Organization: Olds Minor Hockey Association (OMHA)

Policy Name: Evaluations Exemption Policy and Procedure

Date of Policy Adoption: 2024 (through Team Formation Handbook)

Date of Policy Amendments: August 19, 2024/August 26, 2025/September 8, 2026

Policy Purpose: The purpose of the Association's Evaluations Exemption Policy and Procedure is to, in acknowledgement that exemptions from evaluations are at the discretion of the minor hockey association, give guidance and limitations to the Association when considering extenuating circumstances for exemptions from the evaluations process.

Applicable Hockey Canada Regulation(s):	No	Yes
Applicable Hockey Alberta Regulation(s):	No	Yes
Applicable Olds Minor Hockey Association Bylaw(s):	No	Yes

This policy is authorized under Article 3.7 (a)(i) of the Olds Minor Hockey Association bylaws.

Olds Minor Hockey Association Policy and Procedure:

Late Arrival to Olds Minor Hockey Evaluations Due to Player Attending Out-of-Town Tryouts:

- If a registered player is attending out of town AAA tryouts and is unable to attend a portion of the Olds Minor Hockey's evaluations, the player will be allowed to participate in any remaining portion of the evaluations process.
- Resident players or players from within the designated Hockey Alberta recruitment zone may, if deemed necessary, request a spot be held on the team being formed to further evaluate the late arriving player. To facilitate this process, the Registrar will

notify the Division Coordinator, who will then notify the Evaluations Coordinator, with the Evaluations Coordinator determining whether a request to hold a spot is warranted.

- The player must have registered with the Association, paid applicable fees, and received a release (if required) to participate in out-of-town tryouts.
- From subsequent evaluation sessions or team play, the held spot will be filled by the late arrival or the last cut from the team being formed during team formation.

Complete Absence from Olds Minor Hockey Evaluations Due to Player Attending Out-of-Town Tryouts:

- If a registered player is attending out of town tryouts and is unable to attend Olds Minor Hockey's evaluation sessions in their entirety, then a spot will be held on the team being formed pending the return of the player ("scenario A" as outlined below) or notification that the player will not be returning as they have been successful in making the out of town team ("scenario B" as outlined below).
- The player must have registered with the Association, paid applicable fees, and received a release (if required) to try out to participate in out-of-town tryouts.

Scenario A:

- *If the player returns to Olds Minor Hockey, players released from AAA will get a AA tryout.*
- *Players who are released from AA or only trying out for mainstream will be placed on the lowest tiered team in their division. The head coach of the next higher tiered team will be asked to select between the returning player and last cut from their team (the "comparison player"). The coach's decision is final and is not appealable through Olds Minor Hockey. If the returning player is selected to move up, then the process will begin again on the next higher team. Once a "comparison player" is selected to move up, then the last cuts from each team may move up a level.*

Scenario B: All last cuts may move up a team.

- *A skater who is named to a AAA exhibition roster will automatically be placed on the appropriate AA team upon return to Olds Minor Hockey. *In response to the unprecedented circumstances arising out of Cochrane Minor Hockey Association's and Red Deer Minor Hockey Association's approach to rostering their exhibition games, in effect for the 2026-2027 season for U15, U17, and/or U18 only the Team Formation Committee reserves the right to place skaters returning to Olds Minor Hockey Association from Cochrane Minor Hockey Association and Red Deer Minor Hockey Association to the appropriate "exhibition roster" instead of the "team".*
- *Olds Minor Hockey cannot guarantee that more than two goalie spots can be held on a AA exhibition team. Goalies may be evaluated by the Evaluations Coordinator, the Team Formation Executive, and/or head coach upon return.*

Please note that the following [amendment] to the "Evaluations Exemption Policy and Procedure" will take effect for the 2027-2028 Season:

[Scenario B: All last cuts may move up a team.

- *A skater who is named to a AAA exhibition roster will automatically be placed on the appropriate AA ~~team~~ exhibition roster upon return to Olds Minor Hockey.*
- ~~*Olds Minor Hockey cannot guarantee that more than two goalie spots can be held on a AA exhibition team. Goalies may be evaluated by the Evaluations Coordinator, the Team Formation Executive, and/or head coach upon return*~~*.]*

Requirements for Declarations of Illness or Injury:

- Any illness or injury which prevents participation in the evaluations or team formation process must be reported to the Division Coordinator immediately. A doctor's note and/or other documentation may be required as part of notification, at the discretion of the Division Coordinator. The Division Coordinator will liaise directly with the Evaluations Coordinator.
- Prior to the player participating in the process or any hockey activities, a "Return to Play" note may also be required from the doctor. Team spots in this instance cannot be held indefinitely.

- If required, a "Return to Play" note must authorize full participation prior to or on the second Friday in November.
- For the AA regional teams, a team spot may, at the discretion of the Team Formation Executive and the head coach, be held from the first day of tryouts with a doctor's note. In the event of a major or long-term injury, the Team Formation Executive may bring the matter to the Board of Directors for consideration.

Player Partial Absence from Evaluations Process Due to Injury or Illness:

- If a registered player is injured or ill and is unable to attend a portion of evaluations, the player will be allowed to participate in any remaining portion of the process.
- The independent evaluator may, if deemed necessary, request a spot be held on the team being formed to further evaluate the late arriving player; from subsequent evaluation sessions or team play the held spot will be filled by the late arrival or the last cut from the team being formed. If the independent evaluator, in consultation with the Evaluations Coordinator, determines that there has been sufficient evaluation of the player, the weighted average of the number of skates participated in by the player will be used for team formation by the Team Formation Executive.

Player Injury or Illness that Occurs During the Evaluation Process:

- If a registered player becomes injured or ill and is unable to attend the remaining portion of evaluations due to an injury or illness that occurs during the evaluation process, the independent evaluator will be asked if they have had sufficient time to make an accurate assessment of the player against their peers.
- If the independent evaluator, in consultation with the Evaluations Coordinator, determines that there has been sufficient evaluation of the player, the weighted average of the number of skates participated in by the player will be used for team formation by the Team Formation Executive.
- The independent evaluator may, if deemed necessary and in consultation with the Evaluations Coordinator, request a spot be held on the team being formed to further evaluate the late arriving player; from subsequent evaluation sessions or team play the held spot will be filled by the late arrival or the last cut from the team being formed.

Player Complete Absence from Evaluations Process Due to Injury or Illness:

- If a registered mainstream player is injured or ill and unable to attend the evaluation process in its entirety, a spot will be held on the team being formed pending the return of the player and the player will be placed on the lowest tiered mainstream team.
- If a registered AA player is injured or ill and unable to attend the evaluation process in its entirety, the head coach may, if deemed necessary and in consultation with the Evaluations Coordinator, request a spot be held on the team being formed to further evaluate the unevaluated player up until November 15; from subsequent evaluation sessions or team play the held spot will be filled by the late arrival or the last cut from the team being formed.
- When the player is eligible to return, the head coach of the next higher tiered team will be asked to select between the returning player and last cut from their team (the "comparison player").
- The head coach's decision is final and is not appealable through Olds Minor Hockey Association. If the player is selected to move up, then the process will begin again on the next higher team. Once a "comparison player" is selected to a team, then the last cuts from each team may move up a level.
- If a returning AA player (post-evaluations) does not make the AA team, they will then be placed on the lowest tiered team in their division and the mainstream selection process begins.
- The ill or injured player must have registered with the Association, paid applicable fees, provided a doctor's note for the exemption, and met other conditions outlined under "*Requirements for Declarations of Illness or Injury*".

Externally Prescribed Health Protocols:

- A player required to observe government, Hockey Canada, and/or Hockey Alberta health protocols during the evaluations process will be given the same consideration outlined in this policy for injured and ill players.

Other Circumstances Affecting Player Participation in Evaluations Process:

- Any other circumstance(s) which prevents participation by a player, must be brought to the attention of the Division Coordinator immediately.
- The Division Coordinator will liaise directly with the Evaluations Coordinator. The Team Formation Executive will rule on the legitimacy of the circumstances and may choose to impose mediating conditions or not.

Policy Review: This policy will be reviewed annually by the Olds Minor Hockey Association Board of Directors.

Policy Oversight:

The Evaluations Coordinator is primarily responsible for the implementation of this policy, although there are policy accountabilities for all Association affiliates.

Operational Appendix:

n/a