



PLAYER EVALUATION CRITERIA

2024 Edition

Vulcan & District Minor Hockey Association

Updated April 2024

VMHA Evaluation Objectives

- It is important that players are placed on the team that is suited to their composite ability and Skill, so that they may show significant contribution to the team effort, be reasonably challenged, and be expected to achieve personal development and enjoyment.
 - To provide each player the opportunity to evaluate to the best of their ability.
 - To provide a fair, consistent, and comprehensive evaluation of a player's total hockey skills during the skating, skills, and scrimmage sessions.
 - To provide uniformity and consistency in the evaluation process such that a player and parent expectations are consistent from year to year as players move through the various age levels.
 - The focus of team selection is to place each player in his or her competitive comfort zone, giving primary consideration to the factors of skill and ability.
 - The final decision as to the placement of players will be based on the final ranking following the evaluation process.
 - Player's rankings are confidential and will only be seen by the President and Evaluators.
 - Eliminate political maneuverings and interference from the player selection process and allow players to be evaluated on their own individual skills and development.
 - Follow Hockey Alberta Rules & Regulations regarding player evaluation and movement.
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Team Selections *(Excerpt taken directly from VMHA Policies & Procedures 2024 update)*

INTRO TO HOCKEY PROGRAM: U7&U9

(see Intro to Hockey Supplement in the Appendix for more information)

- Player evaluation/selection events must be a minimum of **3 formal sessions**. Recommendation is 1 skills session, 1 small-area games session, and 1 half-ice game.
 - Players need a chance to be evaluated. Standardization ensures transparency, fairness, and consistency. This provides coaches with the foundation for a solid and quantifiable evaluation.
- Team/player evaluations will be completed by Board selected evaluators. The Board will ensure there are no conflicts of interest between the evaluators and teams.
- If VMHA is a member of an Intro to Hockey "League", teams will be built to match the rest of the League's member splits whether that is A/B, age, or any other skill based categories.

Intro To Hockey: U7

- Teams are typically divided to ensure as close to equal teams as is possible.
- All Hockey Alberta Intro to Hockey Rules apply.
- Please see seasonal structure for U7 in the Appendix

Intro to Hockey: U9

- Teams may be divided into equal skill levels, age categories, or major & minor categories.
- All Hockey Alberta Intro To Hockey Rules apply.
- See season structure for U9 in the Intro to Hockey supplement in the Appendix for all details.

U11 / U13/ U15 / U18

- Minimum of 3 and up to a Maximum of 4 ice sessions to evaluate.

Evaluation Process

In the event evaluations are required to divide a team in the U9, U11, U13, U15, or U18 age divisions, the following process shall be followed:

1. A minimum of 2 evaluators from **outside VMHA** shall be contracted to perform the evaluations of the players. Evaluators will be given a list of jersey numbers that have previously been assigned to each player by the VMHA president and one other board member, the list given to the evaluators will not have the player names listed.
2. Goalies will be evaluated as goalies during the evaluation process. If there are 3 goalies trying out 2 will be placed on the lower tiered team and 1 on the higher tiered team. If 4 goalies try out - 2 will be placed on each team.
3. The evaluation process shall consist of **3 on ice sessions** as follows, skills session (which will include small area games), followed by 2 inter-squad games. Upon the completion of the final inter-squad game the evaluators will compile their list of player evaluations and present it to the VMHA President and one other board member. This shall conclude the evaluation process.

Please Note:

In the event a player is unable to participate in the evaluation process due to an injury or other approved absence, the player shall be placed on the lower tiered team. However, The VMHA Board may request a second evaluation of the lower tiered team with the intent to provide an opportunity to all players on that team an equal chance for one player to be moved to the higher tiered team if needed.

Player Acceleration & Movement (ALL Age Divisions)

The Association reserves the right to move players, as required, to ensure teams can be formed. This may occur where players are moved downwards based on physical size and skill levels/development or upwards based on skill levels/development and numbers. Hockey Alberta Overage and/or Player Movement Rules are followed where applicable.

The criteria by which someone may be considered for acceleration to a category above their proper Age Division are as follows:

- The youth must be initially registered in the proper age category.
- A written request is submitted by the player's parents/guardians to the Board of Directors for discussion prior to approval.
- The player must be evaluated and placed according to their skill level. The player will be placed in the age category where it will most benefit not only their own long term development, but that of the teams they are requesting to move to and from as well.
- Advancement would not result in the elimination of a position held by a youth playing in their proper age category.

The Board of Directors for VMHA will thoroughly assess all player movement requests before deciding. Player movement/acceleration decisions will comply with current Hockey Alberta Rules & Regulations. No player shall be allowed to move up more than one age division at a time.

(End of Policies & Procedures excerpt.)

IMPORTANT FAQs

- 1. When are evaluations?** Evaluations will typically be run during the first 2 weeks of regular practices, prior to CAHL tiering rounds or Intro to Hockey Leagues commencing. Registered players/families will be given notice of evaluation schedule prior to the first week of practices. Every effort will be made to give registrants at least 2 weeks notice, however, the Board of Directors reserves the right to adjust as needed. The Board may need to adjust schedules based on ice and/or evaluator availability.
- 2. How are the registered families notified of evaluations?** Registered players/families will be notified via email regarding evaluation schedules. The Board of Directors may also use social media accounts if deemed necessary. It is the registrant's responsibility to ensure their contact information is correct at the time of player registration.
- 3. When/How are player jersey numbers assigned for evaluations?** At least 2 Board members will assign jerseys. The President, along with the Equipment Manager, will collaborate to create player/jersey assignments prior to the first evaluation. If there is a conflict of interest in these positions with players or family on the teams being evaluated, other Board members may be assigned to manage this process.
- 4. When and how will families be notified post evaluations?** Emails will be sent out to evaluated players/families.
- 5. Who are the On and Off Ice Evaluators?** VMHA strives to use knowledgeable off-ice Evaluators from *outside* VMHA (mandatory for U9-U18) to ensure there is objectivity in the process and that there are no conflicts of interest. For On-ice drills during evaluations, the Board of Directors may choose individuals within VMHA or hire outside instructors. On-ice instructors will submit practice drills/plans to Evaluators ahead of each ice session. Evaluators will be submitting their paperwork to the President after the completion of *each* evaluation session. NO ONE is permitted to approach the Evaluators at any time outside of the President or other Board Members involved in the Evaluation planning.
- 6. Will there be Evaluation Meetings for Parents – before and/or after Evaluations?** The Board of Directors may call Parent Meetings pre/post evaluations if deemed necessary. Parents will be given notice of any meetings via email.
- 7. When will coaches be selected once Evaluations are complete?** The Coach Coordinator will initiate Head and Assistant Coach selections after player evaluations and team selections are complete. All VMHA Coach Selection Criteria will be followed as listed in VMHA Policies and Procedures. Coaches will be selected prior to the beginning of the appropriate League games. Every effort will be made to ensure Head Coaches are given the opportunity to have at least one full practice before tiering games in CAHL begin.

IMPORTANT EVALUATOR GUIDELINES

As much as possible there should be a consistency of evaluators for a given age group or division. This continuity ensures that the players are being observed by a group of evaluators who have a benchmark for performance and knowledge of the overall ability of the group that they are observing. Generally, the evaluators should:

- Review all drills and skills to be observed so that you are clear on the on-ice process.
- Individuals chosen/hired to run the on-ice sessions during player evaluations must be from OUTSIDE VMHA for U9 – U18. These individuals will submit a practice plan ahead of the ice times to the Evaluators so they know what to expect.

- Review the evaluation criteria prior to the process to ensure that all evaluators are evaluating the same skill with the same intent.
- Stay separate from the other evaluators and the spectators during the entire on-ice process.
- Make sure that all evaluators have the same evaluation page with the same jersey numbers and colours.
- Review your marks at the end of the session to ensure you have not made any entry errors.
- Evaluation documents should be gathered by the President at the completion of *each ice session*.
- Do not share your comments or opinions with any players/parents or other interested observers at any time.
- PARENTS & COACHES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO APPROACH EVALUATORS AT ANY TIME.
- Refer questions, comments, or complaints that you may receive to the President.
- Name bars are NOT permitted on jerseys during player evaluations.

FINAL PLAYER PLACEMENT

- VMHA will attempt to maintain equal numbers on the teams. In some cases, rankings may dictate one larger team in a division with the intention to place like players with like players in the best interest of the player or accommodate affiliation.
- For a player to be placed on a team, they must attend *all* evaluation sessions. If this is not met, the player may be, at the discretion of the VMHA Board of Directors, be placed on the bottom team for possible re-evaluation if a clear evaluation rank wasn't able to be determined. (*see pg 15 of Policies & Procedures*)
- Once it has been decided how many players are required for each team, the categorization of each team needs to be determined. This decision will be made by the VMHA Board of Directors. (*See CAHL & RMFHL policies for more info on team categorization within the Leagues.*)
- Request to match a player with a specific coach or friend will not be accommodated. If a family requests a player to be placed on a sibling's team (within the same age group) we would look at moving one player down to a lower tier.
- Any *non-Board* initiated requests for player re-evaluation will require a *non-refundable* \$250 fee from the applicant. This fee would be used to hire outside evaluators. Requests must be submitted directly to the President and Secretary of the Association. All requests must be made **prior to October 15**.
- If a player were given the opportunity to be re-evaluated, the process would be: to first evaluate the player with the lowest team. If it is determined the player is the top ranked player, he/she will have the opportunity to be evaluated with the next tier. This process is then followed at each subsequent level until the player is deemed as being on the appropriately skilled team. Unless it is deemed by the Evaluators that there is enough evidence denoting the player's ability and where they should start in the process. While complying with Hockey Alberta's criteria on player movement. Once it has been determined where the player should be placed, the President will notify the parents of the final decision within 24 hours. No other player will be removed or 'bumped' from the team that the re-evaluated player is placed with. Competent Evaluators for re-evaluation will be selected by the VMHA Board of Directors and will not allow any conflicts of interest in their selections.

EVALUATOR RESOURCES

- Hockey Alberta Player Selection Resource Guide
https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/uploads/source/u11/HA_Player_Selection_Resource.pdf
- Hockey Canada Player Evaluation & Selection Guide <https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Hockey-Programs/MHA/downloads/mha-player-evaluation-guide-e.pdf>

OUTLINE: PLAYER SELECTION CRITERIA

SKATING

Forward and Backwards
Turn Both Directions
Stop Both Directions
Crossovers
Edge Work and Agility
Are they stable and strong on their feet

PASSING

Forehand and Backhand
Pass to moving and stationary targets
Vision – do they look and select best option
Advances – uses board passes, chips, saucer passes

PUCK CONTROL

Can carry puck with speed
Can execute puck control with head up
Can handle the puck in high traffic or tight spaces
Ability to maintain control while being checked
Smooth and quick stick handling

SHOOTING

Forehand and backhand
Wrist shot, snapshot, slap shot
Power and accuracy
Shot selection – do they select the best shot for given opportunity

HOCKEY SENSE (U11 & above)

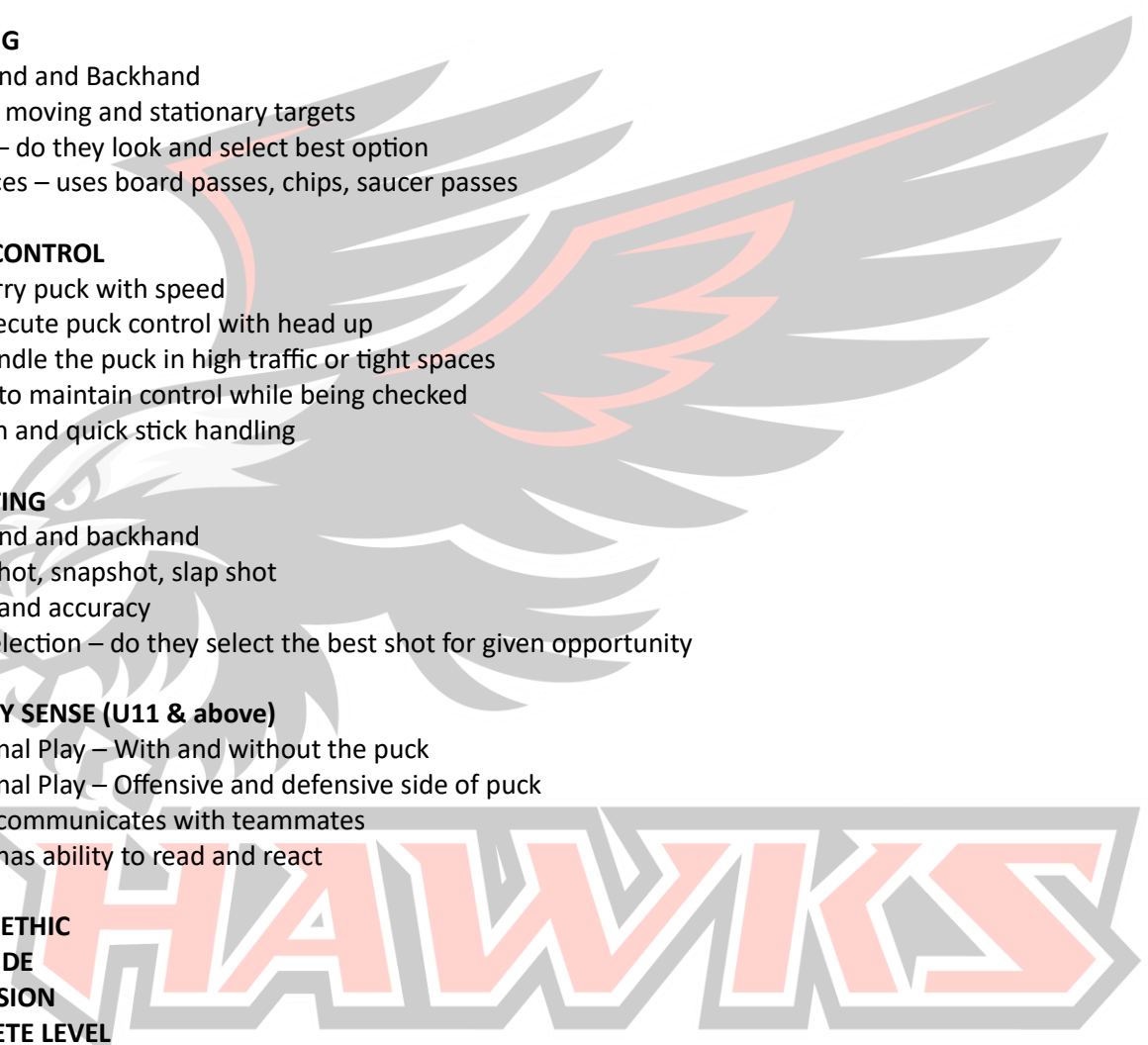
Positional Play – With and without the puck
Positional Play – Offensive and defensive side of puck
Player communicates with teammates
Player has ability to read and react

WORK ETHIC

ATTITUDE

AGRESSION

COMPETE LEVEL



VULCAN MINOR HOCKEY PLAYER EVALUATION FORM

Evaluation Group: _____ Date: _____

Evaluators Name: _____

Each Evaluator must use a new evaluation form for each new session. Session: _____

Rate each player from 5-1 appropriately.

5 = one of the best, 4 = above what is expected, 3 = on target, 2 = below what is expected, 1 = needs improvement

PLAYER #	Forward Skating	Backwards Skating	Foot Speed	Skating Agility	Passing	Stick Handling	Shooting	Compete Level	Aggressiveness	Positional Play	Hockey Sense

