



EVALUATION GUIDELINES

- 2021/2022 Season -



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1.0 Introduction /Storm Evaluation Philosophy

Simons Valley Hockey Association (SVHA) incorporates an annual evaluation process each hockey season developed in partnership by the Evaluation and Development Committees and is based on Hockey Canada guidelines. This process facilitates the placement of players within their appropriate teams based on the combined evaluation of hockey skills and knowledge of the game through age-appropriate skill sessions and games. The evaluation process is subject to review and may change from year to year.

Evaluations are an Association process that affects all players and members, and as such, relies heavily on Association volunteer commitment positions. The success of the process is integral to the success of the Association and ultimately its players. It is expected that the more members who contribute, the more successful the outcome for everyone. Through increased member participation each member will also gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the process.

The Evaluation Committee consists of the following: Vice –President of Operations (Chair), Directors of each Division, and SVHA President. The following pages outline the process that the Board of Directors has approved for the 2019-2020 season evaluations

Storm Evaluation Philosophy:

- Provide each player an equal opportunity to place at their appropriate skill level
- Align with Hockey Canada Development model
- Align with SVHA Development based on SVHA's 4 Pillar Philosophy:

PLAYER SKILLS:

Skating / Puck Control / Shooting / Passing / Checking (in appropriate divisions)

TIMING:

Plays with Flow of Game / Makes Plays on Time / Gets to Open Ice on Time / Makes Pass on Time / Passes and Shoots (through open windows)

HOCKEY SENSE:

Decision Making / Spatial Awareness (understands the game and situations) / Plays on Both Sides of the Puck / Finds Open Ice / Understands Hockey System / Makes Good Decisions

INTANGIBLES:

Competes / Works Hard / Passion / Positive Attitude / Attendance / Coachable

2.0 SVHA Evaluation Goals

- To provide a fair assessment of a hockey player's ability and understanding of the game during both the skill and/or game sessions.
- To ensure that all players have a reasonable opportunity of being assigned to a team appropriate to their skill level as determined during the on-ice evaluations of the current year.
- To provide a consistent process from year to year as players grow into age groups and develop into different skill levels within the Association.
- To form teams that maintain a balanced and competitive level of play where the player can develop and participate equitably, while having fun playing hockey throughout the season

3.0 Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities

The Evaluation Committee, in conjunction with the Director of Volunteers, will select volunteer evaluation positions. Volunteer positions include the following:

Lead Evaluator (Le)

Lead Evaluators (LE) work closely with the Evaluation Committee and the Division Coordinator to ensure the integrity of the evaluation process and are expected to be at the rink for all ice times within their assigned division. LEs serve as mentors to the Evaluators within their division to ensure evaluators have a good understanding of the expectations.

Duties will include:

- Attend the Evaluation meetings.
- Be the identified safety representative for all sessions and address any safety issues during sessions.
- Coordinate with the Evaluators as to who is attending each session. **Evaluators should be making most sessions. LE's need to ensure a minimum 6 evaluators are at each icesession.

For Evaluation Sessions:

- Review the drills with on-ice help.
- Have the On-Ice Lead explain drills in the dressing room to the evaluators.
- Work with On-Ice Lead to ensure all drills are performed correctly.
- Provide on-ice help with numerical list of skaters.
- Review key points with Evaluators.
- Hand out Evaluation Sheets to all Evaluators – (making a note of any players missing).
- If applicable, have Evaluators privately disclose any player conflict (relation to player) and ensure that that player is left blank for that evaluator.
- Ensure that Evaluators have had ample opportunity to see each player - ask to see a player again if required.
- Discussion with evaluators of final ranking order.
- Work with evaluators to achieve consensus.
- Final ranking sheet submitted to Director of Evaluations in a sealed envelope.
- Collect and seal Evaluation Sheets from the Evaluators and mark envelope with session details.
- Assists the Evaluation Committee with player movement as required

Division Coordinator (DC)

The role of DC is a season long administrative position that works closely with the SVHA Board of Directors to oversee evaluations and to act as a liaison between the Board and the parents within their assigned division. DCs are the first point of contact for parents during evaluations and the remaining hockey season. DCs work closely with the Lead Evaluator and the Evaluation Committee throughout evaluations to ensure evaluations run smoothly and are expected to be at the rink for all evaluation ice times within their division.

Responsibilities Prior to Evaluations:

- Attend the DC Meeting.
- Work with the Director of Volunteers to secure assistants and initial skate phone callers.
- Touch base with their Director to see if they can be of any assistance.

DC Duties for Each Evaluation Session:

- Connect with the Director of Volunteers for volunteer lists of on-ice helpers, bench help, time clock operators, and jersey distributors/collectors (24 hours before each ice time)
- Distribute jerseys at first ice time (2-3 volunteers to assist)
- Take attendance on attendance sheets before each ice time (ensure player numbers match player name).

- Call any players that are missing from an evaluation session 15 – 20 minutes prior to the session.
- Notify the Lead Evaluator of any absent players and mark them on the evaluator sheets prior to the start of an evaluation session.
- Post drills on the glass in the arena prior to the start of the skill session for the day.
- Provide the LE with the list of player ID numbers in numerical order
- Have adequate pencils, erasers, and clipboards ready.
- Print evaluation sheets and give to Lead Evaluator to distribute.
- Ensure white boards ready for LE/Evaluator groups
- During games, ensure each bench has 2 non-parent volunteers to operate gates (if no volunteers the DC will need to request a parent go on the bench opposite their player)
- Instruct gate operators on proper rotation for game play and ensure player order is maintained during game play to facilitate proper player rotation
- Delegate a volunteer to monitor goalie rotation
- Reply to member concerns throughout the evaluations.
- Collect all jerseys at the end of evaluation process and help track down any jerseys not collect at the end of the evaluations. (2-3 volunteers to assist)

Assistant Coordinator (AC)

- Is present for all ice times in their division
- Performs duties as delegated by the DC

On-Ice Lead

- Reports to the Lead Evaluator
- Explains and demonstrates drills for the players
- Ensures adequate puck and pylon supply
- Ensures all players are seen by the evaluators
- Delegates duties to on-ice volunteers which includes the following: telling players when to go and when not to, ensuring pylons are kept in place, keeping player order when required, and ensuring each player has a puck when required

On-Ice Volunteers

- Assists the On-Ice Lead as delegated

Evaluators

- Report to the LE
- LE Reports to Director of Evaluations (Board)
- Have a required level of hockey knowledge
- Attend SVHA provided training of the specific evaluation criteria and use of evaluation forms
- Are assigned to one division
- Must be able to account for their opinions and sign the following declaration on each score sheet:

I conducted this evaluation fairly, impartially and to the best of my ability. I believe the relative rankings I have submitted appropriately reflect the overall hockey skills and understanding of the game as demonstrated during the ice time. I agree to keep all scores confidential.

Signed: X _____

Evaluation Helper

- Performs duties as required by the DC which include, but are not limited to the following: cheque collection, player check in, bench help (gate operator), clock operator, jersey distribution and collection,

4.0 Initial Placement

U9/U11/U13/U15/U18

- Initial placement for ALL U9/U11/U13 players will be based on time trial results. ALL players, new and returning, will participate in time trials operated by Fuel Performance. Players will be sorted into their initial group placement according to their time trial results. ***Please note: NO PLAYER is guaranteed a placement based on the previous year's team, which means players may start the evaluation sessions lower or higher than other previous teammates.***
- For U13, Forwards and Defensemen are evaluated and ranked according to their position. Players will be placed and moved between groups based on their positional ranking.

Goalies

- Goalies are evaluated at a goalie specific skill session for initial group placement. Previous team is not taken into consideration.

4.1 Evaluation Process After Initial Placement

- U7 – two sort skates
- U9 – one time trial skate, three Skills/Game Skates
- U11 – one time trial skate, one goalie skills skate, and then 4 skates (game, skills, game, game)
- U13 - one time trial skate, one goalie skills skate, and then 4 Game skates.
- U15 – one body checking skates (players must attend at least one), one goalie skills skate, then three round robin game skates.
- U18 – one goalie skills skate, then 3 round robin games.

5.0 Player Identification

All players will be assigned an ID number that remains the same for the duration of the evaluations. SVHA will provide each player with ONE jersey with their ID number on it; goalies will receive one grey jersey with their ID number on it. Jerseys will be distributed in advance of the first skate on a set date and time. Jerseys will be collected after the final skate and ***lost jerseys are subject to a \$50 replacement fee.*** Players will not be assigned to a team until their jersey (or replacement fee) has been returned.

6.0 Player Movement

U9/U11/U13/U15/U18 will be focused on upward movement, the filling of group A and balancing the number of players in each group. Upward movement of players, based on evaluator rankings and overall group rankings, will occur for the top ranked players after each ice time. The number of players moving will be different for each Division.

Ice sessions will be staggered (where possible) such that an exceptional athlete who is asked to move will be able to immediately skate in the next group above for the same session number as the group that they just left. For example: a player who is new to SVHA begins in group F and is, without question, in the wrong group. The player is then asked to move and will skate in group E for the first ice session of that group as well.

Cascading movement will follow across all groups. Given the constant movement of players, they will be evaluated against like skilled players throughout their evaluation skates. As the players move amongst each other based on their previous skates, the groups become increasingly focused, and the skills disparity decreases.

Although the model is based on an upward movement model, there are instances in which a player may be moved down – instances such as player safety. This is at the discretion of the Evaluation Committee and is not subject to appeal.

7.0 Player Acceleration

With the current Hockey Calgary Return to Play plan, we will not be accepting any requests for player acceleration for the 2020-21 season.

Performance Criterion:

For Timbit to Novice and Novice to Atom movement, the underage Player must achieve an overall evaluation ranking within top 5 of the top group in every evaluation skate. For Atom to Peewee movement, the underage Player, as a forward, must achieve an overall evaluation ranking within the top 5 of every evaluation skate and, as a defenseman, must achieve an overall evaluation ranking within the top 3 of every evaluation skate.

There are two evaluation player acceleration evaluation scenarios:

1. When the Player's proper and older age categories' evaluation schedules are **concurrent**:
 - The Player participates in the evaluation skates for the category older than their age, subject to achievement of the Performance Criterion.
 - If the Player achieves the Performance Criterion, the request for acceleration is deemed to be successful and the Player may register on the top team in the higher age category.
 - If the Player fails to achieve the Performance Criterion, the Player will be placed in an evaluation group or team within their proper age category at the discretion of the SVHA Evaluation Committee.
2. When the Player's proper age category evaluation starts **before** the older age category evaluation:
 - The Player participates in the evaluation skates for their proper age category. The Player continues to be considered for acceleration subject to achievement of the Performance

Criterion.

- If the player achieves the Performance Criterion at their proper age category, the Player then participates in the evaluation skates for the category older than their age, in conformance with the provisions of player acceleration Scenario 1 (above).
- If the Player fails to achieve the Performance Criterion at the proper age category, the request for acceleration is deemed to be unsuccessful and the Player remains registered in their proper age category in accordance with the SVHA Evaluation Guidelines.

If the Player achieves the Performance Criterion at the older age category, the request for acceleration is deemed to be successful and the Player will now be registered in the older age category. The difference in payment for the older age category will be required prior to being placed on a team.

9.0 Format for Junior C Evaluations

In the event there are more players registered than space is available, an independent evaluation committee comprised of Board Members will evaluate the Junior skates independently of the Coach. The Junior C team will be formed based on this independent committee.

10.0 Player Ranking

All players are evaluated and ranked according to their demonstrated ability in each of the following facets of the game of hockey.

I. Player Skills

- a. Skating
- b. Puck Handling
- c. Shooting
- d. Passing / Pass reception
- e. Checking – in eligible divisions

II. Hockey Sense / Decision Making / Spatial Awareness

- a. Understands the game and situations
- b. Plays on both sides of the puck
- c. Able to find open areas of the ice
- d. Understands hockey systems
- e. Makes good decisions

III. Timing / Reaction Time

- a. Plays within the flow/tempo of the game
- b. Makes plays on time
- c. Skate into open ice on time
- d. Makes passes on time
- e. Passes and shoots through open windows

IV. Compete / Intangibles

- a. Competes / Battles
- b. Works Hard

- c. Passion / Grit
- d. Positive Attitude
- e. Attendance

SVHA uses a software program called OneClickIce to tabulate all rankings. After each session, rankings for the entire group are discussed amongst the Evaluation team to ensure we have agreement on player movement and the ranking of all players within the group.

11.0 Evaluation Attendance

Attendance at all evaluation skates, including time trials, skills sessions, and games is **MANDATORY**. Failure to participate in one or more evaluation session prohibits SVHA from being able to fairly evaluate and place your player on a team according to the processes outlined here within.

Therefore, in the event of any absence, movement between groups during evaluations will be restricted.

Should a player be absent for a time trial or placement skate, the initial placement will be up to the discretion of the Evaluation Committee. Should a player be absent for the entire process, the Evaluation Committee will ultimately decide the placement of the player on a team. These placements are not up for appeal.

Injuries and Family Emergencies: In the event of an injury or family emergency during evaluations, please notify the appropriate VP of Operations as well as the assigned Division Director for your players division as soon as possible.

- For U7, U9, U11 - email: vpops1@svha.ca
- For U13 – email: pres@svha.ca
- For U15/U18/U21 – email: vpops2@svha.ca

Covid and Health Emergencies: In the event of any Covid-related concerns or health concerns during evaluations, please notify the Director of Safety and Conduct immediately – safetyandconduct@svha.ca.

The Evaluation Committee makes great effort to accurately place players dealing with unfortunate injuries, family emergencies, Covid-related, or other health concerns. Depending on the duration of the absence, the Evaluation Committee will either place the player within the process, or on a team taking into special consideration the following factors:

- Performance in evaluations, should any skates have been completed
- Team previously placed on
- Previous coach and assistant coach peer comparison
- Final peer placement

The Evaluation Committee may request a doctor's note and other information. These placements are not eligible for appeal.

12.0 Players Returning from Calgary Northstars Tryouts

The overall goal is to place players returning from the Northstars within SVHA at a level that is consistent

with their ability and does not penalize them for their efforts within the Northstars organization. This year, we will commence our U15 and U18 evaluations at the conclusion of AA/AAA tryouts and accommodate returning players.

13.0 New Players

All Novice, Atom and Pee wee Players, regardless of their previous team, will participate in the Time Trial for initial placement. For Bantam and Midget, new players will be placed on an initial parity team based on the information provided to the Evaluation Committee.

14.0 Goaltender Evaluations

The evaluation of goaltenders is made difficult due to the specialized nature of the position, and the unique abilities and experience required of the evaluators.

A goalie specific skill session to decide initial placement into the evaluation process will be performed by our Goalie Evaluation team. This session will be adhered to by the Association based on the recommendations of placement criteria as set out.

Goalies can expect upward and downward movement through the groups depending on how they rank in each ice session. The Goalie Placement Skate is intended to generally place the goalies at the level they are deemed to belong, with the subsequent evaluation sessions designed to provide a more rigorous placement. In general, goalie movement will mirror the process for a skater - this includes the movement of the top goalie in each group to move up and the bottom goalie to move down. Although the evaluation model is based on an upward movement, there are instances in which a goalie may be moved down – instances such as player safety. This is at the discretion of the Evaluation Committee and is not subject to appeal.

If a goalie makes the 'A' Group, it is important to keep in mind that during the evaluation process, he/she may stay in 'A' or move to 'B' Group based on where they ranked amongst fellow goalies within those groups. Goalies that rank amongst the lowest of the 'A' group and goalies that rank at the top of 'B' group are often interchangeable and are closely matched for skill level. All further goalie evaluation and movement recommendations will be reviewed by the Goalie Evaluation team.

Goalies and their parents need to be fully aware that when a child elects to evaluate at the goaltender position in U13, U15, and U18, they will be required to remain at that position through the balance of the year. Goaltenders will **not** be permitted to switch to a player position at any time, or for any length of time, during that current season. They may choose to evaluate as a player the following year or in future seasons.

This year, we will be incorporating a Hybrid Goalie in the U11 Division. This means a goalie will be permitted to split their playing time as both a goalie and a player. Please refer to the SVHA Hybrid Goalie Policy 2020 document on our website (insert link).

The number of goaltenders per team will vary depending on the number of eligible candidates and the number of teams in a particular age group. Simons Valley Hockey Association will indicate to goalies following the pre-evaluation sessions whether they can reasonably expect to be placed on a team as a goalie through the evaluation sessions. In the event where it is likely that a goalie will not be placed on a team, the parents will be informed at that time so that the child can choose to be evaluated as a player or elect to be released to another Association. This will occur when there are more goalies interested in playing the position than there are positions on the teams.

The general guideline, if enrollment permits, is 2 goaltenders per team for all teams within each age group. This is done to ensure all our goaltenders are given the opportunity to develop at the highest level possible. Based on this, goal tenders should expect that game participation would be restricted to the goalie rotation.

If the enrollment numbers are not high enough to allow two goalies per team, then it will be up to the discretion of the Goalie Evaluation team to determine which team(s) should be allotted one goalie. It's important to note that a goalie shortage for any Division will skew the overall placement process. For example, if SVHA is short 4 or 5 goalies for a Division and your goalies' final placement is in Group B, which traditionally would indicate a placement on a higher team (1 or 2), the shortage of goalies could potentially result in your goalie landing on a Division 4 or 5 team **IF** your goalie was ranked at the bottom of the 'B' Group – this would be due to Hockey Calgary's requirements for 1 ~goalie teams and affiliations.

15.0 Communication

Information regarding players' first skate will be communicated via email. All future information regarding player movement will be made available on the SVHA website. Players will receive an email indicating that player movement is complete, and the results are posted on the website. It is the responsibility of the parents/players to check the website for information regarding group, skate time and location and jersey color. Please make sure you look through ALL evaluation groups in your players' division for your player's next skate time.

Team placement will be made within 3 to 4 days following each divisions last skate. You will receive an email or phone call from the Coach of your new team.

16.0 Questions, Suggestion, and Concerns

Questions, suggestions, or concerns should be carried out in accordance with the SVHA Members Handbook. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Division Coordinator first. Should your concern require escalation, it will then be forwarded to the Division Director and then (if applicable) the VP of Operations specific to your division.

Mid-evaluation grievances may only be made to the VP of Operations for your player's division and must be substantive in nature to be considered. Evaluations are structured such that it is expected any perceived misplacements will be addressed and resolved through completion of the process.

- For U7, U9, U11 - email: vpops1@svha.ca
- For U13 – email: pres@svha.ca
- For U15/U18/U21 – email: vpops2@svha.ca

Please observe the 24-hour rule prior to sending in your grievance.

17.0 Evaluation Grievance Procedure

If, after reviewing the Evaluation Guidelines, you feel that the Evaluation Guidelines were not adhered to, the following is required to file a grievance to be investigated by the Evaluations Committee.

1. Grievances will only be accepted between 24 and 72 hours after the conclusion of the final evaluation skate of the division in which the grievance refers.

2. Email the appropriate Vice President of Operations for your division in the following format:
 - To: For Timbit, Novice and Atom Divisions – email: vpops1_pw@svha.ca
For Peewee, Bantam, Midget and Junior C – email: vpops2@svha.ca
 - Subject line: Evaluation Grievance Request
 - Player's name
 - Division (Novice, Atom, Peewee, Bantam, or Midget)
 - Team number assigned
 - Article of Evaluation Guideline
 - Details of violation
 - Expected outcome of Review (please refer to the FAQs)
3. Once your email is reviewed you will be notified of whether the grievance is accepted as being a procedural violation and not based solely on placement. If accepted, there will be a \$150 charge and the appropriate Vice President of Operations will investigate the evaluation process for your player as described in the grievance.
4. Once the investigation is complete you will receive an email report detailing the above findings.
5. If there was an error in the evaluation process, appropriate team re-assignment may occur if warranted.
6. If there was an error, the \$150 will be refunded
7. This will close the Evaluation Review process

Note: **ALL TEAM SELECTIONS ARE FINAL.**

All decisions of the Evaluation Committee are final when reviewed and approved by the SVHA Board. A grievance resolution will consider the impact on all players, not just the player(s) included in the grievance. A grievance resolution may not change player placement but may change result in a process change.

Should a request to move a player be included as part of the proposed resolution, all factors including team size, Hockey Calgary Rules and Regulations compliance, and affiliation ramifications must be considered.

No Player will be moved down because of a successful or unsuccessful grievance.

18.0 Required Equipment for Evaluations

Full equipment is mandatory, which includes the following:

- Protective cup
- Shin Pads
- Hockey Pants
- Shoulder Pads
- Elbow Pads
- Skates
- Hockey Gloves

- Hockey Stick
- CSA Approved Helmet w/ Full Shield or Cage
- Neck Guard
- Mouth Guard

Players will be assigned numbered jerseys upon their arrival at the rink for their first evaluation skate.

19.0 Dressing Room Policy for Evaluations

In the absence of team structure, it is imperative that all players and parents abide by the SVHA Code of Conduct and adhere to the Hockey Canada Bullying and Harassment Policy. Any violation must be reported immediately to the Director of the Appropriate Division who will be present at all evaluation skates. The Director will begin to immediately take steps to rectify the complaint.

Only **players** are permitted in the dressing room. Exceptions will be made for ONE Parent or Guardian to assist with equipment. It is expected that 10 minutes prior to the start of the session that players be ready for the session. Players must stay in their assigned dressing room. Players will not be permitted to switch or visit other dressing rooms.

Violations of these statures during this period may result in your player being removed and be given a 0 for that evaluation session. The Director of each Division will supervise the dressing room with the assistance of other SVHA volunteers to ensure compliance.

PLEASE BE COURTEOUS AND REMEMBER WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS!

The policies, procedures and fees contained within this document are subject to change without notice, if necessary. The Evaluation Committee of the Simons Valley Hockey Association reserves the right to make these changes as deemed necessary, to comply with the goals, set out and approved by the Board of Directors regarding the evaluation of all registered players and goalies.

The 2020/2021 Simons Valley Hockey Association Evaluation Guideline supersedes all previous versions of posted evaluation guidelines