

Evaluation Process Handbook

**For
Players, Parents, Evaluators and Board Members**

APPROVED AUGUST 17, 2009

OLDS MINOR HOCKEY MISSION STATEMENT

The Olds Minor Hockey Association in active partnership with players, coaches, families and the community is committed to fostering the values of fairness, sportsmanship, safety, and leadership to all members of the OMHA.

Evaluation Objective

- To place all players on the team for which they are best suited, in a manner which is standardized, fair and transparent.

(The responsibilities of the various parties are also detailed in the appendices of the Positive Participation Policy.)

Olds Minor Hockey Board Responsibilities

- To increase Public Awareness of the tryout process.
- To oversee the process.
- To administer the process including ensuring that all documentation has been received and all fees have been paid before players participate in the sessions.
- To eliminate political maneuvering and interference from the player selection process and let players be evaluated on their own individual skills and development.
- To ensure the confidentiality and integrity of the information collected during the process.
- To post evaluation results in a timely manner.
- To destroy confidential information after an appropriate time period.

Individual Board Member Responsibilities

- To assist with the process in whatever appropriate manner possible.
- To excuse themselves from any situation involving their child(ren).
- To excuse themselves from any situation in which they are in conflict of interest.
- To keep information confidential.
- To support the decisions of the Committee/Board.

Parent Responsibilities

- To ensure their child attends every session.
- To encourage their child to perform to the best of their abilities.
- To support their child.
- To ensure that their child has all proper equipment and that it fits properly and is in good working order.
- To research the expectations of the evaluation process and ensure that their child is prepared and aware of same. Drills will be posted on the Association website and on the wall across from the Association office prior to try outs.
- To ensure that they and their child are ready for the level of commitment expected at the desired level. Generally speaking, A teams require a greater level of commitment than B teams and so on.

Player Responsibilities

- Attend every session.

- Ensure that they perform to the best of their ability.
- To realize that their level of effort and performance during this tryout determines their placement for the year.
- Follow the session leader instructions to the best of their abilities.
- Be ready on time, at least 15 minutes before their scheduled ice time.

Evaluator Responsibilities

- Remain impartial during the try out process.
- Provide a fair, consistent, and comprehensive evaluation of a players total hockey skills.
- Maintain confidentiality of player scores and rankings at all times.
- Encourage the players to perform to the best of their ability.
- To ensure the confidentiality and integrity of the information collected during the process.
- To post evaluation results in a timely manner.

Tryout Format (Note: There are changes in the tryout format this year)

- Player placement is based on evaluators input only. Coaches will be selected and named after team rosters are made.
- Olds Minor Hockey has secured the services of local external evaluators to maintain the impartiality of the process.
- Tryout sessions will consist of skills/drills sessions, some game situations plus scrimmages and an inter squad game.
- Olds Minor Hockey will provide four sessions for each set of tryouts.
- Goaltenders will be provided with one extra separate session.
- Team roster will be posted (alphabetically by player name) on the Association website, and on the wall across from the Association office by the evaluators.
- The drills to be used during the evaluation process will be posted on the Association website and on the wall across from the Association office before the evaluation sessions begin.
- If necessary, to provide a manageable tryout when player numbers are very large, the evaluators can move players down to the next level of tryouts following the second session.

Team Size

Team sizes and player distribution will be determined by the board, when registration numbers have been finalized.

Circumstances

a) Out of Town Tryouts

If an Olds Minor Hockey player is attending out of town tryouts (AAA or otherwise) and is unable to attend Olds Minor Hockey's tryouts in part, s/he will be included, time permitting, in the remaining portion of the tryout.

If an Olds Minor Hockey player is attending out of town tryouts (AAA or otherwise) and is unable to attend Olds Minor Hockey's tryouts in whole then mediating conditions apply. (see below)

(The player must have registered with the Association and received permission (their release) to participate in those out of town sessions.)

b) Illness or Injury

Any illness or injury which prevents participation in the tryout process must be reported to the Evaluation Committee immediately. A doctor's note and/or other documentation may be required, at the discretion of the Committee. The Committee may choose to accept the condition as legitimate or not. If found legitimate, mediating conditions will apply. (see below)

Note: Tryout Spots will not be held indefinitely.

c) Other Circumstances

Any other circumstance not covered in a) or b), but which prevents participation by a player must be brought to the attention of the Committee immediately. The Committee will rule on the legitimacy of the circumstances and may choose to impose mediating conditions or not.

Mediating Conditions:

The player will practice with the B team to assess the best fit. The Board would then appoint that player to the appropriate team.

Resident/In Town Players

Resident players are those players living within the boundaries of the Olds Minor Hockey Association, as defined by Hockey Alberta, or grandfathered into the program.

Non-resident/Out of Town Players

Players who do not meet the Association's residency requirements are considered "imports" for the purposes of tryouts.

No OMH team can consist of more than 50% non-resident players.

Underage Players

The parents of any player wishing to try out in a division above that deemed for their age must apply in writing to the Board before September 1st.

Other Administrative Matters

All players trying out must have their registration and tryout fees paid in advance and all player and parent Positive Participation Policies signed and handed in prior to being allowed to participate.

Players pay the tryout fee only once. For example, if a player tries out for the A team and is then asked to report to B tryouts, s/he does not pay again.

Evaluation scores from one level do not carry into the next level of tryouts. In other words, evaluation results from A tryouts will not carry into the B tryouts.

The deadline for registration for tryouts is **SEPTEMBER 1, 2009**.

In the case of identical evaluations, a second year player (third year player in Midget) should be given preference over a first year player (second and first year player in Midget) and a resident player must be given precedence over a non-resident player.

In the event of surplus players in a particular division, a resident player will be guaranteed a place ahead of a non-resident player.

Players choosing to not participate in tryouts will be placed on the lowest tiered team.

Grievances/Breaches of Conduct

Concerns with respect to the evaluators, the evaluation process or any other related matter must be submitted to the Board in writing within ten days of the occurrence of the alleged incident.

Do not approach evaluators during the tryout ice sessions.

The OMH Discipline Committee will investigate any attempts to approach, influence or interfere with any evaluator(s) before, during or after the evaluation process.

Disclaimer: While every attempt has been made to provide, clear, accurate and detailed information, Olds Minor Hockey reserves the right to make changes as circumstances warrant.

Additional Information about Evaluations

Evaluation Purpose

“To provide a fair, consistent and comprehensive evaluation that will result in players participating at a level that is based upon their skill level, when compared to athletes of the same age and category/”

The primary goal of the evaluation process is to provide the very best possible conditions for the players to showcase their skills. At the best of times, evaluations are a very subjective endeavor. The best you can do is provide a fair opportunity for the player to be seen as often as possible and in as many situations as possible.

What Will Be Evaluated At Each Ice Session:

Skating Skills:

- Forward & Backward Skating
- Starting & Stopping
- Pivots & Turns
- Work Ethic

Puck Control Skills:

- Passing & Receiving
- Puck Handling & Shooting

Work Ethic:

- Does the player work his or her hardest at all drills or is their work ethic inconsistent or less than 100%?
- Does the child perform the drill as described?
- What is the child’s attitude towards the tryouts & drills?
- Do they listen to the directions? Do they want the puck and do they work hard to get it?
- Do they work hard at getting to openings and/or participating in the play?
- Does the child only work when he/she has the puck, or only when on offense?

FACTS ABOUT PLAYER EVALUATIONS IN MINOR HOCKEY

1. The evaluation process should include:
 - Specific individual drills as well as testing of technical skills.
 - Competitive drills designed to test work ethic and determination.
 - Teaching to see which players understand, listen and can apply to the drill situation.
 - Scrimmage or game situations.
2. You will never satisfy everyone because we are all biased to our own needs and wants whether we are coaches, parents, or directors!

Therefore we can only be seen as fair and open and know that our process will stand scrutiny.