

# YELLOWKNIFE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## PLAYER EVALUATION

### POLICY

Approved: 05 September 2007

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Association has less than 400 registrants which are distributed across six divisions and among at least 25 teams. Accordingly, there is a significant range of skills among the players in each division and on each team. The Association is committed to the establishment of balanced teams in each division of its league program. The effective evaluation of individual player skills is a key element of establishing balanced teams. This policy is intended to:

- Describe the principles which will guide the evaluation of players;
- Describe the process of evaluating the skills of individual player; and
- Describe the relationship between player evaluations and team selection.

#### 2.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to the evaluation of all players associated with League and Development teams.

This policy does not apply to the evaluation of players as part of the Arctic Winter Games territorial trials or the Canada Winter Games.

#### 3.0 DEFINITIONS

“Aggregate Score” refers to the average of the individual scores which has been assigned to each of the evaluation criteria.

“Development Team” refers to a team comprised of the best available players in a particular division that have been selected to pursue enhanced competitive opportunities.

“Evaluators” refers to the coaches or other persons who have been assigned to undertake the evaluation of the players.

“Impact Player” refers to a player who, by virtue of his/her combined abilities across the full range of evaluation criteria, is considered to be capable of influencing the outcome of a particular game.

“Overall Aggregate Score” refers to the average of the aggregate score of each evaluator.

“Regional Team” refers to a team which represents Yellowknife during the Arctic Winter Game trials or other such events as requested by Hockey NWT. Eligible players are determined as per the rules of the governing body sponsoring the event.

#### 4.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Players first:** The Association will strive to ensure that all players enjoy a positive and meaningful competitive hockey experience.

**Equity:** The Association will strive to ensure that all players are treated in a respectful, fair and equitable manner.

**Transparency:** The criteria and process for evaluating players' skills shall be transparent to all participants.

## 5.0 EVALUATION PROCESS

Players shall be evaluated according to the following step-wise process.

### 5.1 Evaluation Sessions

- Player evaluations shall start on the second scheduled session of the season to ensure that the process is completed in a timely manner.
- All players must make a concerted attempt to attend all sessions to ensure that they receive a fulsome evaluation. If a player is unable to attend one or more sessions, the evaluation committee shall determine a consensus evaluation based on the best available information.
- The evaluations shall be completed within three sessions unless otherwise agreed between the Governor and the division coaches.
- The players will be assigned to designated groups for the purpose of the evaluation. Players may be reassigned to alternate groups to facilitate game-based evaluations but this will not negatively impact their individual evaluation.
- With respect to the Pee wee Division, there will be no body checking during game-based evaluations.

### 5.2 Evaluation Committee

- Player evaluations shall be undertaken by a committee of the division coaches under the guidance of the Governor.
- Coaches may alternate their roles between evaluators and on-ice leaders of the evaluation drills or games. One coach from each team must be part of the Evaluation Committee, at all times, unless otherwise agreed by the Governor.

### 5.3 Evaluating Players

- All players will be evaluated in their age appropriate division.
- Evaluation criteria for skaters shall include the following:
  - **Skating** including speed and agility in both forward and backward directions;
  - **Puck-handling** ability including passing, receiving and puck control;
  - **Shooting** including accuracy and speed of the shot;
  - **Intensity** including focus, effort, assertiveness, and a positive work ethic;
  - **Hockey Sense** as reflected in the player's anticipation and positional play; and
  - **Positive Attitude** as reflected in the player's response to instructions and conduct on and off the ice.
- Evaluation criteria for goaltenders shall include the following:
  - **Skating** including speed and agility in both forward and backward directions;
  - **Intensity** including focus, effort, assertiveness, and a positive work ethic;
  - **Shot Blocking** including rebound control.
  - **Hockey Sense** as reflected in the player's anticipation and positional play; and
  - **Positive attitude** as reflected in the player's response to instructions and conduct on and off the ice.

- Players will be evaluated (1= lowest; 5= highest) with respect to each criterion.
- Each evaluator will be provided with a standard evaluation form (Appendix 1) for recording their evaluations.
- Evaluators will not evaluate their own children and may be excused (as approved by the Governor) from evaluating additional players due to conflicts of interest.
- Evaluators should not compare their evaluations until the final session when individual scores are averaged and aggregated.
- At the end of evaluation sessions, each Evaluator shall provide the Governor with his aggregate score for each player.
- The Governor shall establish an overall aggregate score for each player which averages the aggregate score from each evaluator.
- Before the teams are selected, the governor and the coaches shall review the overall aggregate scores to ensure that they reflect the collective views of the evaluators.
- The players will be ranked on the basis of the consensus aggregate evaluation for each player.
- The decisions of the evaluation committee shall be final.

### 5.3 Results of Evaluation

- Upon request to the Governor or his coach, a player will be provided with a statement of his aggregate scores as determined by each evaluator and his overall aggregate score.
- The aggregate scores for a player will not be made available to anyone other than the player or his parents.
- The evaluation of a player may not be appealed unless the grounds for appeal fall within the Association Code of Conduct.

### 5.4 Playing in Other than the Age-appropriate Division

In certain circumstances, players may be eligible to play in either a division above or below their age-appropriate division. Players wishing to play up or down must submit a written request to the Governor of their age-appropriate division.

#### 5.4.1 Playing Up a Division

- A player wishing to play up a division must be evaluated in the desired division in addition to their age-appropriate division.
- To be considered for a higher division, a player must rank:
  - Within the top 10 % of the players in the age-appropriate division; and
  - Within the top 25 % of the players in the desired division.
- To be considered for a higher division, a goaltender must rank:
  - Within the top 25 % of the goaltenders in the age-appropriate division; and
  - Within the top 50% of the goaltenders in the desired division.

- A goaltender's request to play up a division will be considered only if:
  - There is a team in the desired division without a goaltender; and
  - Movement of the goaltender to a higher division does not leave a team in the age-appropriate division without a goaltender.
- A goaltender may be invited to play in a higher division if there is a need for a goaltender in that division. The highest- ranked goaltender in the age appropriate division will be invited in the first instance. If that goaltender declines, the next ranked goaltender will be invited.

#### 5.4.2 Playing Down a Division

- A player wishing to play up a division must be evaluated in the desired division in addition to their age-appropriate division.
- To be considered for a lower division, a player must:
  - Rank within the bottom 10 % of the players in the age-appropriate division;
  - Not be considered as an impact player in the lower division; and
  - Not pose a safety risk (relative size) in the lower division.
- If the player demonstrates significant improvement, he/she may be moved back to the age-appropriate division during the year.
- On the recommendation of the evaluation committee, a player may be given an opportunity to move down a division to ensure that the player has a positive playing experience.
- A player who chooses to play in a lower division should be informed in writing that she **may** not be eligible to participate in tournaments outside of the Association.

#### 6.0 DEVELOPMENT TEAMS

Prospective development team players shall be evaluated according to the above-noted procedures.

#### 7.0 OTHER TEAMS

Players which are evaluated for Arctic Winter Game regional trials or other non-Association events shall be evaluated under the technical rules provided by Hockey NWT or the sport governing body sponsoring the event in which the team will be participating. If technical guidance is not provided, the above-noted procedures shall apply.

#### 8.0 RECORDS

All evaluation forms and summary sheets used by the Evaluation Committee shall be retained, for two months, by the Governor and ultimately filed with the Director Administration.