



To: U18 Families.

We have had some parents and players voice some issues with the placement of players after the U18 evaluation skates. Team selections are a stressful and anxious time of year for everyone involved, be it players, parents, board members and evaluators. After team announcements there can always be feelings of being treated unfair, or that players may not have been placed where others feel that they should have. It is only normal that we want the best for our children. SMHA takes every possible action that we can to ensure a fair and consistent evaluation and team selection process. Our evaluators are volunteers that have hockey knowledge and experience, people that love the game as much as we do! They are volunteering their time to help our organization assemble our teams accordingly.

As an organization we want to be as transparent as possible with how we operate our evaluation skates. Though not everyone may agree with our processes, this process has worked very well for us. SMHA tries very hard to ensure that none of the evaluators asked to attend specific skates have any conflicts with children, or parents of, that may be on the ice. Whether this be through close family friends, relations or otherwise. In a small town this is not always easy to achieve, but luckily, we have a large enough group of volunteers and contacts that we can generally avoid these conflicts.

An SMHA board member is present at all evaluation skates. Once all players have been checked in by the director of that division. The director passes the list on to the SMHA board member. This list is NOT provided to the evaluators present. The evaluators are asked to identify top and bottom players, make any notes as they see fit, and record the jersey numbers for these players. If cuts or removals are to be made that night after the skate, evaluators will discuss and make recommendations for top selections to be removed for the next skate and/or bottom selections to be removed for next skate. The SMHA board member ensures that all evaluators agree on the top and/or bottom selections. This same process will be followed on subsequent nights and the team is built from the evaluator picks.

In the case of this year's 2021-2022 U18 A & B selections. The top five evaluator selections from the first skate were removed so that evaluators could focus on the remaining players. There were evaluator bottom selections, but the decision was made to not make any cuts after the first skate. Before commencement of the second skate a head coach was selected. The head coach was asked to watch the second skate with the evaluators. After the second skate evaluators selected the next top three forwards and the top three defense. Once these players

were removed, remaining selections were made from the top evaluated forwards and defense to fill out the forward and defense rosters. All selections were made by jersey number, at no time did anyone, evaluator or coach have the player's number and name list.

All selections were made by the evaluators and were unanimous. The head coach present agreed with all selections made by the evaluators. We have heard a couple of concerns that there may have been mistakes made on the player's name and number list that was provided to the board member. We take this concern very seriously and have investigated accordingly. After thoroughly reviewing we have confirmed that the player's name and number list provided was in fact accurate. There were no mistakes. To be completely transparent, yes there was an issue during the first skate where two players were on the ice with the same color and number of jerseys. This was discovered and corrected 15 minutes into the game. Evaluators had also noticed this though and evaluated accordingly.

It is impossible to go through this time of year and make everyone happy with team placement. We do our absolute best to assemble these teams as fairly as possible. We have all been through this process numerous times, experienced the heartache, outrage, feelings of being treated unfair, joy, happiness, excitement, disappointment, etc. that come with team selections. Regardless of all this we need to be happy that our kids are able to play the sport that we all love. (Hopefully we all get to enjoy a full season this year!)

SMHA has faith and trust in our evaluation processes. We respect the decisions that our volunteer evaluators make. The 2021-2022 U18 rosters are set. There will be NO changes to these rosters. We ask that everyone try to respect this and enjoy being able to play hockey this year.

Sincerely,



Jerilyne Raab (Sep 28, 2021 11:23 MDT)

Jerilyne Raab

President

Stettler Minor Hockey



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Jace Robinson

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