**Evaluation Policy**

**Participants**

The following procedure explains the process for all tryout teams in the RMHA. The goal of RMHA is to place players where they can develop and participate at their skilled level. After evaluations, the players are separated into teams. There may be movement of players up or down within the division, up and until the deadline. This movement will only be set upon coach and committee approval. Teams will not be set until, and/or around Oct 15th.

**Philosophy and Objectives**

Player evaluation can be one of the most difficult tasks for a Minor Hockey Association to handle, and in this association, it is done by outside impartial evaluators. In most cases these evaluations are used to place individual players onto teams. The following are the objectives of RMHA during our evaluation and selection procedure:

* This procedure is put in place annually by the RMHA Board to create a fair, open, and impartial assessment of a player's total hockey skills during both the skating, scrimmage sessions and exhibition games.
* To ensure all players have a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a team appropriate to their skill levels as determined during on-ice evaluations of the current year.
* To provide coaches with the opportunity and flexibility to build a team based in part of the evaluation procedure and on their shared coaching philosophy and knowledge of players skills, and attitude.
* Provide consistency and uniformity in the evaluation process so that 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 equally through out the season.

We recognize that it is very difficult to satisfy the expectations of all parents and participants in the evaluation process. Extraordinary / unusual circumstances will be dealt with by the RMHA Executive Committee.

**Evaluation by Position**

RMHA evaluates by position for Peewee, Bantam, & Midget. Players will be evaluated for the position they have indicated on their registration form. If the position has not been indicated on the registration form it will be collected prior to tryouts. Players are not allowed to change position once evaluations have begun. This may change at the start of the season upon discretion of the coaching staff.

Initiation, Novice and Atom players will not be evaluated by position but rather by the Categories listed below.

**Evaluators**

## For the 2019/2020 evaluations, RMHA has once again recruited an independent evaluation team. The evaluation process will start approximately Sept 15, 2019 and end Oct 1, 2019, depending on league start dates, these dates could be extended as the Board see’s fit. Evaluators must sit separate from parents and make their assessments independent of other evaluators, and or coach/parent influence. Players will be evaluated in 5 categories, Skating, Offensive Skills, Defensive Skills, Hockey Sense, and Intangibles. The only category that will not be graded up to a score of 5 is skating, which will be graded to a score of 3. This was determined by the board to allow the other 4 categories to carry more weight in the evaluation process. Intangibles will carry the meaning of ‘Drive and Determination’ when practicing or playing the game of hockey.

## For Dynamite & Novice the Skating evaluation will be graded to a score of 5, but only at this level.

## Evaluations are kept private, and under no circumstances will anyone other than the Board be allowed to see the results.

## Remember, the 24-Hour rule is in effect.

**Drills, Scrimmages, and Evaluation Criteria**

Players will be evaluated during separate ice sessions as follows:

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| • | * Initiation/Novice: 2 Evaluation Skates
* Atom Tryout: 2 Evaluation Skates
* Atom Non-Tryouts: 2 Evaluation skates
* Peewee Tryout: 2 Evaluation skates, 1 Black/White Game(If needed)
* Peewee Non-Tryouts: 2 Evaluation skates
* Bantam Tryouts: 2 Evaluation Skates, 1 Black/White Game(If needed)
* Bantam Non-Tryouts: 2 Evaluation skates
* Midget Tryouts: 2 Evaluation Skates, 1 Black/White Game(If needed)
* Midget Non-Tryouts: Team made.

\*Ice sessions may change due to players available, or other circumstances determined by the board.\*The scheduled Ice times are only a guideline, and may be subject to change.\*All Skaters, and Goaltenders are guaranteed only 2 Tryout skates, and move on only if successful.Players trying out in an age category need to arrive at the evaluation ice time a minimum of 30 minutes prior to their ice time to check in and be assigned a team and jersey. They will receive instructions, and information regarding the evaluation session at this time. |
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**Goalies**

Novice, Atom, Peewee, Bantam, and Midget goaltenders will be evaluated during the same evaluation period, under a different set of criteria, as well as during regular scrimmage sessions. If the team in the division requires 1 goal tender only, the goalies will be evaluated throughout the process, (mentioned above), and will be selected by evaluators, and coaches with board approval.

**Team Selection**

RMHA will place teams in the following league division categories for the 2019/2020 hockey season (subject to change, based on registrations received). The number of players placed on each team will be determined by registration.

Initiation/Novice 1, 2, 3, 4

**\*Will be grouped/tiered according to abilities in teams of no greater than 10 players\***

Atom A

Atom B, C

Peewee A

Peewee B

Bantam A

Bantam B

Midget A

Midget B

After the evaluation process is complete, there may be movement of players up to the Oct 15th deadline, even though the evaluation process has been completed by the independent evaluators. Through exhibition game play, and team practices it may be determined by the coaches that certain players will need to be moved up or down and will need Board approval. During the movement process it will not be uncommon to bring up players from a lower team to tryout and fill the space required by the player leaving. This can be done by practice and game play, and is subject to Board approval. The coach will have input on players once the evaluation period is over based on attitude, effort, and performance but all rosters will be finalized by the Board.

**Team Selection Notification**

Players will be notified which team they have been selected for, and when the next ice time for their team will be, via the RMHA Website. Any causes for concern or questions must follow the 24 hour rule, and be addressed in writing through Email. The proper divisions Lines of Communication Policy [www.rockyminorhockey.ca/content/Lines-Of-Communication](http://www.rockyminorhockey.ca/content/Lines-Of-Communication) must be followed. (Please consult RMHA Website for Policy info).

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

**Player entering program after evaluations**

The RMHA Executive Committee has determined the following procedure will be implemented for players entering RMHA's hockey program after evaluations:

* Players entering the program after evaluations that are new to the community will be placed on a team in the middle of the age category to evaluate their skill level during several ice times and will then be moved to an appropriate team, assuming spots are available.
* If a Player is injured before or ill during evaluations, the players placement will be contingent on the two tryout skates, when the player is eligible to return.
* A player who has been deemed unevaluated 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 and may skate until a team does select them.
* If a player enters or returns after team selections have been finalized, the player’s placement will be at the sole discretion RMHA Executive Board. A player evaluated to the top team cannot be removed to accommodate a late registration, there must be room for that player. Players who register late and miss evaluations may find there is no room available on a team. At that time the RMHA Board reserves the right to make the decision on the player.
* Any player entering the program after evaluations does not qualify for any locked position.
* Any cuts from higher teams (i.e.; Hub team, AAA) that have missed evaluations are guaranteed 2 tryout skates, prior to being placed on a team. These tryout skates by no means guarantees that player a spot on the A team. If said player makes the A team after the tryout skates it may elicit movement up or down in the division.

Any questions or concerns regarding the Evaluation Procedures should be directed to the Coach Coordinator, RMHA.

**Evaluation Criteria Skaters**

The key points that evaluator's look at when watching players are as follows:

**Skating**

* Acceleration, speed, mobility, agility, balance, stride, crossovers, acceleration of turns, quick feet, pivots, controlled skating, change of pace.

**Passing**

* Passing, receiving, passing choices, on backhand, unselfish with puck, presents a good target, receives and retains with control, touch passing.

**Puck Control**

* Heads up, smooth and quiet, good hands, protection, in small spaces, in traffic.

**Shooting**

 Power, accuracy, quick release, can shoot in motion, goal scorer, rebound control, variety of shots.

**Positional Play**

* Ability to see the play developing both offensively and defensively and moves to support without the puck. Judgment, anticipation, understands systems, disciplined.

**Checking Concept**

 Angling, good body position with balance and control, defensive side position, aggressive checker, strength, ability to receive a check.

**Evaluation Criteria Goaltenders**

The key points that evaluator's look at when watching Goalies, are as follows:

**Skating**

* Lateral Movement (can he/she get across the net fast enough and in position)
* Good balance
* Strong Skating

**Positioning**

* Can he/she read the play, and react accordingly.
* Can he/she decide when to stay on their feet or go down to stop a shot. (using the butterfly is effective, however there are times when you have to stay on your skates.)
* Not afraid of the shots or shy away.

**Rebounds**

* Ability to stop the first shot.
* Since the majority of goals are scored on rebounds, can they control rebounds 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 do need to play it.
* Know when to stop the play, to get a whistle.

**Work Ethic**

* Possessing a constant work ethic through the entire camp. Not just in games and not just when getting shots
* Doing extra off to the side when not getting shots

If you should have any questions regarding this policy please contact the Coach Coordinator directly.

Coaches@rockyminorhockey.ca