



Player Evaluation Process – U18 DIVISION

For the 2025-26 season, Stettler Minor Hockey will have 2 U18 teams – A and B. In order to determine these teams, evaluations will take place in accordance with details listed below.

U18 Evaluation Format

- There will be 2 evaluation skates for U18A. Only one skate is guaranteed, as removal of top and bottom skaters may take place following the first evaluation.
- Each skate will be 75 minutes in duration, and consist of 30 minutes skill drills and 45 minutes gameplay/scrimmage.
- U18 evaluations are heavily focused on core skills (skating, puck control, passing, shooting) as well as work ethic, positioning and overall game awareness.
- Skaters must announce the position they are evaluating for (ie. Forward/Defence/Goalie).
- Players are advised to arrive one hour prior to scheduled session.
- Team Rosters will be announced via email and posted to the U18 Division page at www.stettlerminorhockey.com.

Note: Registration and team numbers are subject to change and thus evaluation guidelines may be adjusted accordingly. Further details are provided to Division Directors and on-ice coaches to facilitate sessions.

U18 Evaluation Schedule (Blue Arena):

U18A Selection #1 – Tuesday, Sept. 23/25, 7:45 - 9:00 pm

U18A Selection #2 – Thursday, Sept. 25/25, 7:30 - 8:45 pm*

**The A and B Team rosters will be announced following this 2nd skate. If deemed necessary, an additional U18B skate may be scheduled to finalize the roster. Regular season practice schedule to start the week of Sept. 29th.*

SMHA Evaluation Objective

1. To provide a fair and impartial assessment of each player's total hockey skills during skill and scrimmage sessions.
2. To ensure that players have a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a team that is appropriate for their skill and development level for the current season.
3. To form teams to maintain competitive play where the players can develop their skills and have fun playing hockey.
4. To provide coaches with the opportunity and flexibility to build a team based in part on their own coaching philosophy and knowledge of the players' skills, abilities and attitude.

Evaluator Details

- A minimum of 4-5 evaluators will be present at each skate, one of which having goaltending knowledge to evaluate goaltenders as necessary.
- Evaluators will be selected that have hockey knowledge and experience, as well as NO conflicting interests to players or parents (ie. family relationships, close friendships, etc.).
- A member of the SMHA Executive will be present at all skates (Evaluations Lead – VP Operations or Evaluations Support – President and/or VP Development).
- Head coach of teams will be selected after the first evaluation skate (second skate for U11).
- Head coach will be asked to evaluate players for second and, if necessary, third evaluations, but will not be in the same room as evaluators during this time.
- Evaluators will recommend cuts of bottom evaluated players and/or removal of top evaluated players after each evaluation skate. (All U11 players will have 3 skates.)
- Evaluators will select the top approximately 80% of the team. The remaining approximately 20% of the team will be picked from the list of evaluator recommendations with the input and evaluations of the Head Coach.

Evaluator decisions are not open for discussion or revision

- Parents/Coaches/Players are NOT permitted to contact evaluators, head coach, director or board members regarding evaluations and the process. Evaluators are volunteering their time to help with team selections. SMHA will not tolerate any abuse, harassment or questioning of evaluators/head coach, directors or board members about the evaluation process and decisions. Individuals found to be participating in this activity may be issued a warning in writing and repeated offenses may result in sanctions from SMHA.
- Once teams are set there will be no player movement. If a technical error is discovered or player enrollment fluctuates this will be reviewed and if adjustments are needed, recommendations will be made. Example – player wearing the wrong number/color.
- Absolutely NO complaints or concerns will be heard until after October 1st. Complaints and concerns will only be accepted after this date and must be emailed to: evaluations@stettlerminorhockey.com. Complaints and concerns directed to board members / directors will NOT be acknowledged. Complaints and concerns will be addressed after October 1st by the VP Operations, VP Development and President. However, there will be zero movement on player evaluations and teams.