



## **RMHA Evaluation and Team Selection Policy**

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The evaluation and team selection policy outlines the process and criteria for assessing players based on their age and skill level. The primary goal of this process is to ensure that players are categorized at the appropriate level within their age division, allowing them to compete at a level that best suits their abilities while promoting both personal and athletic development.

The structure of the evaluation and team selection process (also referred to as sort outs or evaluations) shall be approved by the RMHA Executive. Each division shall be evaluated separately by a standardized method, following the age specific Pathway and approved by the RMHA Executive. Evaluation skates for all levels shall be run by a qualified individual or company approved by RMHA Executive. All players shall be evaluated for their own benefit. No player shall participate in evaluations unless they have paid their registration fees. No player shall participate in evaluations unless properly attired as prescribed by Hockey Canada.

The Vice-President, shall coordinate and supervise all phases of evaluations in each division. They shall obtain the ice times and registration lists and shall seek volunteers to evaluate players. The Vice-President shall be responsible for ensuring that players are notified of their evaluation sessions. They shall maintain accurate records of the time/date, names of evaluators and the scores for each session.

The team of evaluators should be made up of well qualified adults (over the age of 18) and shall be approved by the RMHA Executive. The division Convenor may be part of the assessment team. Evaluators shall not evaluate any sessions for which they have a child in the division being evaluated. The exception being that the division Convenor may be part of the assessment team. The purpose and responsibility of the assessment team is to see that all players receive a fair and accurate evaluation.

The Convenor for each level shall themselves, or appoint someone to, check registrations upon player arrival, hand out numbered evaluation jerseys and organize the on-ice sessions prior to and after evaluation skates.

Evaluation sessions will be conducted using assigned numbers and not by players' names.

No team roster shall be finalized until all Competitive team cuts are finalized.

Players returning from higher level hockey tryouts shall tryout at the 'Rep B' competitive level before moving down to and/or through the house league levels. This implies that a player who



tries out for A/AA/AAA or similar and was released, is not automatically guaranteed a spot at the 'Rep B' level.

At the end of each session, the team of evaluators shall provide their evaluations to the Vice-President.

The Vice-President shall provide final evaluation rankings to the Convenor of each level as soon as possible once evaluations have been completed. The scoring of a player's skill level to decide at which level they will play shall be carried out by a team of evaluators for each division.

The following criteria and methods, as set out below by the RMHA Executive, shall be used for evaluations:

- a) Evaluators should not have a player at the level they are evaluating so as to remove any possible conflict of interest.
- b) The Vice-President must attempt to notify all players of their evaluation and tryout schedule.
- c) Evaluators will assess all players by way of controlled scrimmages and/or drills designed for the appropriate level to assist in the rating of all players.
- d) A separate evaluation session may be set for goalies only.
- e) Competitive team size will be decided after evaluations. The Vice-President will work with the Convenor of the subject age group to confirm number of players and goalies for each Rep B team, if consensus cannot be reached the Executive will vote.
- f) Competitive teams will hold tryouts after evaluations. Players must have been evaluated during the RMHA evaluation process to attend competitive tryouts. Final selections are ultimately the decision of the Head Coach but should be supported by evaluations. Results of player attendance and evaluations are maintained by the Vice President and will be kept in confidence. The Head Coach's Final Roster will be given to The Vice President and the Convenor of the subject age group for approval before cuts are made. In the case of a selection challenge, evaluation information may be shared with other members of the RMHA Executive for review in order to address and respond to the challenge. If the RMHA Executive concludes a player selection or release was the result of bias, impartiality or was fundamentally incorrect, the RMHA Executive may impose a resolution. The intention is to select players based on evaluations from within RMHA to form its Rep B team. Transfers-in will not generally be accepted except in those circumstances where there would be insufficient players to form a team at a particular level or due to an insufficient number of players (i.e. less than 20) trying out from within RMHA. Transfers-in must be approved by a majority of the RMHA Executive. If there are not enough goalies in the association for a division, one goalie may only be selected to ensure that house division has enough goalies to field their teams.



- g) For House League teams, tentative player allocations for teams will be carried out by the Convenor for that level and will be allocated solely on evaluations. For U9 players will be sorted as Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4. For U11, U13, U15 and U18 players will be sorted as B team and C Team (may be modified depending on players).
- h) The Convenor, may move any player to another team and/or level to ensure that each player is playing at the appropriate level or if it is in the best interest of the players/teams.
- i) Coaches for all teams will be given a list of possible affiliated players for their teams based on evaluations.

## **RMHA PLAYER SELECTION CRITERIA**

The following is a reference that will be provided to evaluators prior to the player selection process.

### **General Overview of the Skills to Play the Game**

#### *Skating*

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

- Can the players perform the basic forward and backward stride?
- Are the players' knees well bent with the back slightly forward and the head up, or is the player hunched over, bending at the waist with little knee bend?
- Do they use long, smooth strides with complete recovery before the next stride?
- Does the player look smooth when skating or appear off balance?
- Can the player turn in both directions with ease, or do they struggle?
- Can the player stop in both directions? (Younger players may struggle stopping in one direction.)
- Can the player keep up with the play, or do they struggle to stay with other players on the ice?

#### *Passing*

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



- Can the player pass the puck to the intended target with minimal effort?
- Can the player make an accurate pass to a moving target?
- Can the player receive a pass on their backhand without shifting to forehand?
- Can the player pass effectively off the backhand?
- Does the player communicate by calling for the puck?
- Does the player passing the puck make eye contact with the intended receiver?
- Can the player execute a saucer pass over sticks and obstacles?
- Can the player pass the puck off the boards to another player?

### *Puck Control*

**Key Attributes:** Heads-up play, smooth and quiet handling, good hands, puck protection, control in small spaces and traffic.

- Does the player execute a smooth forehand pass?
- Does the player slap at the puck or follow through smoothly when passing?
- Does the player handle the puck comfortably while skating at speed?
- Can the player keep their head up while carrying the puck?
- Can they execute dekes and fakes?
- Can they stop quickly or change directions while handling the puck?
- Can the player maintain puck control under pressure?
- Does the player get checked off the puck easily?

### *Shooting*

**Key Attributes:** Power, accuracy, quick release, shooting in motion, goal-scoring ability, rebound control, variety of shots.

- Can the player execute a wrist shot and backhand?
- Does the player follow through to the target on all shots?
- Can the player lift the puck?
- Is the shot executed with velocity?
- Does the puck sit flat in the air, or does it wobble?
- Can the player execute a one-time shot?
- Is the player accurate when shooting?



### *Positional Play*

**Key Attributes:** Awareness of play development, offensive and defensive support, judgment, anticipation, understanding of systems, discipline.

- Does the player understand positioning on the ice?
- Do they support the puck in defensive and offensive situations?
- Does the player show patience or panic under pressure?
- Do they protect the mid-lane and force opponents outside?
- Can the player angle an opponent off the puck?
- Does the player force plays prematurely or wait too long?

### *Checking (COMPETITIVE)*

**Key Attributes:** Angling, good body position with balance and control, defensive side position, aggressive checking, strength, receiving checks properly.

- Can the player execute basic stick and body checks?
- Does the player check with proper technique, keeping their hands down?
- Can the player receive a check properly without turning their back?
- Can the player check an opponent and pin them along the boards?
- Does the player shy away from physical play?