Organization: Olds Minor Hockey Association (OMHA)

Policy Name: Evaluations Policy

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 Policy is to respect Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta best practices and to establish transparent, fair, and consistent standards and expectations for the annual 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) and 11.2.d of the Olds Minor Hockey Association bylaws.

Olds Minor Hockey Association Policy:

Purpose of Evaluations:

- The Association purposes to provide fair, consistent and comprehensive evaluations 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 evaluations process is to provide the very best possible conditions for players to showcase their skills by providing a fair opportunity for the player to be seen as often and in as many situations as possible.

Evaluations Participation Requirements:

- All players must have their registration completed, fees paid in advance, the Association's Positive Participation Policy and all player and parent pledge forms acknowledged and signed prior to being allowed to participate in evaluation sessions.
- If a player participates in AA evaluations and has not paid for registration in the mainstream program, they cannot subsequently participate in mainstream evaluations until they have registered and paid the applicable amount.
- All players must participate in the evaluations sessions they are assigned to, unless exempted under the "Evaluations Exemptions Policy". Players who miss a scheduled session without receiving a formal exemption will be deemed to forfeit the evaluation skate that is missed.
- The Association may allow a player with a legitimate emergency to reschedule an evaluation skate in rare circumstances, however, will not permit the rescheduling of assigned evaluation skates for ice time, teammate, coach, evaluator, scheduling or any other preferences that could be perceived as giving advantage to the player. Players who miss a scheduled session without receiving a formal exemption will be deemed to forfeit the evaluation skate that is missed.

Terms of Player Commitments From Spring Evaluations:

- Players who receive a commitment from Olds Minor Hockey Association must still comply with Hockey Alberta regulations, as well as the Association's "Evaluations Policy" and "Evaluations Exemption Policy and Procedure" by participating in fall evaluations.
- Players will receive a standardized letter from the Association.
- Selected players will not be required to pay the fall evaluations registration fee, however, will still be required to pay the conditioning camp fee, if applicable. If a player has not registered before the late fees come into effect, they will be required to pay the late fees.
- Player selections arising from Olds Minor Hockey Association's spring evaluations are considered commitments from the Association to the player, and not solely commitments from the head coach to the player. The Association will honour commitments to the player even if there is a head coach adjustment after spring evaluations for the subsequent season.

General Evaluations Considerations:

- The Association will assign skaters to evaluation sessions based on random assignment by the Registrar. Special requests and requests to be reassigned from assigned skates will not be considered by the Association, except for circumstances permitted under the "Evaluations Exemption Policy".
- The Association reserves the right for the independent evaluators to temporarily reduce the number of skaters to allow the evaluators better opportunity to evaluate players currently ranked in the middle of the group. If exercised, the reduction in skaters will only occur for one of the three evaluation skates.
- Skaters participating in U11 evaluation sessions must make the line change at the buzzer. Shifts will be one minute and thirty seconds.

Late Registration:

- If registration occurs after the annual registration deadline, it must be approved by the Board of Directors for the player to be included in the team formation process. The Board will consider late registration requests on a case-by-case basis, and consider factors such as:

    - General Association and specific team numbers;
    - Position needs in specific age divisions;
    - The first-priority commitment to resident players; and/or
    - Other relevant factors specific to the late registration request.

Standard of Evaluators:

- The Association engages independent evaluators on an annual basis to maintain impartiality of the evaluations process.
- The Association prescribes a minimum of three qualified and independent evaluators for every ice session during evaluations to ensure each player is comprehensively evaluated.

Evaluations Scoring:

- The following will be evaluated throughout evaluations:

Skating Skills:

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

Puck Control Skills:

- Passing & Receiving
- Puck Handling
- Shooting

Compete and Game Sense:

- Consistency of Work Ethic
- Intensity of Work Ethic
- Puck Battling
- Positional Play

Goaltending Skills (if applicable):

- Movement
- Puck Tracking
- Puck Handling

Please note that this [new section] to the "Evaluations Policy" will take effect for the 2027-2028 Season:

[Evaluations Sessions:

- Mainstream evaluation skates for U11, U13, U15, and U18 may consist of one skills session and two games or three games, at the discretion of the Evaluations Committee.
- AA evaluation skates may consist of one skills session and two games or three games, at the head coach's discretion. If a head coach has not yet been appointed, the determination will be at the discretion of the Evaluations Committee.
- The determination whether the evaluations sessions will be one skills session and two games or three games must be made before the first conditioning skate and be specified in the evaluations schedule that is made available to skaters.]

Rankings Carryover:

- Evaluation rankings from AA evaluation camps do not carry into the next level of evaluations, however, resident players who progress to the AA program pre-season tournament will automatically be placed on the A mainstream team without further evaluation or the requirement to participate in evaluation sessions.
- If a skater misses a fall evaluation in a manner that is consistent with the Association's "Evaluations Exemption Policy and Procedure", the player's spring evaluation ranking may be utilized provided the head coach consults with the Evaluations Coordinator.

Attempts to Influence or Interfere with Evaluators:

- Attempts to approach, influence or interfere with evaluators before, during, or after the evaluations process will be reported to the appropriate Association designate by the evaluators, without exception.

- All reports of alleged attempts to approach, influence or interfere with evaluators will be submitted to the Grievance Committee and investigated according to Grievance Committee Procedure.

Confidentiality of Evaluations:

- Evaluation rankings will not be shared with general Members of the Association.
- Evaluation rankings will not be shared with any member of the Board of Directors, except for:
    - Board Members officially appointed for a review of a grievance as prescribed by the Association's Grievance Procedure. In this circumstance, relevant evaluation rankings may be shared with Grievance Committee Members charged to address the matter only if evaluation rankings are relevant to the substance of the matter being investigated;
    - Board Members officially appointed to the team formation process as prescribed by the Team Formation Policy; and

    - Approved coaches with player selection according to the Team Formation Policy, will be given limited access to rankings only of the players that the coach may select picks from.
- All persons entrusted with ranking information are bound by strict confidentiality, without exception.
- Under no circumstance will numerical evaluation scores or rankings ever be conveyed to a Member submitting a grievance.
- All ranking information will be destroyed following the February 10 Hockey Canada Registry deadline.

Grievances Arising from Evaluations:

- Concerns with respect to the evaluators, the evaluation process or any other related procedural matters must be submitted to the Grievance Committee in writing within ten days of the occurrence of the alleged incident.
- Any grievance received challenging only the ranking and subsequent team placement of a particular player will not be accepted as a bona fide grievance and any grievance submission fee may be forfeited.

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:

Evaluations: Roles and Responsibilities

Evaluations Scoring Form