Player Ranking & Grouping

- Ranking will be done by non-U9 parent volunteers
- For the 1st skill session, players will be grouped alphabetically allowing an equal number of players into each session.
- The first session will be a skills session, and each player will receive a ranking of 1-10 (10 being the highest) by each evaluator. After this skate, the player's average score will determine where they are placed for the next session which will be a scrimmage.
- Players will be re-grouped following each scrimmage based on the evaluation scores.

Team Selection

- 8- 10 teams mixed and 1-2 female teams (House A, House B, House C)
- Coaches will be selected following evaluations and will select their teams.
- The draft format will be set through the division director in consultation with the Manager of Directors and Executive.
- Team selection will be done to ensure teams within each division are evenly matched.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

U11 – HOUSE

Ice Sessions

- 4 scrimmage sessions
- Note the skills sessions have been eliminated, going straight into scrimmage play.

Ranking by Position

- Players will not be ranked by position in U11 except for goaltenders.

Player Coding

- Skaters will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 101.
- Goaltenders will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 301.

Player Ranking & Grouping

- Ranking will be done by non-U11 parent volunteers
- Players will be grouped on to evenly matched teams for the duration of the evaluation process.
- These groupings will remain the same for the four(4) evaluation skates.
- For each session, each player will receive a ranking of 1-5 (5 being the highest) by each evaluator.

Team Selection

- U11 house will have two divisions, A and B.
- 6-8 teams (total)

Once final rankings are complete, the division director, Manager of Directors and Director of Programs, will place each player into the appropriate division (A or B).

After placement in a division, Teams will be selected by the same group as above using a ladder style draft based on the player rankings. Teams will be selected by ranking to make each team as equal as practical. Coaches will also be assigned to each team in consultation with the VP of Coaching.

Once preliminary teams have been selected, they will be given to the respective coach, each coach will be allowed to make up to four (4) trades but only for players of equal skill level. The Division Director or the Manager of Directors can veto any trade if it is deemed to cause an inequality in the teams.

Requests for house league teams are highly discouraged. Exceptions may be granted upon approval of the executive committee; however, they cannot be guaranteed. Exceptions to this will be siblings and twins. In the event of a sibling exception, where one sibling is in House A and the other in House B, the A division player will tier down to B if they are wanting to stay together.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

U11 AA

Ice Sessions

- 3 Scrimmage sessions (will take place before OMHA rankings)

Ranking by Position

- Players will not be ranked by position in U11 except for goaltenders.

Player Coding

- Skaters will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 101.
- Goaltenders will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 301.

Player Ranking & Grouping

- Ranking will be done by independent volunteers and the Head Coach (If the HC is a non- parent coach)
- There will be no goalie specific ranking sessions for this team. Goalies will be evaluated through the participation within all ranking sessions. A maximum of 4 goalies will be invited to the final ranking session/ Coaches skate/ scrimmage.
- Participants in these rankings will be from within and outside of the OMHA draw zone. Players not selected for this team and are within the OMHA draw zone, will automatically enter the OMHA ranking sessions for U11 travel. Those from outside of the OMHA draw zone will be released by OMHA and returned to their home Minor Hockey Association (MHA).

Team Selection

- U11 AA will play under the Hockey Alberta U11AA league, consisting of teams across Alberta.
- One (1) team will be selected
- Coaches will be selected prior to evaluations.
- Refer to Section *"Travel Team Selection Process"* for more details.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

U11 – TRAVEL

Ice Sessions

- 5 Scrimmage sessions

Ranking by Position

- Players will not be ranked by position in U11 except for goaltenders.

Player Coding

- Skaters will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 101.
- Goaltenders will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 301.

Player Ranking & Grouping

- Ranking will be done by independent volunteers
- Players will be randomly placed on evaluation teams for the first two skates. These teams will be a mixture of players from all skill levels and are not determined by where the athlete played last year.
- Each player will play 2 scrimmages and receive a ranking of 1-5 (5 being the highest) by each evaluator.
- After these 2 skates, the players average score will determine where they are placed for their 3rd skate.
- For the remaining 3 skates, the players will be placed in groups with similar ranked players. For skates 3, 4 and 5, OMHA will follow the movement ranking procedure where players can still move up or down between groups until they receive their final ranking.
- Movement to house can occur any time after skate 3.

Team Selection

- Travel teams will play in the CENTRAL ALBERTA HOCKEY LEAGUE (CAHL)
- 4- 5 Teams including U11AA
- Coaches will be selected following evaluations and will select their teams.
- Refer to Section *"Travel Team Selection Process"* for more details.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

U13 – HOUSE

Ice Sessions

- 4 scrimmage sessions
- Note the skills sessions have been eliminated, going straight into scrimmage play.

Ranking by Position

- Players will be ranked by position (Forward / Defense/ Goaltender).

Player Coding

- Forwards will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 101.
- Defense will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 201.
- Goaltenders will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 301.

Player Ranking & Grouping

- Ranking will be done by non-U13 parent volunteers
- Players will be grouped onto evenly matched teams for the duration of the evaluation.
- These groupings will remain the same for the four evaluation skates.
- For each session, each player will receive a ranking of 1-5 (5 being the highest) by each evaluator.

Team Selection

- U13 House will have one division consisting of 5 or 6 teams.

Once final rankings are complete, the lists will be submitted to the Division Director, Director of Programs, and Manager of Directors for preliminary team selection.

Teams will be selected based on the player rankings using a ladder style draft. Teams will be selected by ranking to make each team equal. Coaches will also be assigned to each team in consultation with the VP of Coaching.

Once preliminary teams have been selected, they will be given to the respective coach, each coach will be allowed to make up to four (4) trades but only for players of equal skill level. The Division Director or the Manager of Directors can veto any trade if it is deemed to cause an inequality in the teams.

Requests for house league teams are highly discouraged. Exceptions may be granted upon approval of the executive committee; however, they cannot be guaranteed. Exceptions to this will be siblings and twins.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

U13- TRAVEL

Ice Sessions

- 5 Scrimmage sessions

Ranking by Position

- Players will be ranked by position (Forward/ Defense/ Goaltender)

Player Coding

- Code numbers will be assigned by the division director.
- Forwards will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 101.
- Defense will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 201.
- Goaltenders will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 301.

Player Ranking & Grouping

- Ranking will be done by independent volunteers
- Players will be randomly placed on evaluation teams for the first two skates. These teams will be a mixture of players from all skill levels and are not determined by where the athlete played last year.
- Each player will play 2 scrimmages and receive a ranking of 1-5 (5 being the highest) by each evaluator.
- After these 2 skates, the players average score will determine where they are placed for their 3rd skate.
- For the remaining 3 skates, the players will be placed in groups with similar ranked players. For skates 3, 4 and 5, OMHA will follow the movement ranking procedure where players can still move up or down between groups until they receive their final ranking.
- Movement to house can occur any time after skate 3.

Team Selection

- Travel teams will play in the CENTRAL ALBERTA HOCKEY LEAGUE (CAHL)
- U13 Travel will have 3- 4 Teams.
- Coaches will be selected following evaluations and will select their teams.
- Refer to Section *"Travel Team Selection Process"* for more details.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

U15 – RHL

Ice Sessions

- 4 scrimmage sessions

Ranking by Position

- Players will be ranked by position (Forward / Defense/ Goaltender).

Player Coding

- Code numbers will be assigned by the division director
- Forwards will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 101.
- Defense will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 201.
- Goaltenders will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 301.

Player Ranking & Grouping

- Ranking will be done by non-U15 parent volunteers
- Players will be grouped onto evenly matched teams for the duration of the evaluation.
- These groupings will remain the same for the four evaluation skates.
- For each session, each player will receive a ranking of 1-5 (5 being the highest) by each evaluator.

Team Selection

- U15 will be split into A and B divisions and will play in the Rockies Hockey League (RHL)
- U15 RHL will have 4-5 teams

Once final rankings are complete, the division director, Manager of Directors and Director of Programs, will place each player into the appropriate division (A or B).

After placement in a division, Teams will be selected by the same group as above using a ladder style draft based on the player rankings. Teams will be selected by ranking to make each team as equal as practical. Coaches will also be assigned to each team in consultation with the VP of Coaching.

Once preliminary teams have been selected, they will be given to the respective coach, each coach will be allowed to make up to four (4) trades but only for players of equal skill level. The Division Director or the Manager of Directors can veto any trade if it is deemed to cause an inequality in the teams.

Requests for to play with another player in RHL is not permitted unless approved by the Executive committee.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

U15 – TRAVEL

Ice Sessions

- 5 Scrimmage sessions

Ranking by Position

- Players will be ranked by position (Forward/ Defense/ Goaltender)

Player Coding

- Forwards will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 101.
- Defense will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 201.
- Goaltenders will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 301.

Player Ranking & Grouping

- Ranking will be done by independent volunteers
- Players will be randomly placed on evaluation teams for the first two skates. These teams will be a mixture of players from all skill levels and are not determined by where the athlete played last year.
- Each player will play 2 scrimmages and receive a ranking of 1-5 (5 being the highest) by each evaluator.
- After these 2 skates, the players average score will determine where they are placed for their 3rd skate.
- For the remaining 3 skates, the players will be placed in groups with similar ranked players. For skates 3, 4 and 5, OMHA will follow the movement ranking procedure where players can still move up or down between groups until they receive their final ranking.
- Movement to house can occur any time after skate 3.

Team Selection

- Travel teams will play in the CENTRAL ALBERTA HOCKEY LEAGUE (CAHL)
- U15 Travel will have 3- 4 teams
- Coaches will be selected following evaluations and will select their teams.
- Refer to Section *"Travel Team Selection Process"* for more details.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

U16 – TRAVEL

Ice Sessions

- 3 Scrimmage sessions

Ranking by Position

- Players will be ranked by position (Forward/ Defense/ Goaltender)

Player Coding

- Forwards will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 101.
- Defense will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 201.
- Goaltenders will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 301.

Player Ranking & Grouping

- Ranking will be done by independent volunteers
- Players will be grouped for rankings using their age category and division from the previous season as a guideline.
- Ranking group 1 as the smallest for the first of 3-4 ranking sessions. Ranking group 2 will be a bit bigger and so on for the remainder of groups. This format promotes a positive environment for the players by allowing players to move upward. It will not eliminate backward movement, but hopefully will minimize it. The objective is to have all the groups contain approximately the same number of players by the final ranking session. In cases of new players and/ or unique player situations presented to OMHA Executive Committee, the collaboration effort between the divisional director, operations coordinator and executive member(s) ensures the player is placed in an initial group to start the ranking process.
- As the players progress through the scrimmages, their rankings will be combined and will see players placed accordingly. This will allow for player movement based on performance during each ranking session.

Team Selection

- Travel teams will play in the CENTRAL ALBERTA HOCKEY LEAGUE (CAHL)
- U16 Travel will have 1 team
- Coaches will be selected following evaluations and will select their teams.
- Refer to Section *"Travel Team Selection Process"* for more details.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

U18- RHL

Ice Sessions

- 4 scrimmage sessions

Ranking by Position

- Players will be ranked by position (Forward / Defense/ Goaltender).

Player Coding

- Code numbers will be assigned by the division director.
- Forwards will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 101.
- Defense will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 201.
- Goaltenders will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 301.

Player Ranking & Grouping

- Ranking will be done by non-U15 parent volunteers
- Players will be grouped onto evenly matched teams for the duration of the evaluation.
- These groupings will remain the same for the four evaluation skates.
- For each session, each player will receive a ranking of 1-5 (5 being the highest) by each evaluator.

Team Selection

- Teams will play in Rockies Hockey League (RHL)
- U18 RHL will have two divisions (A and B) consisting of 4-5 teams total

Once final rankings are complete, the division director, Manager of Directors and Director of Programs, will place each player into the appropriate division (A or B).

After placement in a division, Teams will be selected by the same group as above using a ladder style draft based on the player rankings. Teams will be selected by ranking to make each team as equal as practical. Coaches will also be assigned to each team in consultation with the VP of Coaching.

Once preliminary teams have been selected, they will be given to the respective coach, each coach will be allowed to make up to four (4) trades but only for players of equal skill level. The Division Director or the Manager of Directors can veto any trade if it is deemed to cause an inequality in the teams.

Requests for to play with another player in RHL is not permitted unless approved by the Executive committee.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

U18 – TRAVEL

Ice Sessions

- 3 Scrimmage sessions

Ranking by Position

- Players will be ranked by position (Forward/ Defense/ Goaltender)

Player Coding

- Forwards will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 101.
- Defense will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 201.
- Goaltenders will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 301.

Player Ranking & Grouping

- Ranking will be done by independent volunteers
- Players will be grouped for rankings using their age category and division from the previous season as a guideline.
- Ranking group 1 as the smallest for the first of 3- 4 ranking sessions. Ranking group 2 will be a bit bigger and so on for the remainder of groups. This format promotes a positive environment for the players by allowing players to move upward. It will not eliminate backward movement, but hopefully will minimize it. The objective is to have all the groups contain approximately the same number of players by the final ranking session. In cases of new players and/ or unique player situations presented to OMHA Executive Committee, the collaboration effort between the divisional director, operations coordinator and executive member(s) ensures the player is placed in an initial group to start the ranking process.
- As the players progress through the scrimmages, their rankings will be combined and will see players placed accordingly. This will allow for player movement based on performance during each ranking session.
- Travel teams will play in the CENTRAL ALBERTA HOCKEY LEAGUE (CAHL)
- U18 Travel will have 2- 3 teams.
- Coaches will be selected following evaluations and will select their teams.
- Refer to Section *"Travel Team Selection Process"* for more details.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

U11- U18 – FEMALE

Ice Sessions

- 4 Scrimmage sessions

Ranking by Position

- U11 players will not be ranked by position, except for goaltenders.
- U13- U18 Players will be ranked by position (Forward/ Defense/ Goaltender)

Player Coding

- Forwards/ skaters (U11) will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 101.
- Defense (U13- U18) will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 201.
- Goaltenders will be listed alphabetically and assigned numbers sequentially starting at 301.

Player Ranking & Grouping

- Ranking will be done by independent volunteers
- Players will be randomly placed on evaluation teams for the first two skates. These teams will be a mixture of players from all skill levels and are not determined by where the athlete played last year.
- Each player will play 2 scrimmages and receive a ranking of 1-5 (5 being the highest) by each evaluator.
- After these 2 skates, the players average score will determine where they are placed for their 3rd skate.
- For the remaining 3 skates, the players will be placed in groups with similar ranked players. For skates 3, 4 and 5, OMHA will follow the movement ranking procedure where players can still move up or down between groups until they receive their final ranking.

Team Selection

- Female teams will play in the ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEMALE HOCKEY LEAGUE (RMFHL), except for ONE U11 team will play in the CENTRAL ALBERTA HOCKEY LEAGUE (CAHL)
- U11- 2- 3 teams
- U13- 2- 3 teams
- U15- 2- 3 teams
- U18- 2- 3 teams
- Coaches will be selected following evaluations and will select their teams.
- Refer to Section *"Travel Team Selection Process"* for more details.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

TRAVEL TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

For travel, after the ranking process is complete, there will be a team selection skate held with all eligible players for the first team. The coach will finalize their team after that selection. The second team will then have their selection skate with all eligible players. The process will continue until all teams have been selected. All coaches can handle the team selection skate at their discretion (i.e. drills, scrimmage or combination).

****Please note players may have to attend two selection skates back-to-back based on ranking****

The number of players placed on each team will be determined by registration.

Any player not chosen for U11 or U13 travel teams will be placed within the OMHA house program and be placed on either the A or B divisions, if applicable.

Any player not chosen for U15 or U18 travel teams will be placed in the RHL league and fees will be returned for the difference and placed in either the A or B divisions, if applicable.

U11 AA CAHL TEAM SELECTION

OMHA will conduct ranking sessions for the U11AA team in advance of and separate from the OMHA U11 Travel ranking sessions. The team will be selected through a series of on-ice scrimmages where players will be ranked by OMHA's independent evaluators and the Head Coach (if the HC is a non-parent coach). This team will consist of 15 skaters and 2 goaltenders. This team will participate this season within the CAHL league against other Minor Hockey Associations (MHA's) that also host U11AA teams.

There will be no goalie specific ranking sessions for this team. Goalies will be evaluated through the participation within all ranking sessions. A maximum of 4 goalies will be invited to the final ranking session/ Coaches skate/ scrimmage.

Participants in these rankings will be from within as well as outside of the OMHA draw zone. Players from within the OMHA draw zone, not selected for this team, will automatically enter the OMHA ranking sessions for U11 travel. Those from outside of the OMHA draw zone will be released by OMHA and returned to their home Minor Hockey Association (MHA).

Travel Team 1

In U11 travel, the top 8 skaters and one goalie will be locked on this team by virtue of their ranking through the scrimmage ranking sessions within the OMHA U11 travel ranking sessions. At the U11 Coach skate, the coach will then pick their final skaters and goalie to round out the team roster from the remaining skaters/ goalies.

For U11, the list is given to the coach for the next group of skaters (this includes the top 8 locked skaters and top ranked goalie). The coach chooses his final players out of these with the locks being those not taken on team 2.

Travel Team 2

The U11 list is given to the coach for the next group of skaters (this includes the top 8 locked skaters and top ranked goalie). Coach then chooses his final players out of these with the locked being those not taken on team 3. Continue until all teams in the division are selected.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

TEAM SELECTION NOTIFICATION

Players will be notified which team they have been selected for, and when the next ice time will be. It will be either email format or verbal from the Head Coach depending on division.

Notification of all players in a division will be done on a date to be determined by the OMHA Program Director, Division Director and the Coaches. For U13, U15 and U18, this date will be no earlier than the final date AA team rosters are announced.

PLAYER LOCKS AND COACH SELECTION SKATES

The following selection procedure relies heavily on the integrity of the independent groups overall rankings; however, it allows the coaches some flexibility and additional accountability during selections. The coach can make choices (within the eligible rankings) based on previous performance, player attitude and other intangibles to build his/ her team.

For U11, the top 8 skaters will be locked on team 1, based on their individual ranking through the ranking procedure. U13, U15 and U18 teams will be picked with the 5 top forward, 3 defense, and 1 goalie being locked based on the players individual ranking through the ranking procedure.

The remaining players, based on ranking, will form the remainder of each group for the coaches skate, where the coach will pick their remaining players. Those not chosen to a team will be a lock on the following team within the age division. Each coach skate will see enough skaters on the ice to facilitate the 8 players being released, locking in a position on the team below. For example, if U11 team 1 (not U11AA) is taking 14 skaters, the coach skate will feature 22 skaters. Those 8 released skaters become locked on team 2. In U13, if they are taking 15 skaters (9 forwards/ 6 defense), the coach skate will feature 23 players (14 forwards/ 9 defense). Players based on ranking will round out each coach skate group based on ranking once the locked skaters have dropped down.

This process and larger coach skates provide the coaches with additional choices for player selection and allows skaters who may have missed the previous "cut" to skate and earn a position on a higher ranked team, with the guarantee of being locked on the team below.

The top ranked goalie is a lock. The next ranked 2 goalies will compete for the remaining 1 goalie spot and the next ranked Forwards and Defense will compete for the remaining Forward and Defense positions. This process will continue down through the teams until selections are complete.

The OMHA Directors and Executive Board reserve the right to adjust the size of coach skates based on the rostered skaters required for each team and or division (14/22, 15/23, 16/24, 17/25).

Players entering the program after the ranking process, please refer to page 6 for complete guidelines. These players do not qualify for any locked position.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

RANKING PROCESS BY POSITION

For team selection in the U13, u15 and U18 divisions, players should be listed by position (forward, defense and goaltender). Team selection will then be made as follows:

FORWARDS

FORWARDS TEAM 1

If choosing 9 forwards, the coach receives a list of the top 14 with ranking. If choosing 10 or 11, the top 15 or 16. Coach chooses their forwards whether it is 9, 10 or 11 out of this. The top 5 forwards based on ranking are a lock and the coach picks their remaining 3, 4 or 5 forwards. The 5 forwards not picked are now a lock on the team below.

FORWARDS TEAM 2

Any forward not taken on a team 1 becomes an automatic lock on team 2. If choosing 9 forwards, the list is given to the coach for the next 14 (this includes the locked forwards, if choosing 10 or 11, the next 15 or 16 (these include the locked forwards). The coach chooses their forwards out of this whether it be 9, 10 or 11 with the locks being those that have come down. The 5 forwards not picked are now a lock on the team below.

FORWARDS TEAM 3

Any forwards not taken on team 2 becomes an automatic lock on 3. If choosing 9 forwards, the list is given to the coach for the next 14 (this includes the locked forwards, if choosing 10 or 11, the next 15 or 16 (these include the locked forwards). The coach chooses their forwards out of this whether it be 9, 10 or 11 with the locks being those that have come down. The 5 forwards not picked are now a lock on the team below.

FORWARDS TEAM 4

Any forwards not taken on team 3 becomes an automatic lock on 3. If choosing 9 forwards, the list is given to the coach for the next 14 (this includes the locked forwards, if choosing 10 or 11, the next 15 or 16 (these include the locked forwards). The coach chooses their forwards out of this whether it be 9, 10 or 11 with the locks being those that have come down. The 5 forwards not picked are now a lock on the team below.

This process continues until all teams in the division are selected.

DEFENSE

DEFENSE TEAM 1

Coach gets a list of the top 8 or 9 defense with rankings, the top 3 are locks based on the ranking process. Coach then chooses their final defense whether it is 2 or 3 out of the remaining 5 or 6. The defense not picked now becomes a lock on the team below.

DEFENSE TEAM 2

Any defenseman not chosen for Team 1 becomes an automatic lock on team 2. The coach gets a list of the next 8 or 9 defensemen available (including those who are locked defensemen) and must choose his defense whether it be 2 or 3 out of the remaining 5 or 6. The 3 defense not picked become a lock on the team below.



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

DEFENSE TEAM 3

Any defenseman not chosen for Team 2 becomes an automatic lock on team 3. The coach gets a list of the next 8 or 9 defensemen available (including those who are locked defensemen) and must choose his defense whether it be 2 or 3 out of the remaining 5 or 6. The 3 defense not picked become a lock on the team below.

DEFENSE TEAM 4

Any defenseman not chosen for Team 3 becomes an automatic lock on team 4. The coach gets a list of the next 8 or 9 defensemen available (including those who are locked defensemen) and must choose his defense whether it be 2 or 3 out of the remaining 5 or 6. The 3 defense not picked become a lock on the team below.

This process continues until all teams in the division are selected.

GOALIES

GOALIES TEAM 1

The coach will get a list of the top 3 goalies with ranking. The top ranked goalie is an automatic lock. The coach must choose their final goalie of the 2 remaining.

GOALIE TEAM 2

Any goalie not chosen for team 1 becomes an automatic lock on team 2. The coach gets a list of the next 3 goalies (including the locked goalie) and must choose their 1 goalie from the remaining 2 with the only lock being the goalie that was not selected for team 1.

GOALIE TEAM 3

Any goalie not taken on team 2 will be an automatic lock on team 3. The coach gets a list of the next 3 goalies (including the locked goalie) and must choose their 1 goalie from the remaining 2 with the only lock being the goalie that was not selected for team 2.

GOALIE TEAM 4

Any goalie not taken on team 2 will be an automatic lock on team 4. The coach gets a list of the next 3 goalies (including the locked goalie) and must choose their 1 goalie from the remaining 2 with the only lock being the goalie that was not selected for team 3.

Continue until all teams in the division are selected.

**If a team is mandated to only take 1 goalie, then in this instance the coach will get a list of the next 2 goalies and must pick 1. There will be no locked goalies in this instance. In certain situations, goalies may be placed on teams in various orders due to limited numbers. For example, T1- 2 goalies, T2- 1 goalie, T3- 2 goalies, T4- 1 goalie. **



Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

"Practice and play like a champion today!"

Box 1152 Okotoks, AB T1S 1B2

Any questions or concerns regarding the ranking procedure should be directed to the Director of Programs.

Director of Programs

2024- 2025 Season

Adam Couillard

acouillard@okotokshockey.com