



Evaluations – F.A.Q

1. What will be different from last year?

- a. Southwest Hockey has partnered with Village Sports to provide external support to the evaluation process. This means that Village Sports will support not only the development of the evaluation process but will also provide evaluators for the following Age Categories: U11, U13, U15 and U18.
- b. There have also been significant changes to **ALL** Age Categories with regards to evaluated Skill Skates. Please review the Evaluation Guideline document **PRIOR** to evaluations.

2. Who will be conducting the evaluations?

- a. U11 to U18 participants will be evaluated by an outside professional company. These professional evaluation companies were approved by the SW Hockey Board of Directors.
- b. Community U7 and U9; along with House League U9 and U11 will be evaluated by Southwest Hockey volunteers. The Association expects evaluators to maintain a professional demeanor when conducting evaluations, and must also adhere to expectations and a Code of Conduct.
- c. Volunteer Coaches **ARE NOT** permitted to evaluate their own participant(s).
- d. For goalies, an outside professional evaluation company – World Pro Goaltending; will be used under the supervision of the Director of Evaluations and the Goalie Coordinator. This professional evaluation company was approved by the SW Hockey Board of Directors.

3. Are Parents / Legal Guardians permitted to evaluate?

- a. Yes. However; as a result of moving to external evaluators, Southwest Hockey will **NO LONGER** allow Parents / Legal Guardians to evaluate the SAME Age Category for which they have children registered in; outside of specific circumstances; such as Placement Games.
 - In these circumstances; Head Coaches may be requested to evaluate, where they may have children in the same Age Category, however – they will not evaluate **their OWN** child.

4. When will evaluation sessions be held?

- a. Evaluations for your participant(s) specific age group will begin upon conclusion of the Pathway Skates.



5. What should my child wear to the evaluation sessions?

- a. **FULL** equipment is ALWAYS mandatory. Further details can be found at: [Parents > Equipment](#).
- b. **IMPORTANT**: Participants are asked to NOT wear any “rep, all-star, or select” team jersey or socks. If worn, the player may be requested to turn their jersey inside out.

6. Is there anything else I need to bring to the 1st evaluation session?

- a. Your participant must bring BOTH a WHITE and a BLACK jersey with them to evaluation skates.

7. Are we required to ‘sign-in’ anywhere?

- a. Yes! ALL participants MUST check-in for EVERY session → at the Welcome Table!
- b. If you are volunteering – you MUST also check-in at the Welcome Table!

8. What are Pathway Skates?

- a. Pathway Skates are FREE; NON-evaluated, optional ice times for participants.
- b. Although these skates are not mandatory, they provide an opportunity for participants to start the new hockey season in a ‘less-formal’ format.
- c. Some Age Categories will be scheduled the start of their Pathway Skates PRIOR to the Labour Day weekend.
- d. SW Coaches and on-ice volunteers will run participants through various drills.
- e. Pathway Skates are applicable for the Community League from U7 to U18, as well as House League U9 and House League U11.
- f. To review the number of Pathway Skates that your Age Category is receiving, please refer to the Evaluation Schedule that can be found on the SW Hockey website under the [Parents > Evaluations](#) tab.

9. Do I have to be registered with SW Hockey to participate in the SW Hockey Pathway Skates?

- a. Yes! ALL Participants MUST be registered with SW Hockey BEFORE being permitted on the ice or bench.
- b. Elite Released Participant – MUST ALSO have registered with SW Hockey BEFORE attending ANY Pathway Skates. Please also allow a reasonable amount of time to have your registration processed.

10. Where can I find the evaluation schedule?

- a. The schedule can be found at: [Parents > Evaluations > Evaluation Schedule](#).

11. What is being evaluated?

- a. Refer to the **Evaluation Guidelines**; which can be found at: **Parents > Evaluations**

12. Are Evaluators held to a Code of Conduct?

- a. Yes! Evaluators will be required to sign an Evaluators Code of Ethics before completing any evaluations.

13. Are Members held to a Code of Conduct?

- a. Yes! As per the Code of Conduct and Expectations that were acknowledged at the time of registration, **ANY** inappropriate conduct by participants, or Parents / Legal Guardians will **NOT** be tolerated.
- b. If a member has a concern, they are to reach out to one (1) of the Southwest Hockey Team Members who are present at the evaluation skate times.
- c. If a member or spectator who is watching evaluations is unable to maintain respectful behaviour; they will be asked to leave the arena and can face a 30-day suspension.

14. How will the Age Categories be initially grouped?

- a. U7 → Participants will be done alphabetically.
- b. U9 1st Year → Participants will be will be grouped alphabetically.
- c. U9 2nd Year → Participants will be grouped according to the team they played on last season.
- d. U11, U13, U15 and U18 → Participants will be based on team placement from prior year.

15. Will the U11 Hybrid Goalie position continue for the upcoming season?

- a. Yes. This position will continue. Refer to the Hybrid Goalie specific section of the Evaluation Guidelines for more information.

16. My child is trying out for Elite. Do the evaluation skates overlap?

- a. No. Evaluations for **U13, U15 & U18** will begin **AFTER** the Hockey Calgary deadline for the Elite Associations to release participants back to their community association; who did not place on an Elite team.

17. What can you tell me about “Body Contact” and “Non-Body Contact”?

- a. It is a requirement in Southwest that **every 1st year U15 participant** attend a Checking Clinic **PRIOR** to their evaluations. Southwest Hockey provides this clinic for **FREE; for registered** participants.
- b. Your interest in being evaluated for a Body Checking team **does not guarantee** a spot on a Body Checking team.

- c. SW Hockey U15 & U18 teams will compete against other community hockey teams from across the city. Participants can choose to register to play in Body Checking or Non-Body Checking. Through registration, members are to select which category the participant wants to evaluate in. All participants will be placed as per their evaluation tryout.
- d. The Body Checking division has three (3) teams; which are tiered. There are limited spots and typically the SW Hockey Association has more participants choose to evaluate in this division, than there are spots available.
 - In these cases, participants who don't successfully evaluate in a Body-Checking division will continue in evaluations but will be moved to the Non-Body Checking division. The teams in NON-Body-Checking division are also tiered.

18. What can you tell me about the helmet stickers?

- a. The system uses individual helmet numbers to identify each participant. The numbers assigned are random and do **NOT** indicate a participant's "ranking" within the group.
- b. Helmet stickers will be handed out at the 1st skate, at the Welcome (check-in) Table.
- c. It is the participant's AND parent(s) / legal guardian(s) responsibility to collect their participant(s) helmet sticker and place them on either side of the helmet.
 - If a member has any questions about placement – PLEASE ask the Welcome Table.
 - If there are any problems with a helmet sticker during evaluations, it is a participants AND parent(s) / legal guardian(s) responsibility to notify your Age Group Eval Lead.
- d. These stickers **MUST** remain on the participant's helmet for the **ENTIRETY** of the evaluation process.

19. Does my child's jersey colour or helmet number mean something during evaluations?

- a. Each participant is assigned a unique helmet number; which are generated randomly and holds no bearing to a participant's standing during evaluations.
- b. Evaluators will only know the participants' helmet number, and whether they are evaluating as a forward or defence (*when applicable*), and not by their name.
- c. There is no correlation between the helmet number, the jersey colour and the participant rank during the sessions.

20. How are the participants notified of their standing within the process?

- a. Age Division Eval Leads are responsible for tracking evaluations and will contact parents / legal guardians, participants via email.

21. How will I be contacted regarding evaluations?

- a. **Email is the MAIN form of communication and it's a Members responsibility to check their email on a REGULAR basis to ensure timely receipt of updates and any potential schedule changes.**
 - **NOTE:** It is recommended that members periodically check their Spam / Junk folders as well and mark SW emails as 'safe' – to ensure emails are not missed.
- b. Information is also available on the SW Hockey website and through periodic newsletters (Southwest Slapshot). These newsletters are also available on the website.

22. How will the evaluation information be used?

- a. Evaluation results will be used to place participants on a team where they will have the appropriate skill level to ensure a fun and competitive environment.

23. What happens after evaluations conclude?

- a. Upon completion of evaluations, your assigned Head Coach will contact all participants on the team.
- b. During the initial introductions, the Head Coach may introduce the Assistant Coaches. The Head Coach may also outline any other team positions that need to be filled, as well as the first team practice(s). The first Parent Meeting date may also be communicated to discuss the season.

24. How soon after evaluations, does the season start?

- a. The season typically starts immediately after evaluations are completed; which in most cases is late September or early October.
- b. Your practice schedule will be uploaded to your team in TeamSnap.

25. Is there an Evaluation Appeal Process?

- a. Yes. The information about this can be found in the Evaluation Guidelines at: **Parent > Evaluations.**

26. Where can I find additional information about evaluations?

- a. The Evaluation Guidelines document can be found on the SW Hockey website at: **Parent > Evaluations.**