



2023 – 2024 Evaluation Guidelines

www.southwesthockey.ca

**'MAKING HOCKEY FUN AND REWARDING,
FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS'**



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1.0 EVALUATION PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES OVERVIEW

“Southwest Hockey (“SW”, “SWH”, “SW Hockey”) Evaluation Guidelines” will be following a joint vision of a conceptual framework established by Hockey Calgary with integration of the Village Sports evaluation guidance. The majority of the conceptual framework was guided by Hockey Canada with some adjustments to support the integration of Village Sports within the evaluation process at SW Hockey as well as some adjustments to fit the needs of our Association.

The following is an excerpt from the first page of the Hockey Canada “Player Evaluation Selection Guidelines” document:

“Each year in Canada close to 3500 Minor Hockey Associations undertake the task of placing players on teams. The ultimate goal of this process is to provide players with the best possible experience in an environment where they can grow as hockey players and young people. For many minor hockey Executives, Evaluators, Coaches, Parents and Players this can be a tension filled, laborious and frustrating experience – the goal of this document is to make it a more fulfilling and positive experience for all. The purpose of this document is to provide a conceptual framework for Associations supported by a number of practical evaluation tools and resources.”

1.1 GENERAL

Player Evaluations shall be held for each Age Category prior to the selection of teams for each season. These evaluations will be coordinated by the Director of Evaluations; who reports to the SW Hockey Board. All final team placements must be approved by the Director of Evaluations, upon the conclusion of evaluations.

The Evaluation Guidelines shall;

- Provide a breakdown of the procedures and standards for conducting the evaluations.
- Provide further information, and will be updated on a continual basis, of which any changes will have been approved by the SW Board of Directors.
- Be made available on the SW Hockey website for review.
- Be maintained by the Evaluation Committee; chaired by the Director of Evaluations.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Southwest Hockey Association would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut’ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Metis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.

Southwest Hockey Association would like to acknowledge and thank Hockey Canada for providing an evaluation framework. The Association would also like to thank Village Sports who have been great collaborators in developing a comprehensive process to support the evaluation of all participants at Southwest Hockey.



3.0 OBJECTIVES OF PARTICIPANT EVALUATIONS

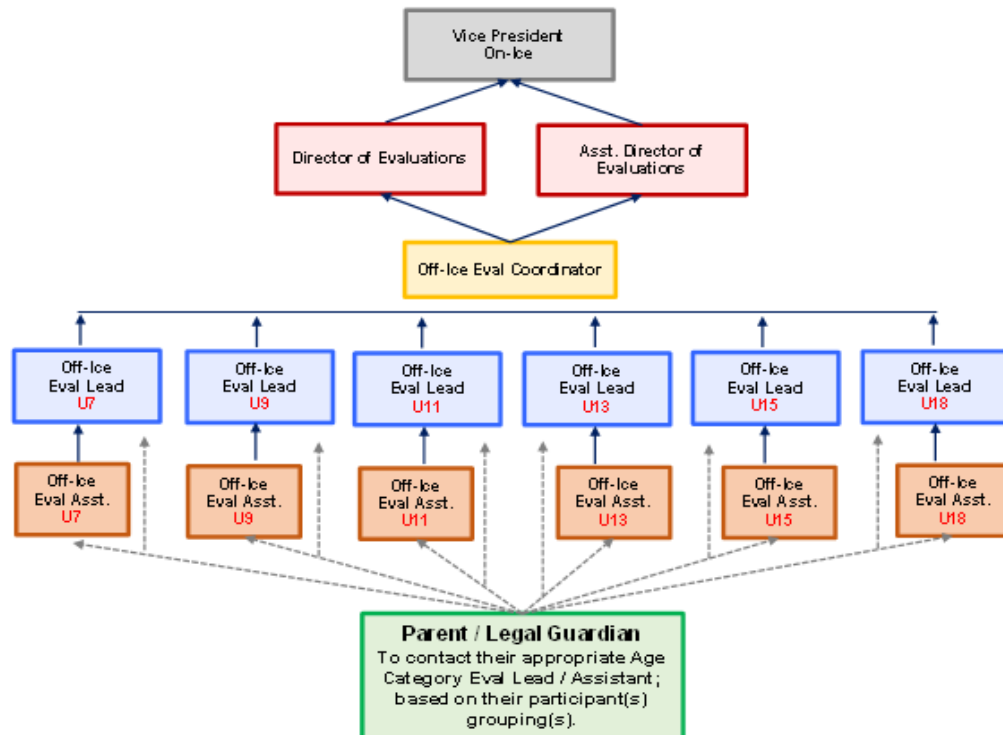
Southwest Hockey has a number of objectives with its participant evaluation process:

- To provide a fair and impartial assessment of a participant's total hockey skills during the skills and scrimmage sessions.
- To ensure that participants have a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a team appropriate to their skill levels as determined during the on-ice evaluations of the current year.
- To provide uniformity and consistency in the evaluation process such that a participant and parent expectations are consistent from year to year as players move through the various levels of the association's programs.
- To form teams to maintain balanced and competitive play where the athletes can develop and participate equitably and have fun playing hockey during the season.

4.0 COMMUNICATION TREE

During evaluations, Board Members and the general membership (parents / guardians); shall follow the proper lines of communication and direct all suggestions, opinions and concerns to their respective Eval Leads and Eval Assistants.

The Eval Leads / Eval Assistants are responsible for responding in a timely fashion and as required, will follow up with their Off-Ice Eval Coordinator. As needed, the Off-Ice Coordinator will follow up with the Director and/or Assistant Director of Evaluations.





5.0 MEMBER BEHAVIOUR – DURING EVALUATIONS

Should there be disrespectful, improper or unbecoming behaviour specifically during evaluations; the member may be suspended for up to 30-days, upon notice by the Director of Evaluations, Assistant Director of Evaluations and/or Vice President On-Ice.

- No appeal will be permitted.
- Suspended member will not be permitted in the arena for the duration of the suspension; regardless of the timing that the suspension was issued.
 - Meaning (as an example) – If a member is suspended on September 30th, the suspension will carry through till October 30th; due to their unbecoming behaviour, unless otherwise adjusted by the Vice President On-Ice.

6.0 U7 EVALUATION PROCESS

The philosophy of the U7 Program is to encourage an environment in which children can learn the **FUN**damentals of hockey in a safe, fun atmosphere that doesn't focus on winning.

6.1 U7 Objectives

The objectives of U7 hockey are:

- Provide a positive environment for learning the **FUN**damental skills of hockey.
- Create a safe environment for players to experience the sport.
- Incorporate physical literacy, fair play, co-operation and FUN into the sport.
- Stimulate interest and desire to continue playing the game of hockey.
- Develop basic hockey skills.
- Improve utilization of ice time to increase opportunities for players to handle the puck.
- Develop self-esteem through a sense of achievement.
- Teach the basic rules of hockey.

6.2 U7 Team Structure

Every attempt is made to ensure that in each category; U7 Junior (JR) and U7 Senior (SR) that the skill levels among all teams is similar and that no single team is “stacked” in skill level.

Example: There are three (3) U7 JR teams & four (4) U7 SR teams; the three (3) U7 JR teams should consist of similar skill level, and each of the four (4) U7 SR teams should consist of similar skill level.

The structure of each season depends upon the total number of registered participants. The participants will be grouped into the two (2) categories based on appropriate skill level.

The U7 Age Category does not evaluate by position.

U7 Junior (JR)	Generally, are 1 st year participants. Although, may also include U7 SR participants who demonstrated weaker skating skills.
U7 Senior (SR)	Generally, are 2 nd year participants. Although may also include U7 JR participants who demonstrated strong skating skills.



6.3 U7 Evaluation Drills

There will be two (2) evaluated skating sessions (**SKATE 1 & SKATE 2**), each consisting of three (3) drills to help determine player strength(s):

1. Forward Skating – Without a puck.
2. Forward Skating – With a puck.
3. Backward Skating – Without a puck.

7.0 EVALUATIONS OVERVIEW (COMMUNITY LEAGUE: U9 to U18)

The following details the evaluation process that will be used for the selection of all U9 to U18 teams within Southwest Hockey.

7.1 General Evaluation Process

Southwest Hockey's evaluation process will generally abide by the following norms:

- **Tiering:**
 - Each age group will be tiered from top to bottom.
 - Participants will be ranked from 1 to 'X' and the teams are tiered with the top 1-X participants making up Team 1, next 1-X Team 2, etc.
- **NO Participant is 'protected':**
 - A participant in their 2nd year of their age group **CAN** place on a lower team than they did in their 1st year.
- **Questions:**
 - SW Hockey encourages Parents/Legal Guardians to ask questions if there is any confusion about the evaluation process to help ensure an open and transparent process.
 - All communications regarding evaluations should follow the Communication Tree as noted in **SECTION 4.0**. Emails can be found on the SW Hockey website at: <https://www.southwesthockey.ca/evaluations/>
- **Evaluation Sheets:**
 - To help maintain integrity in the system, evaluation sheets will be collected by the Off-Ice Age Group Evaluation Coordinators, and all original copies will be kept by Southwest Hockey for a minimum period of one year.
- **Unable to Partake:**
 - Should a participant be unable to partake in the full evaluation process, the procedures for team placement will follow the Illness / Absent Policy noted in **SECTION 20.0**
- **Single Teams & Multiple Teams in an Age Division:**
 - Due to the unique nature of having single teams in some age divisions, and multiple teams in others; participants **MAY be asked to participate in the following during the final division scrimmages:**
 - **No Games**
 - **One (1) Game, or**
 - **Two (2) Games**



7.2 Participant Positions

Participants will be evaluated by position at the following levels:

U9	NOT done by position	U11	FOR: Skaters, Goalies & Hybrid Goalies
U13	FOR: Forwards, Defense, Goalies	U15	FOR: Forwards, Defense, Goalies
U18	FOR: Forwards, Defense, Goalies		

7.2.1 U13, U15, & U18

SWH requires participants to identify the position (forward or defense) they wish to evaluate for in: U13, U15, & U18.

Once the decision is made to evaluate in that position, **participants will NOT be permitted** to change their position unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated and agreed to by the Off-Ice Age Group Evaluation Coordinator and Director of Evaluations.

7.2.1 Forward / Defence Placements

There may be certain situations where there is a noticeable discrepancy in skill levels between assigned forwards and defense. SW Hockey reserves the right to deviate from this policy when necessary.

Every attempt will be made to ensure the proper placement of defensemen and forwards, recognizing appropriate skill levels and safety concerns.

During the evaluation process; if there is a situation where there is a lack of forwards or defense in a particular session, **ALL** participants on the ice will be asked to rotate to fill the void. The skaters preferred position will be clearly communicated to the evaluators and the participants will be evaluated accordingly.

Southwest Hockey may place less than the recommended number of defense or forwards to a team based on discrepancies in ability and level of play.

The Head Coach will be made aware of this and each Head Coach will have the authority to make position adjustments throughout the season as they deem necessary.

7.3 Body Checking & Non-Body Checking: U15 & U18

As per Hockey Calgary; 'checking' is **ONLY PERMITTED** in U15 and U18; Tiers 1, 2 and 3.

1st year U15 participants **MUST** have taken a Checking Clinic **PRIOR** to the start of evaluations.

- SW Hockey **HOSTS a FREE** Checking Clinic for ALL 1st year U15 SWH registered participants; although signing up for the clinic is required.
- Information will be sent by the Administrator directly to registered 1st year U15 participants approximately the 3rd week of August with instructions on how to sign up.



The U15 and U18 evaluation groups will be designated as “Checking” or “Non-Checking” prior to the ice time based on the projected divisions of the grouping.

During Registration:

1. Players **MUST** designate “Body Checking” or “Non-Body Checking”.
 - a. If a player has designated themselves as non-Checking, they will always be assigned to a non-Checking group for the duration of evaluations.
2. There will be both Body Checking and Non-Body Checking evaluation groups.
3. Rankings will determine a participants final group placement.
 - a. A player may be placed in a Non-Body Checking group **even if they designated body checking at the time of registration.**
4. There are a limited number of spots available in the Body Checking division, and typically the Association has more participants choose to evaluate in this division than there are spots available.
 - a. Therefore, in these cases participants who don’t successfully evaluate in a Body Checking division will continue in evaluations but will be moved to a NON-Body Checking division. Teams in the Non-Body Checking division are also tiered.

8.0 PRE-SEED CORRECTION (COMMUNITY U9 – U18)

SW Hockey’s evaluation process contemplates the use of a pre-seed correction skate.

In rare circumstances → where **it’s clear** to the evaluators that a child is in the incorrect initial group; a participant **may be moved more than one (1) group** during the seeding correction.

For example: A participant is in Group 3 to begin with and who **clearly** belongs in Group 1 based on evaluation scores and feedback provided by the evaluators, an adjustment will be made in the pre-seed correction. This participant may also be removed from the ice mid-evaluation if they are clearly misplaced. They will then be asked to skate in the next ice time.

The pre-seed correction is important for the following reasons:

- Children develop at different rates due to growth and mental capabilities.
- A participant may have spent a lot of time in the off-season working on skill weaknesses via hockey schools, hockey camps etc.
- Participants new to the Association may have been initially seeded incorrectly.
- Certain age groups may have a strong group of participants moving up to the next age group relative to the returning 2nd year participants.

8.1 U9 – Pre-Seed

Participants returning to U9 for their 2nd year will be assigned groups based on their team placements from the prior season, and then placed in initial seeding groups.

Participants in U9 for their 1st year will be assigned groups according to their last names (alphabetically).

****Due to this INITIAL set-up**** → Please expect a large amount of movement of the participants in the U9 age division. Your initial group **WILL NOT** necessarily remain your group for the remainder of the evaluation skates.

8.2 U11 to U18 – Pre-Seed

Players will be assigned to their initial group based on their team placement from the prior season.

9.0 U9 – EVALUATION SESSIONS

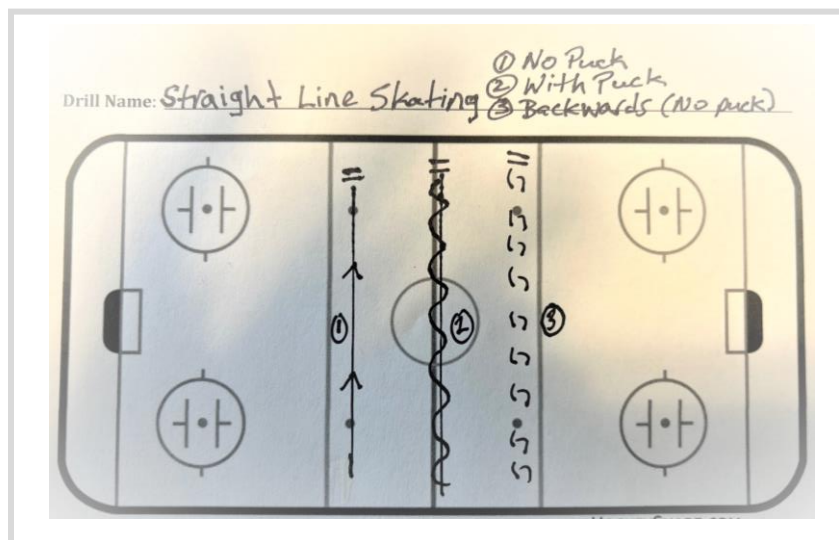
SW Hockey's evaluation process for U9 utilizes a combination of skill sessions, split ice scrimmage, and will be as follows:

9.1 U9: SKATE 1 & SKATE 2 – SKILL SESSIONS

Participants will go through five (5) **SKILL Drills**, which will run for up to approximately 10-minutes each; where the best evaluator score for each participant will be recorded.

9.1.1 DRILL 1: STRAIGHT LINE SKATE

- Participants will execute this drill while skating forwards without a puck, while skating forwards with a puck, and while skating backwards without a puck.
- Participants will start on the side wall outside the blue line and skate across the ice parallel to the blue line.



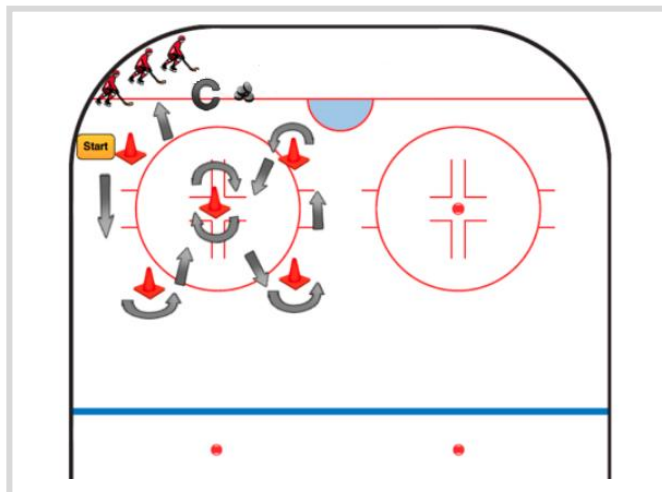
9.1.2 DRILL 2: PUCK RETRIEVAL & BOARD SKILLS WITH PASS

- Participant chips a puck behind another participant to go back and retrieve, then wheel around the net quickly before passing back to a participant.
- Coach chips puck behind a participant who goes back to retrieve puck under token forecheck pressure from a participant.
- Forechecker vary pressure from both left side and right side of the participant retrieving the puck so the other participant must read the pressure.



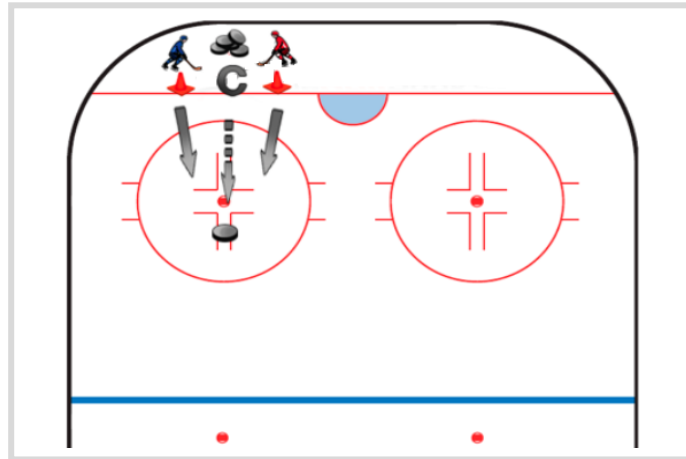
9.1.3 DRILL 3: AGILITY SKATING SKILL STATION

- This drill is intended to maximize edge control, balance, agility and coordination.
- Participants will start at the coach's direction.
- Participants will start at the first cone, and will complete the dice pattern as indicated in the diagram below.
- This drill will be completed skating forward **AND** backward.



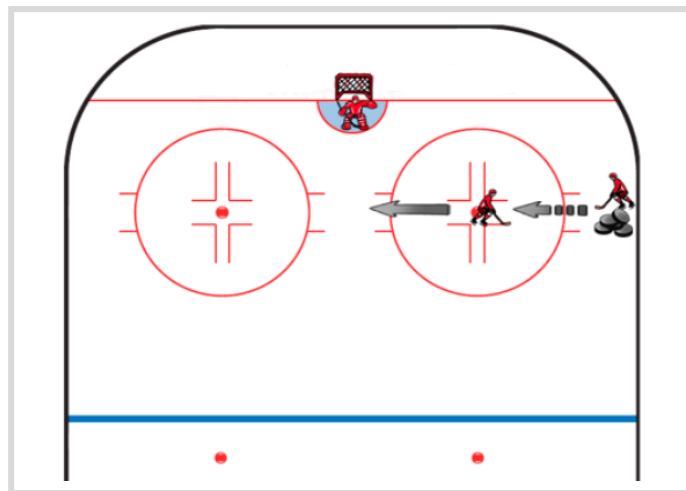
9.1.4 DRILL 4: COMPETITION 1 on 1

- The coach will spot a puck in the corner as indicated, and two (2) participants race to gain possession.
- Once possession is gained, the participant with the puck will pass to a stationary coach.
- The coach will feed a new puck and the drill continues.
- This drill will continue for approximately 30-seconds.



9.1.5 **DRILL 5 – CATCH & RELEASE SHOOTING STATION**

- The shooter will start close to the face off dot, and the passer begins close to the board side has-mark.
- The shooter faces the passer and calls for the pass.
- Once received the shooter turns to the net and tries to shoot quickly.
- The shooter then continues to the hash mark area toward the middle of the ice, and receives a second pass which will be shot on net.



9.2 **U9: SKATE 3 – SPLIT ICE SCRIMMAGE (3 vs. 3)**

Participants will be ranked by evaluators against other participants assigned to that ice time.

9.2.1 **Procedures**

1. Participants will be assigned to a team who are 'like skilled'.
2. Participants will be assigned to teams based on their scores in the prior skates and will be assigned to teams based on a 'serpentine draft' in order to allow for equally weighted team(s) and play in a series of cross ice, 3-on-3 games.
3. Three (3) to four (4); 3-on-3 teams will be on the ice at any given time and will be differentiated using pinnies.



4. 'Shooter tutors' on the small U9 regulation nets will be used for the split ice scrimmages.
5. Games will last 12 to 15 minutes with approximately a 3-minute break between games to allow for rest and to reassign teams to new games.
6. Within each game, participants will be rotated every 45 seconds and lines will be rotated to the best of our abilities so that participants do not play with the same participants, for any regular length of time.

9.3 **U9: SKATE 4 – SPLIT ICE SCRIMMAGE (4 vs 4 GAME)**

Participants will be ranked by evaluators against other participants assigned to that ice time.

9.3.1 **Procedures**

1. Participants will be assigned to a team who are 'like skilled'.
2. Participants will be assigned to teams based on their scores in the prior skates and will be assigned to teams based on a 'serpentine draft' in order to allow for equally weighted team(s) and play in a series of half-ice, 4vs4 games; which will follow the U9 game set-up as outlined by Hockey Calgary.
3. Games will be 2 x 24 minutes with a 3-minute break between games to allow for rest and to reassign teams to new games.
4. Select players may be asked by the evaluation team to dress as a goalie for the 4vs4 game, this will in no way negatively impact those participants during the evaluation process.
 - a. The goalies will play on the smaller U9 regulation nets.
 - b. If participants are unavailable to play as goalies during the game, then the 'shooter tutors' will be used.
5. With each game, participants will be rotated every 90 seconds with buzzers and lines will be rotated to the best of our abilities so that participants do not play with the same participants for any regular length of time.

9.4 **U9: SKATE 5 – PLACEMENT GAME**

A group of representatives **will evaluate a select number of participants** who are being considered for movement. The process for the game will be similar to Skate 4: 4vs4 split ice scrimmage. Refer to **SECTION 18.0**, for more information on this process.

10.0 **U11 – EVALUATION SESSIONS**

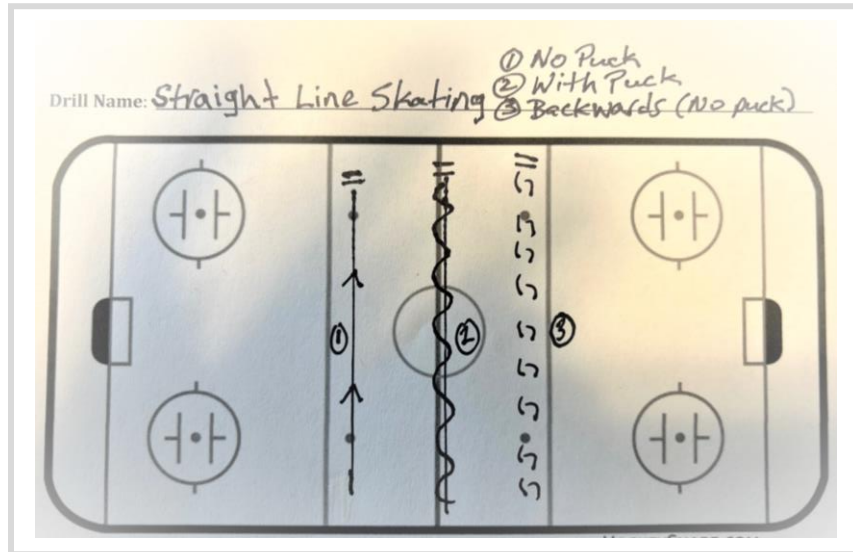
SW Hockey's evaluation process for U11 utilizes a combination of skill sessions, split ice scrimmage and full ice scrimmage-based sessions, and will be as follows:

10.1 **U11: SKATE 1 – SKILL SESSIONS**

Participants will go through five (5) **SKILL Drills**, which will run for up to approximately 10-minutes each; where the best evaluator score for each participant will be recorded.

10.1.1 DRILL 1: STRAIGHT LINE SKATE

- Participants will execute this drill while skating forwards without a puck, while skating forwards with a puck and while skating backwards without a puck.
- Participants will start on the side wall outside the blue line and skate across the ice parallel to the blue line.



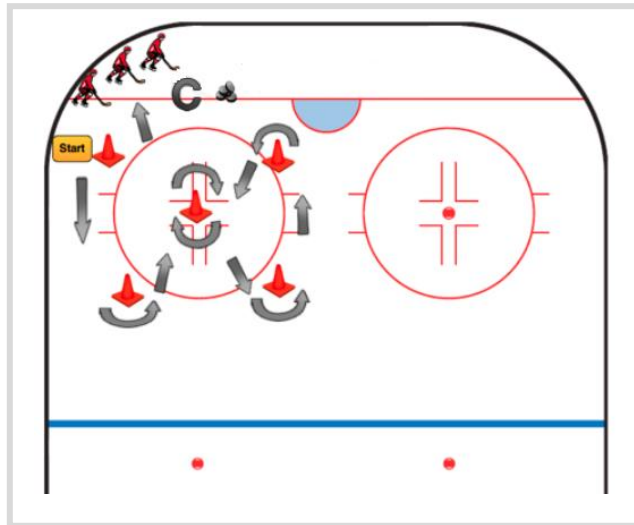
10.1.2 DRILL 2 – PUCK RETRIEVAL & BOARD SKILLS WITH PASS

- Participant chips a puck behind another participant to go back and retrieve, then wheel around the net quickly before passing back to a participant.
- Coach chips puck behind a participant who goes back to retrieve puck under token forecheck pressure from a participant.
- Forechecker vary pressure from both left side and right side of the participant retrieving the puck so the other participant must read the pressure.



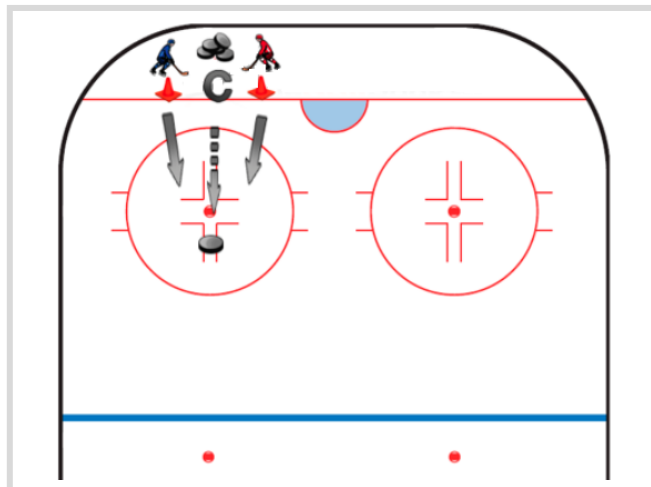
10.1.3 DRILL 3: AGILITY SKATING SKILL STATION

- This drill is intended to maximize edge control, balance, agility and coordination.
- Participants will start at the coach's direction.
- Participants will start at the first cone, and will complete a dice pattern as indicated below.
- This drill will be completed skating forward **AND** backward.



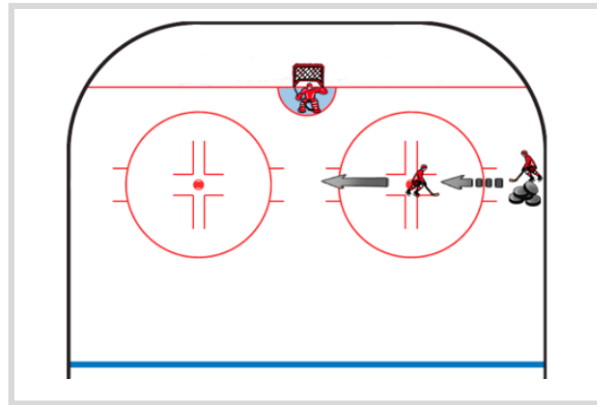
10.1.4 DRILL 4: COMPETITION 1 on 1

- The coach will spot a puck in the corner as indicated, and two (2) participants race to gain possession.
- Once possession is gained, the participant with the puck will pass to a stationary coach.
- The coach will feed a new puck and the drill continues.
- This drill will continue for approximately 30-seconds.



10.1.5 DRILL 5 – CATCH & RELEASE SHOOTING STATION

- The shooter will start close to the face off dot, and the passer begins close to the board side has-mark.
- The shooter faces the passer and calls for the pass.
- Once received the shooter turns to the net and tries to shoot quickly.
- The shooter then continues to the hash mark area toward the middle of the ice, and receives a second pass which will be shot on net.



10.2 U11: SKATE 2 – SPLIT ICE SCRIMMAGE (3 vs. 3)

Participants will be ranked by the evaluators against other participants, assigned to that ice time.

10.2.1 Procedures

1. Participants will be assigned to a team who are 'like skilled'.
2. Participants will be assigned to teams based on their scores in the prior skates and will be assigned to teams based on a 'serpentine draft' in order to allow for equally weighted team(s) and play in a series of cross ice, 3-on-3 games.
3. Three (3) to four (4); 3-on-3 teams will be on the ice at any given time and will be differentiated using pinnies.
4. Games will last 12 to 15 minutes with a 3-minute break between games to allow for rest and to reassign teams to new games.
5. Within each game, participants will be rotated every 60 seconds by a buzzer and lines will be rotated to the best of our abilities; so that participants do not play with the same participants, for any regular length of time.
6. Every attempt will be made to have an equal number of participants per team; however, there may be variations between team sizes due to last minute illnesses, absences.

10.3 U11: SKATE 3 & SKATE 4 – FULL ICE SCRIMMAGE

This skate will be a full ice scrimmage game with participants assigned to specific groupings based on their scoring from prior skating sessions. The number of participants in each grouping will be determined by the Age Group Eval Lead, the Director of Evaluations and the Assistant Director of Evaluations.

Participants will be ranked by the evaluators against other participants, assigned to that ice time.

9.3.1 Procedure

1. Participants will be assigned to a team who are 'like skilled'.
2. Players will be assigned to teams based on their scores in the prior skates and will be assigned to teams based on a 'serpentine draft' in order to allow for equally weighted team(s)
3. Scrimmages will consist of three 15 mins periods, with changes done on the fly or at whistles at the players discretion.
4. Skaters will be required to rotate through each of the forward and defence positions as well as to play with all of their assigned team mates.
 - a. Coaches will be asked to track positions as well as line mates to ensure fairness.

10.4 U11: SKATE 5 – PLACEMENT GAME

A group of representatives **will evaluate a select number of participants** who are being considered to move up a team. Refer to **SECTION 18.0** for more information on this process.

11.0 U13 – EVALUATION SESSIONS

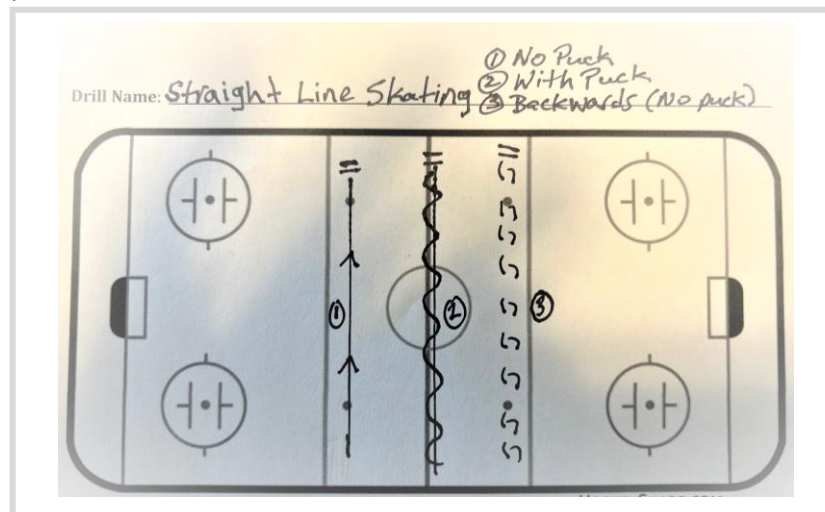
SW Hockey's evaluation process for U13 utilizes a combination of skill sessions, split ice scrimmage and full ice scrimmage-based sessions, and will be as follows:

11.1 U13: SKATE 1 – SKILL SESSION

Participants will go through five (5) **SKILL Drills**, which will run for up to approximately 10-minutes each; where the best evaluator score for each participant will be recorded.

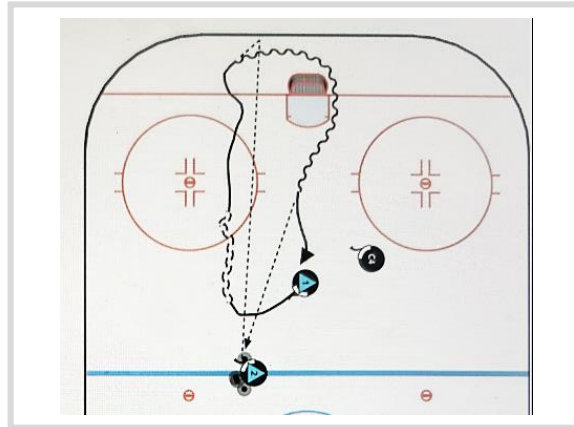
11.1.1 DRILL 1: STRAIGHT LINE SKATE

- Participants will execute this drill while skating forwards without a puck, while skating forwards with a puck and while skating backwards without a puck.
- Participants will start on the side wall outside the blue line and skate across the ice parallel to the blue line.



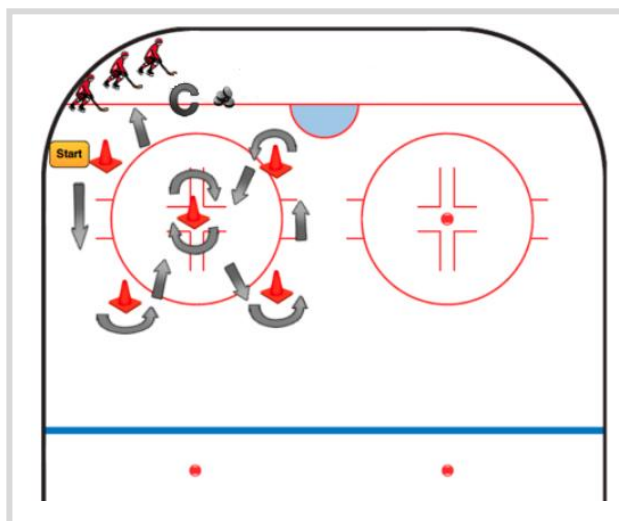
11.1.2 DRILL 2: PUCK RETREIVAL & BOARD SKILLS WITH PASS

- Participant chips a puck behind another participant to go back and retrieve, then wheel around the net quickly before passing back to a participant.
- Coach chips puck behind a participant who goes back to retrieve puck under token forecheck pressure from a participant.
- Forechecker vary pressure from both left side and right side of the participant retrieving the puck so the other participant must read the pressure.



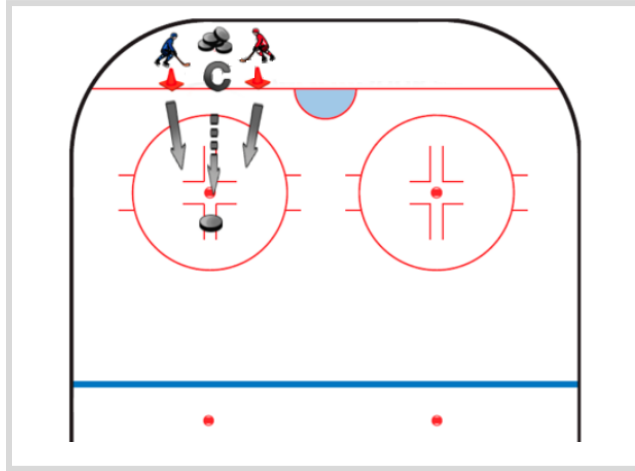
11.1.3 DRILL 3: AGILITY SKATING SKILL STATION

- This drill is intended to maximize edge control, balance, agility and coordination.
- Participants will start at the coach's direction.
- Participants will start at the first cone and will complete a dice pattern as indicated below.
- This drill will be completed skating forward **AND** backward.



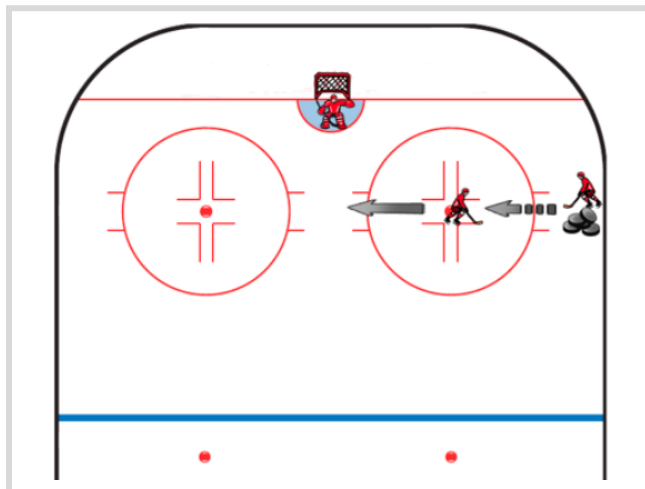
11.1.4 DRILL 4: COMPETITION 1 on 1

- The coach will spot a puck in the corner as indicated, and two (2) participants race to gain possession.
- Once possession is gained, the participant with the puck will pass to a stationary coach.
- The coach will feed a new puck and the drill continues.
- This drill will continue for approximately 30-seconds.



11.1.5 DRILL 5 – CATCH & RELEASE SHOOTING STATION

- The shooter will start close to the face off dot, and the passer begins close to the board side has-mark.
- The shooter faces the passer and calls for the pass.
- Once received the shooter turns to the net and tries to shoot quickly.
- The shooter then continues to the hash mark area toward the middle of the ice, and receives a second pass which will be shot on net.





11.2 U13: SKATE 2 – SPLIT ICE (3 vs. 3) SCRIMMAGE

Participants will be ranked by the evaluators against other participants, assigned to that ice time.

10.2.1 Procedures

1. Participants will be assigned to a team who are 'like skilled'.
2. Participants will be assigned to teams based on their scores in the prior skates and will be assigned to teams based on a 'serpentine draft' in order to allow for equally weighted team(s) and play in a series of cross ice, 3-on-3 games.
3. Three (3) to four (4); 3-on-3 teams will be on the ice at any given time and will be differentiated using pinnies.
4. Games will last 12 to 15 minutes with a 3-minute break between games to allow for rest and to reassign teams to new games.
5. Within each game, participants will be rotated every 60 seconds by a buzzer and lines will be rotated to the best of our abilities; so that participants do not play with the same participants, for any regular length of time.
6. Every attempt will be made to have an equal number of participants per team; however, there may be variations between team sizes due to last minute illnesses, absences.

11.3 U13: SKATE 3 & SKATE 4 – FULL-ICE SCRIMMAGE

This skate will be a full ice scrimmage game with participants assigned to specific groupings based on their scoring from prior sessions. The # of participants in each grouping will be determined by the Age Group Eval Lead, the Director of Evaluations and the Assistant Director of Evaluations.

Participants will be assigned to teams based on their scores in prior skates and will be assigned to teams based on a 'serpentine draft' in order to allow for equally weighted teams. Participants will be ranked by the evaluators against all other participants, that are assigned to that ice time.

11.3.1 Procedure

1. Participants will be assigned to a team who are 'like skilled'.
2. Players will be assigned to teams based on their scores in the prior skates and will be assigned to teams based on a 'serpentine draft' in order to allow for equally weighted team(s)
3. Scrimmages will consist of three 15 mins periods, with changes done on the fly or at whistles at the players discretion.
4. Skaters will be required to rotate through each of the forward and defence positions as well as to play with all of their assigned team mates.
 - a. Bench Staff may be asked to monitor positions as well as linemates to ensure fairness as much as possible.

11.4 U13: SKATE 5 – PLACEMENT GAME

A group of representatives will **evaluate a select number of participants** who are being considered to move up a team. Refer to **SECTION 18.0**, for more information on this process.

12.0 U15 – EVALUATION SESSIONS

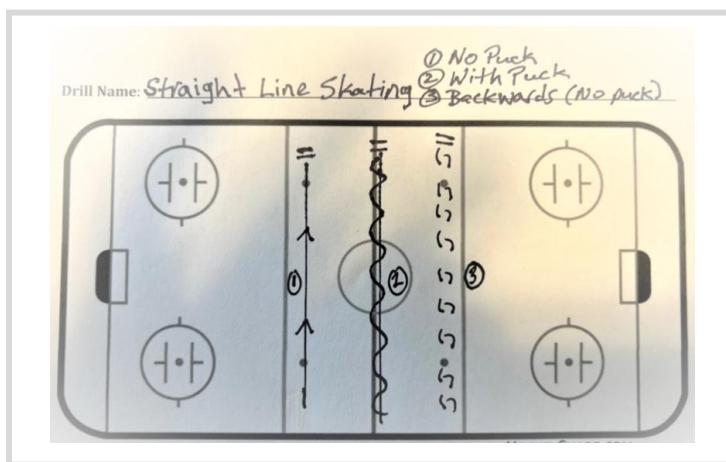
SW Hockey's evaluation process for U15 utilizes a combination of skill sessions, split ice scrimmage and full ice scrimmage-based sessions, and will be as follows:

12.1 U15 SKATE 1: SKILL SESSION

Participants will go through five (5) **SKILL Drills**, which will run for up to approximately 10-minutes each; where the best evaluator score for each participant will be recorded.

12.1.1 DRILL 1: STRAIGHT LINE SKATE

- Participants will execute this drill while skating forwards without a puck, while skating forwards with a puck and while skating backwards without a puck.
- Participants will start on the side wall outside the blue line and skate across the ice parallel to the blue line.



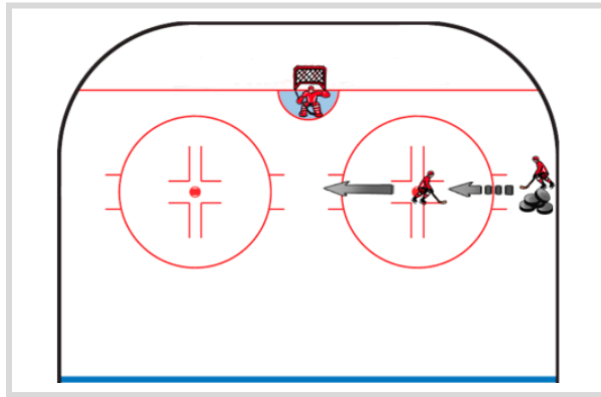
12.1.2 DRILL 2: PUCK RETREIVAL & BOARD SKILLS WITH PASS

- Participant chips a puck behind another participant to go back and retrieve, then wheel around the net quickly before passing back to a participant.
- Coach chips puck behind a participant who goes back to retrieve puck under token forecheck pressure from a participant.
- Forechecker vary pressure from both left side and right side of the participant retrieving the puck so the other participant must read the pressure.



12.1.5 DRILL 5 – CATCH & RELEASE SHOOTING STATION

- The shooter will start close to the face off dot, and the passer begins close to the board side has-mark.
- The shooter faces the passer and calls for the pass.
- Once received the shooter turns to the net and tries to shoot quickly.
- The shooter then continues to the hash mark area toward the middle of the ice, and receives a second pass which will be shot on net.



12.2 U15: SKATE 2: SPLIT ICE (3 vs. 3) SCRIMMAGE

Participants will be ranked by the evaluators against other participants, assigned to that ice time.

12.2.1 Procedures

1. Participants will be assigned to a team who are 'like skilled'.
2. Participants will be assigned to teams based on their scores in the prior skates and will be assigned to teams based on a 'serpentine draft' in order to allow for equally weighted team(s) and play in a series of cross ice, 3-on-3 games.
3. Three (3) to four (4); 3-on-3 teams will be on the ice at any given time and will be differentiated using pinnies.
4. Games will last 12 to 15 minutes with a 3-minute break between games to allow for rest and to reassign teams to new games.
5. Within each game, participants will be rotated every 60 seconds by a buzzer and lines will be rotated to the best of our abilities; so that participants do not play with the same participants, for any regular length of time.
6. Every attempt will be made to have an equal number of participants per team; however, there may be variations between team sizes due to last minute illnesses, absences.

12.3 U15: SKATE 3 and SKATE 4 – FULL ICE SCRIMMAGE

These skates will be a full ice scrimmage games with participants assigned to specific groupings based on their scoring from prior skating sessions. The number of participants in each grouping will be determined by the Age Group Eval Lead, the Director of Evaluations and the Assistant Director of Evaluations.

Participants will be assigned to teams based on their scores in the prior skates and will be assigned to teams based on a 'serpentine draft' in order to allow for equally weighted teams.

12.3.1 Procedures

1. Participants will be assigned to a team who are 'like skilled'.
2. Participants will be assigned to teams based on their scores in the prior skates and will be assigned to teams based on a 'serpentine draft' in order to allow for equally weighted team(s)
3. Scrimmages will consist of three 15 mins periods, with changes done on the fly or at whistles at the participants discretion.
4. Skaters will be required to rotate through each of the forward and defence positions as well as to play with all of their assigned team mates.
 - a. Bench Staff may be asked to monitor positions as well as linemates to ensure fairness as much as possible.

12.4 U15: SKATE 5 – PLACEMENT GAME

A group of representatives **will evaluate a select number of participants** who are being considered to move up a team. Refer to [SECTION 18.0](#), for more information on this process.

13.0 U18 – EVALUATION SESSIONS

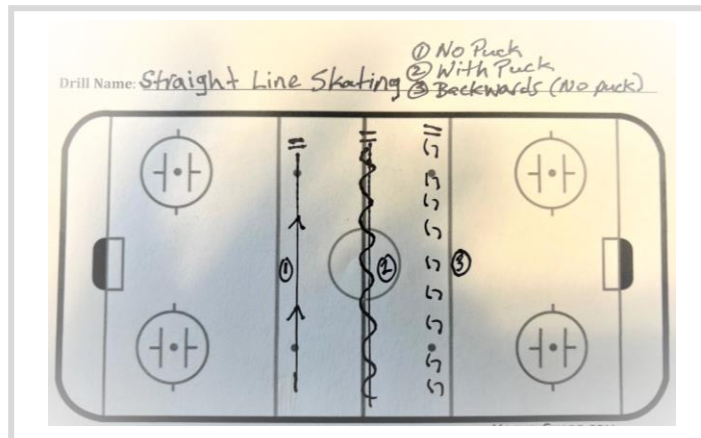
SW Hockey's evaluation process for U18 utilizes a combination of skill sessions, split ice scrimmage and full ice scrimmage-based sessions, and will be as follows:

13.1 U18 SKATE 1: SKILL SESSION

Participants will go through five (5) **SKILL Drills**, which will run for up to approximately 10-minutes each; where the best evaluator score for each participant will be recorded.

13.1.1 DRILL 1: STRAIGHT LINE SKATE

- Participants will execute this drill while skating forwards without a puck, while skating forwards with a puck and while skating backwards without a puck.
- Participants will start on the side wall outside the blue line and skate across the ice parallel to the blue line.



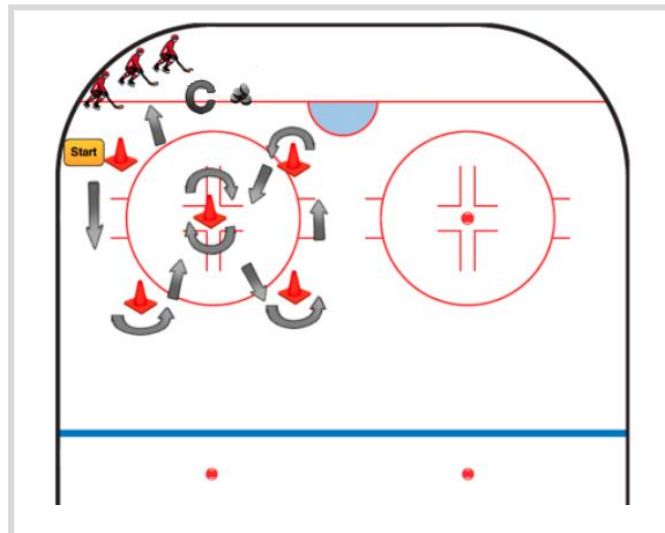
13.1.2 DRILL 2: PUCK RETREIVAL & BOARD SKILLS WITH PASS

- Participant chips a puck behind another participant to go back and retrieve, then wheel around the net quickly before passing back to a participant.
- Coach chips puck behind a participant who goes back to retrieve puck under token forecheck pressure from a participant.
- Forechecker vary pressure from both left side and right side of the participant retrieving the puck so the other participant must read the pressure.



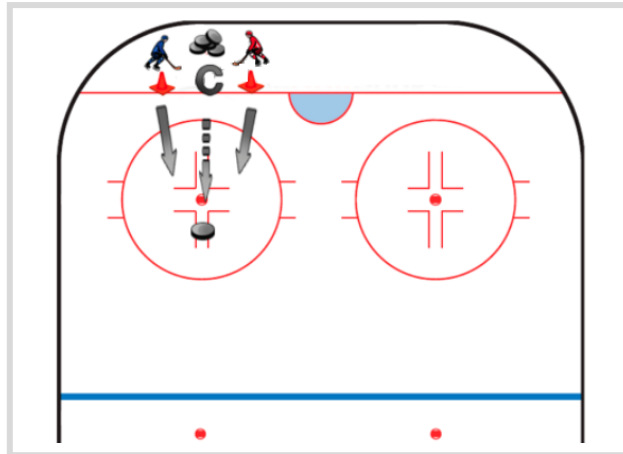
13.1.3 DRILL 3: AGILITY SKATING SKILL STATION

- This drill is intended to maximize edge control, balance, agility and coordination.
- Participants will start at the coach's direction.
- Participants will start at the first cone and will complete a dice pattern as indicated below.
- This drill will be completed skating forward **AND** backward.



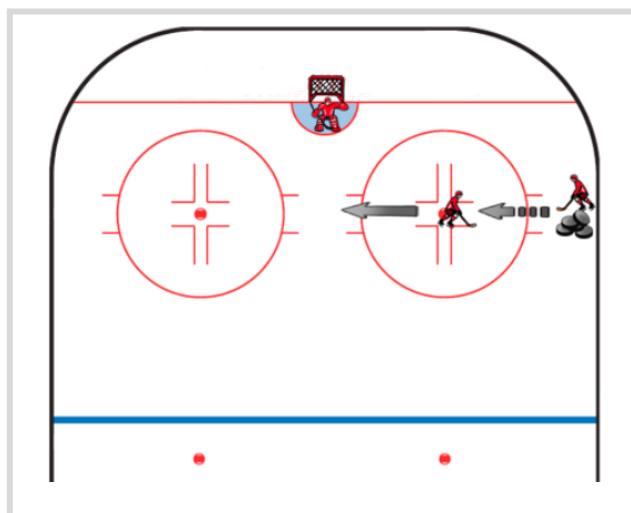
13.1.4 DRILL 4: COMPETITION 1 on 1

- The coach will spot a puck in the corner as indicated, and two (2) participants race to gain possession.
- Once possession is gained, the participant with the puck will pass to a stationary coach.
- The coach will feed a new puck and the drill continues.
- This drill will continue for approximately 30-seconds.



13.1.5 DRILL 5 – CATCH & RELEASE SHOOTING STATION

- The shooter will start close to the face off dot, and the passer begins close to the board side hash-mark.
- The shooter faces the passer and calls for the pass.
- Once received the shooter turns to the net and tries to shoot quickly.
- The shooter then continues to the hash mark area toward the middle of the ice, and receives a second pass which will be shot on net.





13.2 U18 SKATE 2: SPLIT ICE (3 vs. 3) – SCRIMMAGE

Participants will be ranked by the evaluators against other participants, assigned to that ice time.

13.2.1 Procedures

1. Participants will be assigned to a team who are 'like skilled'.
2. Participants will be assigned to teams based on their scores in the prior skates and will be assigned to teams based on a 'serpentine draft' in order to allow for equally weighted team(s) and play in a series of cross ice, 3-on-3 games.
3. Three (3) to four (4); 3-on-3 teams will be on the ice at any given time and will be differentiated using pinnies.
4. Games will last 12 to 15 minutes with a 3-minute break between games to allow for rest and to reassign teams to new games.
5. Within each game, participants will be rotated every 60 seconds by a buzzer and lines will be rotated to the best of our abilities; so that participants do not play with the same participants, for any regular length of time.
6. Every attempt will be made to have an equal number of participants per team; however, there may be variations between team sizes due to last minute illnesses, absences.

13.3 U18: SKATE 3 – FULL ICE SCRIMMAGE

These skates will be a full ice scrimmage games with participants assigned to specific groupings based on their scoring from prior skating sessions. The number of participants in each grouping will be determined by the Age Group Eval Lead, the Director of Evaluations and the Assistant Director of Evaluations.

Participants will be assigned to teams based on their scores in the prior skates and will be assigned to teams based on a 'serpentine draft' in order to allow for equally weighted teams.

13.3.1 Procedures

1. Participants will be assigned to a team who are 'like skilled'.
2. Participants will be assigned to teams based on their scores in the prior skates and will be assigned to teams based on a 'serpentine draft' in order to allow for equally weighted team(s)
3. Scrimmages will consist of three 15 mins periods, with changes done on the fly or at whistles at the participants discretion.
4. Skaters will be required to rotate through each of the forward and defence positions as well as to play with all of their assigned team mates.
 - a. Bench Staff may be asked to monitor positions as well as linemates to ensure fairness as much as possible.

13.4 U18 SKATE 4 – PLACEMENT GAME

A group of representatives **will evaluate a select number of participants** who are being considered to move up a team. Refer to **SECTION 18.0**, for more information on this process.

14.0 HOUSE LEAGUE

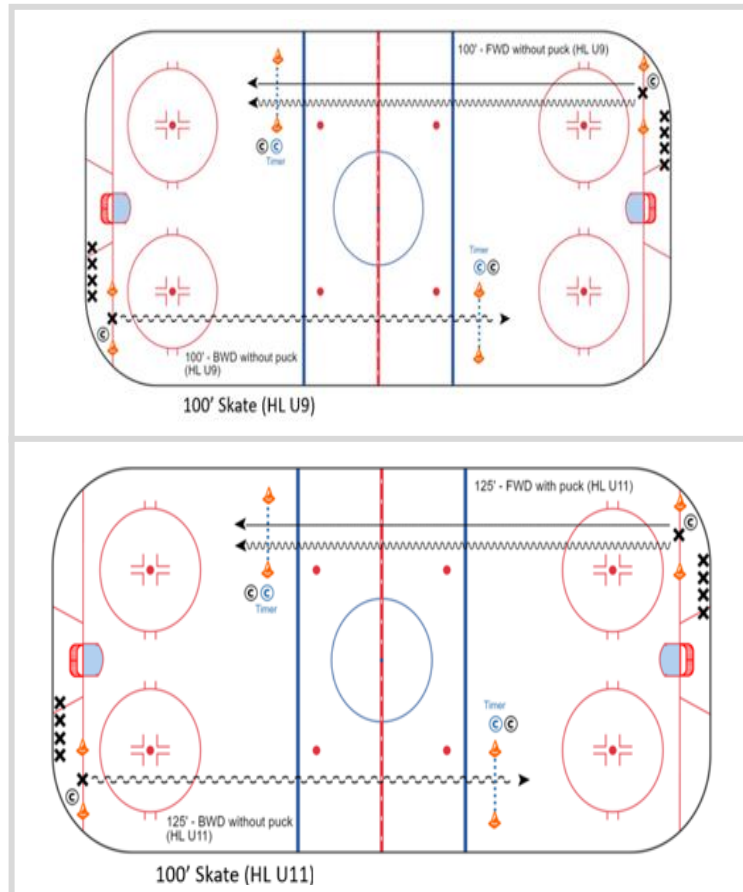
House League (HL) evaluations will be conducted under similar guiding principles as all SW Hockey evaluations.

1. Will be evaluated in two (2) skill-based sessions to determine their overall skill sets.
2. Evaluation groups **will be made using alphabetical order.**
3. Participants will be placed on teams based on the overall scores of the two (2) sessions, and teams will be made equally; to ensure they are balanced.

14.1 HL: SKATE 1 - SKILLS

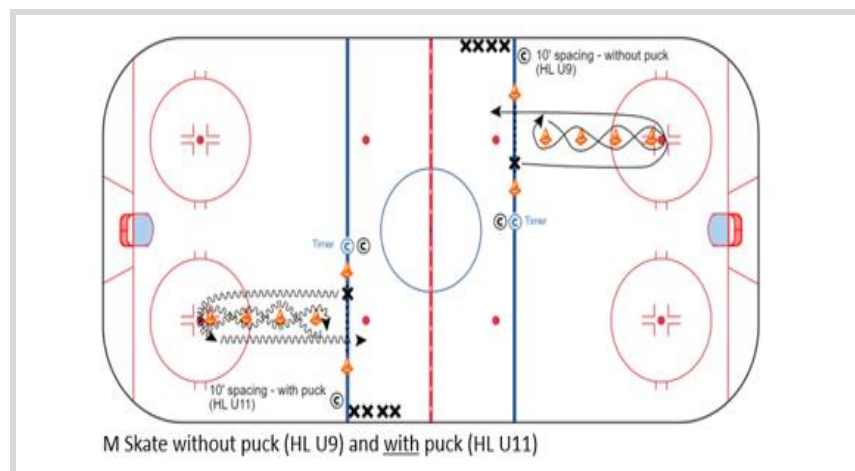
14.1.1 DRILL 1 & DRILL 2 – 100' Skate / 125' Skate

- Participants will complete these drills up to three (3) times each. These drills consist of skating forwards in a straight line, skating backwards in a straight line.
- House League U9 will complete this drill **WITHOUT** pucks
- House League U11 will complete this drill **WITH** pucks.
- Participants will start on the goal line and skate through to the cones at the other end of the rink.
- Up to three (3) attempts will be given to skate these drills.
- After their attempts have been completed, they will switch to completing the drill backwards.



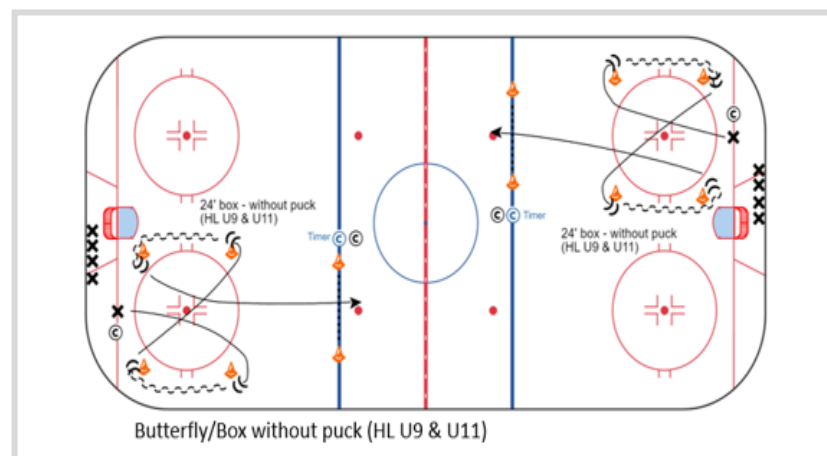
14.1.2 DRILL 3 – ‘M’ Skate

- Drill will be completed twice.
- First cone is spaced 10’ from the starting line.
- Participant skates to the far cone and executes a tight turn.
- Weaves back through the cones, executes another tight turn and then weaves back to the furthest cone.
- Once around the last cone, participant sprints back to the starting line.
 - HL U11 will complete this drill **WITH** pucks, and HL U9 will complete **WITHOUT** pucks.
- Participants will be given two (2) chances to skate the drill. After each participant has completed their two (2) attempts, they will move on to the next drill.



14.1.3 DRILL 4 – Butterfly / Box Drill

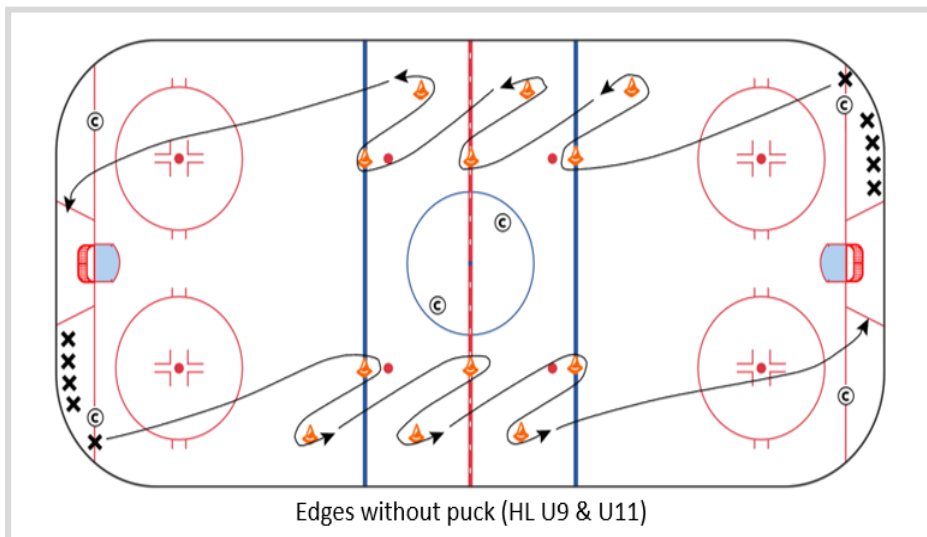
- This drill, will be completed twice.
- HL U9 and HL U11 will complete this drill without pucks.
- Starts in-line with the bottom cones and skates forward around the top cone.
- Pivots backwards and skates to the bottom cone.
- Open pivots around lower cone and skate’s forwards to opposite top cone.
- Pivots backwards and skates to the bottom cone.
- Open pivots forward and sprints past the top of the 24’ box.



14.2 HL: SKATE 2 – Edges & Stopping

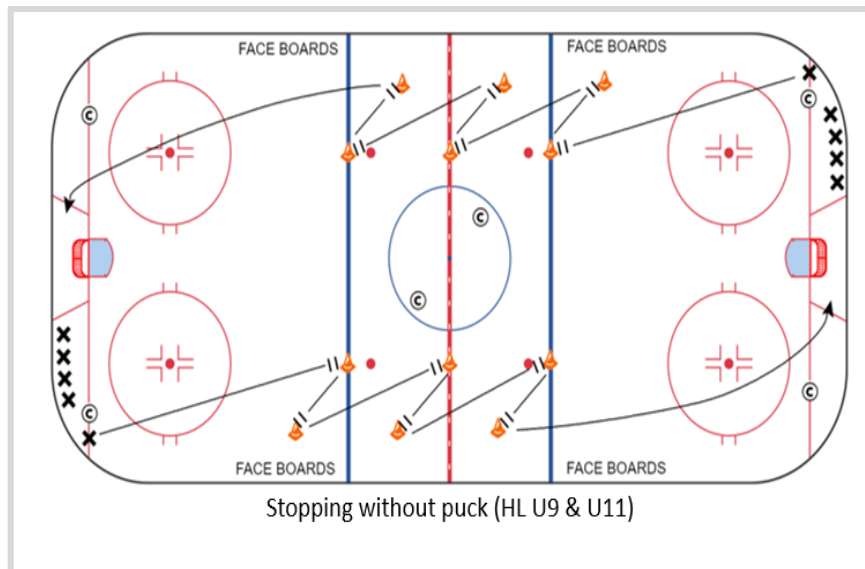
14.2.1 DRILL 1 – Edges

- Skater starts on goal line and skates forward through the cone pattern. Next skater starts when the skater has crossed the far blue line.
- This drill is completed with **NO** pucks.
- Each participant will complete this one (1) time, from each side of the ice.



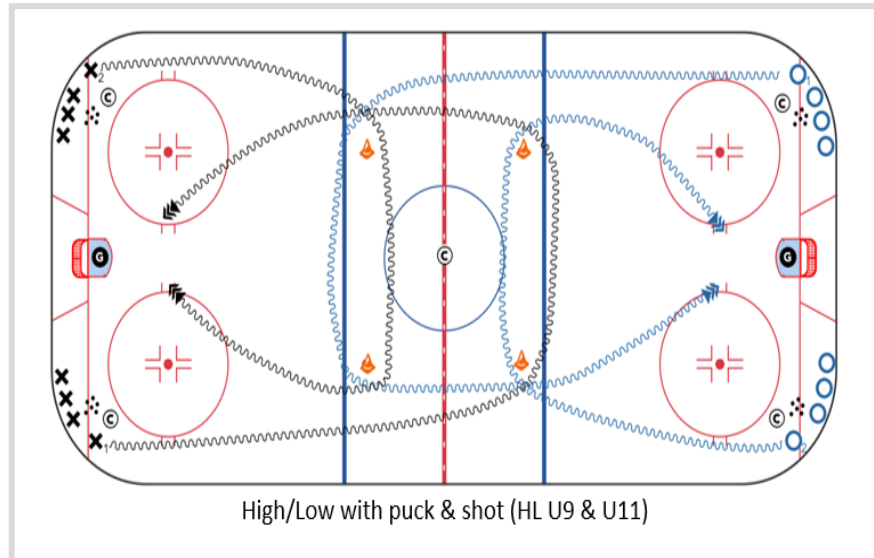
14.2.2 DRILL 2 - Stopping

- Participants start on the goal line and skate forward through the cone pattern.
- Next skater starts when the other skater has crossed the far blue line.
- **NO** pucks for this drill.
- The participant **ALWAYS** faces the 'players box' when stopping in this drill.
- Will complete this drill from each side of the ice.



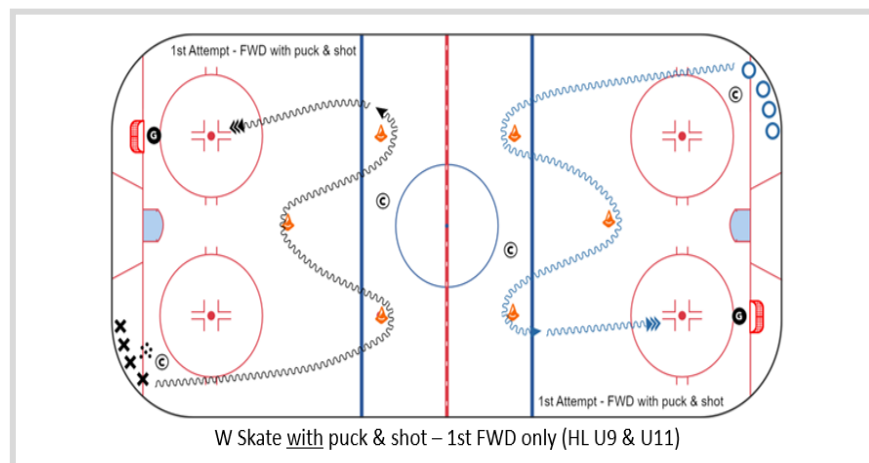
14.2.3 DRILL 3 – ‘High / Low Drill’

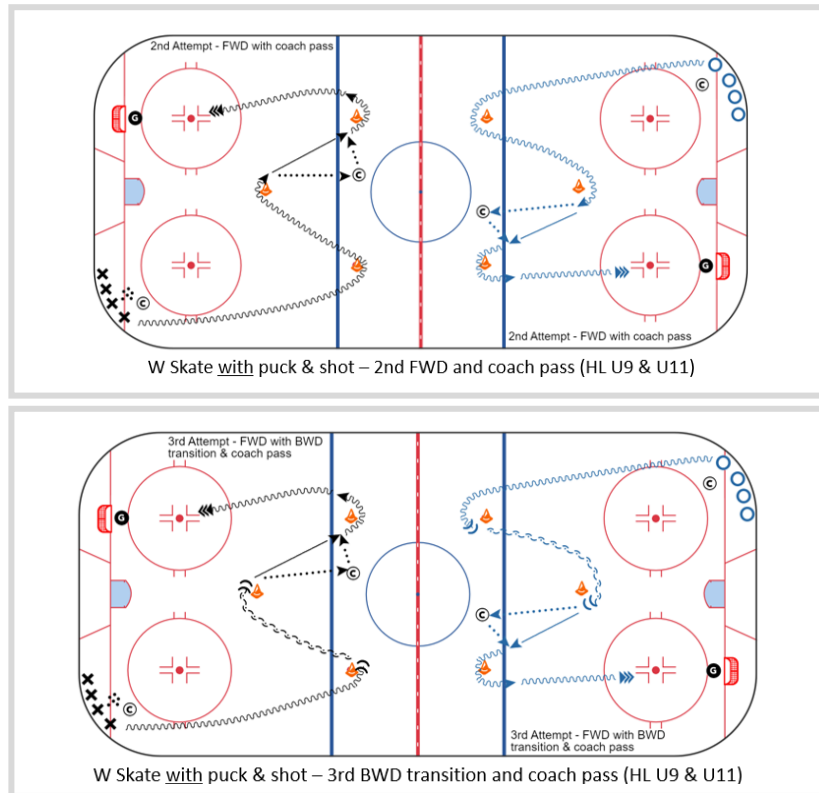
- On the whistle X1 and X3 take the long route around the cones, and X2 and X4 take the short route around the cones.
- This drill will be done **WITH** pucks.
- Skaters will end up in the same end that they started.
- When back on their own end, they may take a shot on the goalie.
- The goalie will get two (2) shots per run through the drill.
- It is important for participants to remember to keep their head up during this drill.



14.2.4 DRILL 4 – ‘W Skate with Coach Pass’

- Cones will be placed on off-side dots and center of ringette line.
- This drill will be completed three (3) times.
- First time will be forward **WITH** a puck.
- Second time will be forward **WITH** a puck involving a coach pass.
- Third time will be forward to backwards transition and a coach pass.
- Participants will start and finish on the bottom hash marks.





15.0 GOALTENDER (FULL-TIME & HYBRID) EVALUATION & SELECTION CRITERIA

Goaltenders will be evaluated by a Third-Party Goalie Development Group which will be contracted & approved by the SW Hockey Board.

The VP On-Ice in conjunction with the Director of Evaluations, and Goalie Coordinator will seek proposal(s) from qualified parties and will recommend a Third-Party Goalie Development Group based on criteria that are established by the Southwest Board. Examples of the criteria used to select the successful Third-Party Goalie Development Group may include;

1. The technical qualifications of third-party evaluators;
2. The methodology of the proposed evaluation process;
3. The cost of the third-party goalie development group;
4. Or any other selection criteria the Board may deem appropriate.

Once chosen, the Third-Party Goalie Development Group in consultation with the VP On-Ice, Director of Development, Director of Evaluations and the Goalie Coordinator will finalize the specific process and evaluation criteria used to rank and assign goalies to specific teams.

At a minimum, the evaluation of goaltenders will require specific attention outside of the regular participant evaluation scrimmage sessions. SW Hockey will include the goaltenders in all participant scrimmage sessions but will also book at least one (1) session for goaltender specific evaluations (generally at the beginning of the evaluation period).

The evaluation session will be a combination of session(s) as outlined below. In consultation with the Third-Party Goalie Development Group, the Director of Evaluations will determine which form of session



will be utilized and for what Age Divisions. At the Director of Evaluations sole discretion, some Age Divisions may utilize more than one ice session to accommodate these sessions.

1) TECH Session(s)

- a. These TECH Sessions may include specific skill-based sessions as determined by the Third-Party Goalie Development Group;
- b. The Third-Party Goalie Development Group will post its specific drills to the SW Hockey website, prior to the start of the season.

2) Small Area Games & Scrimmage Games

- a. At the conclusion of the TECH Session(s), the Third-Party Development Goalie Group will, in conjunction with the Director and Assistant Director of Evaluations, will assign each evaluated goalie to one (1) or more Small Area & Scrimmage Games.

SW Hockey follows the Hockey Canada Goaltender Skills manual to identify and track the basic progression of a goalie’s skills. Depending on the level of play and the age and development of the goaltender, the evaluation process for goaltenders should incorporate these six (6) basic areas:

Basic Skating Skill	Transitional Play	Advanced Positioning
Rebound – Control / Recovery / Tactical	Position Specific Movement Skills	Positional – Save Movement Skills

The table below summarizes what criteria should be evaluated for the Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced goaltender. The final methodology employed by SW Hockey will follow these Hockey Canada recommendations in conjunction with the third-party goalie development group.

Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
Basic Skating	Net Movement	Position Specific Movement
Lateral Movement	Positioning and Save Movement	Basic Positioning
Forward/Backward Movement	Net Play	First save Control
Net Movement	Rebound Control	Shot Preparation
Angle Positioning	Basic Tactics	Advanced Up Positioning
Depth Positioning	Intermediate Positioning	Positioning and Movement while down
Lower Body Save Movement	Basic Transition	Tactics
Upper Body Save Movement	Movement while down	Transition

NOTE: After the completion of each ice time, the Third-Party Goalie Development Group will provide to the Goalie Coordinator, as well as the Director of Evaluations and Assistant Director of Evaluations, their scores based on the grid above as well as their recommendations (if any) for goalie movement between the various Small Area Games & Scrimmage ice times. At the conclusion of all on-ice sessions, the Third-Party Goalie Development Group will provide their final ranking of all goalies for each Age Group for review and acceptance by the Goalie Coordinator, Director of Evaluations and Assistant Director of Evaluations.



15.1 HYBRID GOALIE EVALUATIONS

15.1.1 Rationale

The U11 'Hybrid Goalie' Policy is in place to allow registrants in the U11 age category the opportunity to participate as both a 'skater' and a 'goaltender'. This formal policy is in place for the following reasons:

1. Hockey Alberta U11 Player Pathway states that U11 'goaltenders' have the opportunity to dress as a 'skater' when not playing in goal.
2. Guidelines and criteria are needed to ensure registrants with wide skill discrepancies between the two positions are not inappropriately impacting the game.
3. Registrants transitioning from U9 to U11 have never had the opportunity to play the 'goaltender' position in a full ice environment and may not be comfortable committing to the position at the beginning of the year.
4. Current shortage of goalies in U11 and U13
5. Current U11 'goaltenders' spend half of their games sitting on the bench.

15.1.2 General

All prospective 'Hybrid Goalies' must evaluate as **BOTH** a 'goaltender' **AND** a 'skater'; at a minimum of two (2) 'goaltender' sessions and two (2) 'skater' sessions.

- It is recommended registrants evaluate at each position an equal number of times.
- **HOWEVER**: *This may vary and is not guaranteed in the circumstances of illness, injury or absences*.

It is recommended during 'goaltender' evaluations that at least one (1) skills-based session and one (1) Small Area Games or Scrimmage session is provided.

Associations are encouraged to evaluate prospective 'Hybrid Goalies' at each position as many times as possible. As such: **Registrants may be asked to participant in multiple sessions per day.**

Additions from SW Hockey:

1. U11 Hybrid Goalies will be evaluated at the goalie specific skills sessions and minimum one (1) other evaluation. session.
2. They will skate as 'skaters' for the Skill Skate session (Skate 1)
3. Team Placement will adhere to the principles laid out by Hockey Calgary in the Hockey Calgary U11 Hybrid Goalie Policy.
4. Hybrid Goalies are responsible for acquiring their own goalie gear for the U11 Age Division. If this is causing a limitation to participating as a hybrid goalie; **PLEASE** reach out to SW Registrar as we have programs in place to support goalie equipment for families in need.
5. SW requires participants to identify their position (Hybrid Goalie or Goalie) during the registration process for the U11 Age Division.
 - a. Once the decision is made to evaluate in that position, participants will NOT be permitted to change unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated and agreed to by the Off-Ice Eval Coordinator, the Goalie Coordinator and the Director of Evaluations.



15.1.3 Placement Considerations

The Director of Evaluations, and Assistant Director of Evaluations have sole discretion with regards to team placement; in consultation with the Director of Coaches, and VP On-Ice.

Considerations that are factored in when placing 'Hybrid Goalies' include, but are not limited to:

- Placing 'Hybrid Goalies' together on the same team.
- 'Range within Range' placement.
- Teams are permitted to have more than two (2) 'Hybrid Goalies' per team.

'Hybrid Goalie' evaluation results will not be shared, and participants will not be permitted to have input on their team placement; just as no other SW Hockey participant is permitted.

15.1.4 Participant Placement – IS within a 2-division difference

To be placed on a team as an approved 'Hybrid Goalie', participants **must** have a final positional division placement that is **within a 2-division difference** of each other. If this measure **IS MET**, then the following rules will apply to determine the final team placement:

1. **Final Placement → Same Division**
 - a. The 'Hybrid Goalie' is placed in the applicable division.
2. **Final Placement → ONE (1) Division Apart**
 - a. The Director of Evaluations and the Assistant Director of Evaluations **will review the final results of ALL U11 participants**, and will place the 'Hybrid Goalie' accordingly, while also taking into account **SECTION 15.1.3**
 - b. Once all factors have been taken into account, the participant can be placed at either division.
3. **Final Placement → TWO (2) Divisions Apart – 'Goaltender'**
 - a. **If the 'Goaltender' evaluation is higher:** For example – Division 2 as a 'goaltender' and Division 4 as a 'skater', the Director of Evaluations and the Assistant Director of Evaluations will review the final results of **ALL** U11 participants, and place the 'Hybrid Goalies' accordingly.
 - b. Once all factors have been taken into account, ideally the participant would be placed on Division 3; unless **Section 15.1.3**, indicates otherwise.
4. **Final Placement → TWO (2) Divisions Apart – 'Skater'**
 - a. **If the 'skater' evaluation is higher:** For example – Division 5 as a 'skater' and Division 7 as a 'goaltender', the first option will be to place the 'Hybrid Goalie' in the higher division.
 - b. The Director of Evaluations and the Assistant Director of Evaluations will review the final results of **ALL** U11 participants, and may deviate from placing the 'skater' on the higher division and instead the participant could be placed in Division 6 if the considerations from **Section 15.1.3**, indicate such placement.



15.1.5 Final Placement – MORE THAN TWO (2) Division Difference

If the participant is trending toward a division differential of **more than two (2) divisions**, they will be notified and asked to commit to being a full-time 'skater' **OR** a full-time 'goaltender' for the upcoming season. They will then be expected to participate in the remaining evaluation sessions for the position of their choice.

If the evaluation verdict is not known till the conclusion of evaluations; due to the numbers being close, and the participant finishes evaluations with **more than** a 2-division difference; for example – Division 2 as a 'skater' and Division 6 as a 'goaltender', ***the participant would not meet the final criterion as a 'Hybrid Goalie', and they will be asked to commit to playing as a full-time skater or a full-time 'goaltender'.***

NOTE: The participant will **NOT** be told what their final divisional placement is, until the participant / family makes a position decision.

16.0 SKATERS: EVALUATION SCORING AND RANKING

The following outlines the process that will be used to score and rank skaters:

- Skaters will be evaluated relative to other skaters in their particular ice session.
- Based on the scoring rankings and group size, **there will be movement between groups IN ALL DIRECTIONS**. There is a need to evaluate participants within other groups while maintaining group size by position to ensure a successful evaluation for all. This movement does NOT equate to movement between teams as often one (1) group makes up more than one (1) tier within that group.
- Specific to U15 and U18; this movement may mean that participants evaluate in **BOTH** a Body Checking group **AS WELL AS** a Non-Body Checking group. Participants will be asked to adjust their play accordingly to ensure the safety of all participants on the ice.
- If after a skill(s) and scrimmage session(s), there are skaters who are mathematically "locked-in" to a team based on their evaluation scores; they may continue to skate with their designated group but will no longer be evaluated.
 - Under the same circumstances and at the discretion of the Director of Evaluations and/or the Assistant Director of Evaluations and/or the VP On-Ice; skaters may also move directly onto their designated team and "sit" for the Placement Game.
- Should the number of skaters moving into a group not be able to accommodate the "locked in" skaters during that session due to the number of skaters still needing to be evaluated, the Age Group Eval Lead after consultation with the Director and/or Assistant Director of Evaluations may request to have one or more of the "locked in" skaters(s) sit for that session. However, for greater clarity and certainty, no skater can be "locked in" to Team 1 until they have been evaluated for both their skills and their team play in a scrimmage session.
- The average scores for the evaluation sessions will be used to determine overall rankings.

17.0 SCRIMMAGE SELECTION CRITERIA

The following are the specific selection criteria that skaters are to be evaluated on. The importance of these skills is age group specific and benchmarks are communicated to specific evaluators prior to each evaluation ice session.



- 17.1 Skating:** Acceleration; speed, mobility, agility, balance, stride, crossovers, pivots, acceleration out of turns, quick feet, controlled skating, change of pace. **DOES THE SKATER:**
- Perform the basic forward and backward stride?
 - Bend their knees with the back slightly forward and the head up, or is the skater hunched over, bending at the waist with little knee bend?
 - Use long strides with a complete recovery of the stride leg before striding with the other leg. Good skaters' strides will look very smooth and appear not to require much effort to move around the ice.
 - Look smooth when they skate or do, they appear off balance?
 - Turn in both directions with little trouble or do they struggle to turn in one or both directions?
 - Stop in both directions? Younger skaters will often have trouble stopping in one direction.
 - Keep up with the play or do they struggle to stay with the other skaters on the ice?
- 17.2 Passes:** Receiving passes, passing choices, on backhand, unselfish with the puck, presents a good target, receives and retains with control, touch passing. **DOES THE SKATER:**
- Have the basic skills to execute a forehand pass?
 - Pass the puck smoothly, or do they slap at it? Does the skater follow through to the intended target?
 - Pass the puck to its intended target with minimal effort?
 - Make an accurate pass to a moving target?
 - Receive a pass on their backhand or do they shift their body to receive the pass on the forehand?
 - Pass the puck off of the backhand with some speed and accuracy?
 - Call for the puck, banging their stick on the ice or saying nothing at all?
 - Passing the puck make eye contact with the intended receiver or do they just pass the puck blindly?
 - Execute a saucer pass over sticks and other obstacles?
 - Pass the puck off of the boards to another skater?
- 17.3 Puck Control:** Head up, smooth and quiet, good hands, protection, in small spaces, in traffic. **DOES THE SKATER:**
- Appear to be comfortable handling the puck while skating or do they appear to fight the puck and have trouble skating with some speed while handling it?
 - Keep their head up while carrying the puck?
 - Execute dekes and fakes with the puck?
 - Stop quickly or change directions while handling the puck?
 - Handle the puck while in traffic and under pressure?
 - Get pushed or checked off the puck easily?
- 17.4 Shooting:** Power, accuracy, quick release, can shoot in motion, goal scorer, rebound control, variety of shots. **DOES THE SKATER:**
- Execute the technique of a wrist shot and backhand?
 - Follow through to the target on all shots?
 - Raise the puck?
 - Shoot the puck with some velocity?
 - Shoot the puck where it sits flat in the air or does it wobble?
 - Execute a 'one-timer' shot?
 - Accurately shoot?



17.5 Positional Play: Ability to see the play developing both offensively and defensively and moves to support, judgment, anticipation, understands systems, disciplined. **DOES THE SKATER:**

- Seem to understand where they are to play on the ice?
- Support the puck in defensive and offensive situations?
- Force the play or do they wait too long? Seem to understand where the play is going?
- Show patience or do they tend to panic when pressured?
- Anticipate where their teammates are going, and move to support them / take advantage of a broken play?
- Demonstrate “hustle” on the ice or have another intangible (e.g., size, heavy shot, and excessive speed) that is very unique to this age group that should be recognized and accounted for?

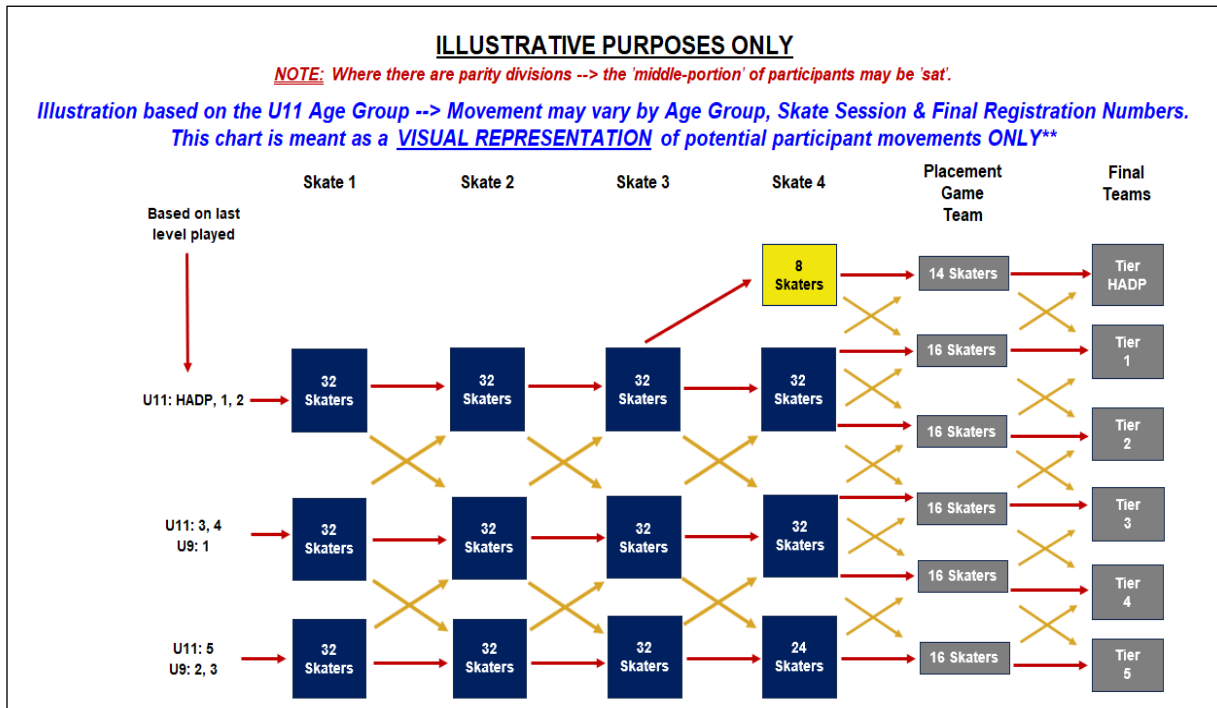
17.6 Checking / Angling: Concept of; angling, good body position (with balance and control), defensive side position, aggressive checker, strength, and taking checks. **DOES THE SKATER:**

- Execute basic stick and body checks? Shy away from other skaters?
- Check properly with their hands down or do they get their arms up to give a check?
- Receive a check properly, not turning their back and staying close to the boards?
- Check an opposing skater and pin them on the boards?
- Angle another skater off the puck? Separate the opposing skater from the puck?

18.0 MOVEMENT DURING THE EVALUATION PROCESS

Below is an example, *for illustrative purposes*, the initial seeding, the position specific drill sessions and the eventual movement during the evaluation process for U11. Numbers may not equate to three (3) equal groups based on the number and split of skaters in each age division. Number of teams will vary to each Age Group. The example below uses 96 skaters and assumes six (6) teams will be created.

REMINDER: Movement into groups can happen **EITHER** upwards **OR** downwards **throughout** the evaluation process.





19.0 TEAM PLACEMENT PANEL – PLAYERS AND GOALIES

19.1 Player Placement Panel (as required)

Most (but not all) participants after their initial four (4) skates (for U9 to U15), or after their initial three (3) skates (for U18) may be assigned a division and may not be considered for movement at this point in the process.

However, if PRIOR to the last scrimmage in any particular divisional age group, there is virtually **NO** definitive numerical separation between two (2) or more participants when evaluating for a final roster spot(s) on a particular team, the Age Group Eval Lead after consultation with the Director of Coaches, the Director of Evaluations & the Assistant Director of Evaluations may elect to use additional input from a Player Placement Panel.

NOTE: This is an optional component of the evaluation process and may not be utilized in any games if circumstances dictate.

Players will be notified in advance, and will be told which ice time(s) they are being asked to participate in. ***The final scrimmage assignment may NOT be their final team placement.*** If the Player Placement Panel input will be used as an additional data point to augment the numerical data that was generated through the evaluation process; the following steps will take place:

19.1.2 STEP 1: Assemble the Player Placement Panel

The Director of Evaluations will assemble the Player Placement Panel to observe final scrimmages for each group. The Player Placement Panel will ideally include: three (3) evaluation representatives (generally assigned by the Director of Evaluations) and the Director of Coaches will also request that either a Head Coach candidate for that team (if they have been identified) or a likely Assistant Coach be assigned as an evaluator and their input solicited.

19.1.3 STEP 2: Player Placement Panel Review

NOTE: This will only be required if there is virtually **NO** definitive numerical separation between players that are bridging the placement between two teams.

If this is the case, then the Player Placement Panel will evaluate the final scrimmage and individually assess each of the player(s) eligible for the final roster spot(s). At the completion of the final scrimmage, collectively the Player Placement Panel will discuss; the evaluation session, review prior scrimmage scores, review prior year team placement, and then make a recommendation as to which player(s) should fill the final roster position(s); in writing (including rationale) to the Director of Evaluations.

19.1.4 STEP 3: Final Placement

Once the Director of Evaluations receives the Player Placement Panel's final pick(s) in writing, including the rationale, the Director of Evaluations will review the submission. Upon review, and approval by the Director of Evaluations, the team placement will be communicated to the participant(s).



19.2 **Goalie Placement Panel** *(as required)*

Most goalies after their initial TECH session(s), and designated number of Skate Sessions according to their Age Category, will be assigned a division and will not be considered for goalie movement at this point in the process.

However, if prior to the last scrimmage in any particular divisional age group, there is virtually no definitive numerical separation between two (2) or more goalies when evaluating for a final roster spot on a particular team and/or the Third-Party Goalie Development Group recommends an additional evaluation ice time of one (1) or more goalies, the Age Group Evaluation Coordinator (after consultation with the Director of Coaches, the Director of Evaluations and the Assistant Director of Evaluations), may elect to use additional input from a Goalie Placement Panel.

NOTE: This is an **OPTIONAL** component of the evaluation process, and may not be utilized in any games, if circumstances dictate.

Goalies will be notified in advance, and will be told which ice time(s) they are being asked to participate in. ***The final scrimmage assignment may NOT be their final team placement.***

If the Goalie Placement Panel input will be used as an additional data point to augment the numerical data that was generated through the evaluation process; the following steps will take place:

19.2.1 **STEP 1: Assemble the Goalie Placement Panel**

The Director of Evaluations will assemble the Goalie Placement Panel to observe final scrimmages for each group.

The Goalie Placement Panel will include: up to three (3) evaluation representatives (generally assigned by the Director of Evaluations)

The panel must include a goalie specific evaluator, either the Goalie Coordinator, a member of the Third-Party Organization; or a designate assigned by the Goalie Coordinator and Director of Evaluations.

19.2.2 **STEP 2: Goalie Placement Panel Review**

NOTE: This will only be required if there is virtually **NO** definitive numerical separation between goalies that are bridging the placement between two teams.

If this is the case, then the Goalie Placement Panel will evaluate the final scrimmage and individually assess each of the goalies(s) eligible for the final roster spot(s).

At the completion of the final scrimmage, collectively the Goalie Placement Panel will discuss; the evaluation session, review prior scrimmage scores, review prior year team placement, and then make a recommendation as to which goalies(s) should fill the final roster position(s); in writing (including rationale) to the Director of Evaluations.



19.2.3 STEP 3: Final Placement

Once the Director of Evaluations receives the Goalie Placement Panel's final pick(s) in writing, including the rationale, the Director of Evaluations will review the submission.

Upon review, and approval by the Director of Evaluations, the team placement will be communicated to the goalie(s).

20.0 ABSENCES & STATE OF EMERGENCY

20.1 Illness, Injury or Religious Holiday

If a participant is injured, ill/sick or observing a religious holiday and are unable to participate in the evaluation process, every attempt will be made to correctly place the participant.

In this situation, Southwest Hockey Association reserves the right to contact the participants' coach from the previous season for additional input to assist with the participants' placement.

NOTE: There is **NO** guarantee that the participant will play at the same level as they did the season prior.

20.1.1 Sick or Injured

In the case of sickness or injury, a medical note from the participant's doctor **will be requested** by Southwest Hockey Association, if the participant misses more than one (1) evaluated skate.

In the event of any long-term injuries, defined as; requiring a recovery time of greater than 4 weeks, the participant will be placed at the same level they played in the previous season. If this participant is able to show that they can play at a higher level, this participant **MAY** be moved to a higher level **based on roster deadlines and roster considerations.**

20.2 State of Emergency

If guidance or public health orders are in place to protect the general public given a local state of emergency, Southwest Hockey Association reserves the right to adjust the evaluation procedures to adhere to guidance from the local authorities.

The safety of participants is our top priority; therefore, all efforts will be made to keep participants safe. Our best efforts will be made to communicate changes in a timely fashion, but this may not be possible depending on the nature of the event.

21.0 EVALUATION SCORING REVIEW

After each ice session, the Age Group Eval Lead will tabulate the results of each session and recommend the movement of one or more skaters based on the results of that session.

Results will be entered in conjunction with another member of the evaluation team such as: the Eval



Assistant, Off-Ice Evaluation Coordinator, Assistant Director of Evaluations etc.

The Age Group Eval Lead will then make a recommendation to the Director of Evaluations and Assistant Director of Evaluations who will then review, discuss and ultimately approve the participant movement prior to the next session.

Once all scrimmages are complete, the Age Group Eval Lead recommends final team selections to the Director of Evaluations for final approval and implementation.

22.0 ELITE TRYOUTS – RETURNING PARTICIPANTS

Participants returning from Elite tryouts will be placed into the evaluation process within Southwest Hockey based on the team they played on in the prior year. In this situation, Southwest Hockey reserves the right to contact the participants coach from the previous season for additional input to assist with the participants' placement.

Participants that remain within the Elite system for extended periods of time will be dealt with on a 'case by case' basis by the Director of Evaluations, Assistant Director of Evaluations and the Director of Coaches; in consultation with the VP On-Ice, and Age Group Eval Lead.

NOTE: All returning participants will still have to compete for a spot within our organization as there are **NO GUARANTEED PLACEMENTS** for any participants within Southwest Hockey.

23.0 EXCESS PLAYER OR GOALIE MOVEMENT – DUE TO TEAM ROSTER SIZES

Circumstances may arise where there is an excess number of registered participants within an age group resulting in Southwest Hockey being unable to accommodate all participants. SW Hockey will try and help participant(s) find a placement with another association.

Should it be determined that the Excess Movement will be applied, the following factors will be reviewed by the Association in the order in which they are listed in **Section 23.1**.

Related to goalies: This policy is intended to cover the following age groups: U11, U13, U15 & U18.

“SEASONAL MOVEMENT”: Is defined as; moving a player or goalie to another Association. This movement is for the **CURRENT SEASON ONLY**.

23.1 Criteria for Determining “Excess Player or Goalie Movement”

23.1.1 Criteria #1: Evaluation Attendance

This is the releasing of participants due to absence from evaluations which there were **NO PRIOR, or LACK OF ongoing communications** with regards to reason(s) why the participant is absent during evaluations.



23.1.2 Criteria #2: Attendance Policy

Southwest Hockey has an Attendance Policy in place; in **the SW Policies & Procedures**. In the event that any age category has an excess of participants in relation to the number of teams being created, **BOTH** excused and unexcused absences can be reviewed when determining "Excess Movement".

23.1.3 Criteria #3: Late Registration

If any SW Hockey's participants did not register on time; example: **posted a 'Registration Late Fee'** date, then that participant may not be able to play for SW Hockey that year.

If there are too many participants, and more than one (1) participant registered after the posted 'Registration Late Fee' date, **ALL** participants registered after the late fee date, will be considered for "Seasonal Movement".

NOTE: If a participant registration takes place after the start of the second evaluation session, then that participant may not be eligible to evaluate with SW Hockey. If this situation occurs, SW Hockey will work with Hockey Calgary to potentially find an alternative Association, for that season.

23.1.4 Criteria #4: Volunteer

An email will be issued to registered participants who fell into 'Criteria #3 – Late Registration' for any age group with an excess of participants, offering a voluntary opportunity for "**Seasonal Movement**", as defined in **SECTION 23.0** to another Association, as available. **Participants will be given 24-hours to make a decision.**

Should a volunteer come forward, the Director of Evaluations (and Assistant), Director of Coaches, President, Vice President On-Ice and Registrar, **will convene in order to determine whether the particular volunteer is acceptable.**

If no player or goalie comes forward to volunteer for Seasonal Movement, then SW Hockey will proceed with the final criteria (Criteria #5) regarding the Excess Player and Goalie Movement.

23.1.5 Criteria #5: Evaluation Ranking

Southwest Hockey will have all registered players and goalies participate in the evaluation process, and every participant will be ranked accordingly.

Once evaluations are done, **the lowest ranking player and/or goalie** will be offered "Seasonal Movement". This will be communicated to those participants; by the Vice President On-Ice.

If more than one (1) participant falls within the "Excess Movement", SW Hockey will continue to apply "Seasonal Movements" to the lowest ranked participants(s) until enough players and goalies are left to fill the spots on the participant's evaluated roster.



24.0 EVALUATION APPEAL PROCESS

The Evaluation Process is specific in that it is in regards to a particular participant. General information regarding the evaluation process and team selection process is available on www.southwesthockey.ca or from an Age Category Eval Lead.

NOTE: Advancing an appeal **DOES NOT** entitle the participant, Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) access to the information from evaluations. The Committee shall use that information at its sole discretion.

24.1 Appeal Timeline

An appeal of the evaluation results received by one (1) specific participant, **MUST**:

1. Follow **AND** complete the process as outlined below, in its **ENTIRETY**.
2. Be completed **within 48 hours of notification of the participants' team assignment** having been sent.
3. Include the following three (3) steps:

STEP 1 – Complete the online form:

- The Evaluation Appeal online form is required in order to advance an appeal, and is intended to assist with ensuring that adequate information is provided so that the Appeal Committee can make an appropriate determination.
- If the appeal is not made using the online Evaluation Appeal Form, the appeal shall be automatically dismissed with no further opportunity to appeal.

STEP 2 – A \$200 Appeal Fee: e-transfer to: treasurer@southwesthockey.ca

- As soon as the Evaluation Appeal Form has been completed, the Appeal Fee is due.
- If no fee is received, the appeal will be dismissed.
- Fee will be refunded **ONLY IF** the Evaluation Appeal Committee overturns the original team assignment.

STEP 3 – Screenshot of Email

- The Member is to send a screenshot of the email (showing the time/date stamp) of the notification of the participant's team assignment to:
evaluations@southwesthockey.ca

Evaluation APPEAL link - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PJ6Y6RX>

24.2 Evaluation Appeal Committee

The submitted request is to be reviewed by the Vice President On-Ice and Director of Evaluations or designate the appropriate Age Category Eval Lead and one (1) other member of the Southwest Board, together known as the **Evaluation Appeal Committee**. Their review will consist of analyzing:

- The pre-seed assignment of the player.
- The on-ice evaluation report of each ice time.
- Confirmation of ranking within the evaluation matrix.



The Evaluation Appeal Committee will attempt to address the request within 72 hours of receiving the Appeal Form **AND** Appeal Fee.

The Committee *may* meet with the Parent(s) / Legal Guardian(s) (which could include the participant, should this be suitable, and agreed upon by the Evaluation Appeal Committee), and the Committee will communicate the final decision in writing to the Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s).

24.3 Factors that ARE considered in an Evaluation Appeal:

The following considerations are taken into account when considering an appeal:

1. Is there room for movement such that team sizes remain compliant with Hockey Calgary guidelines and requirements for team sizes? This includes the guidelines for team size and differentiation of team sizes within a community.

NOTE: No participant will be moved down a team as a result of an appeal of another participant. As such, the compliance with the aforementioned guidelines is of great importance.

2. Is there an error in evaluation calculations that compromised the placement of the participant? Reference should be made to the procedure in place in the SWH Evaluation Guidelines.
3. Was there an illness, injury, health concern or other extenuating circumstance that impacted the participant's performance in evaluations and was that taken into consideration in the evaluation and in a manner consistent with the Southwest Hockey Evaluation Procedures & Guidelines Document?

NOTE: An Appeal will not necessarily be successful as a result of an injury, illness or health concern.

4. The position of the participant in relation to the desired team. For example, is the participant next on the depth chart in terms of participant's being placed on a particular team?
5. Was the appeal made in the timelines required by SW Hockey – **SECTION 24.1**?
6. Was the appeal completed via the online form – **SECTION 24.1**?

24.4 Factors NOT considered in an Evaluation Appeal:

- 1) Desire to play with a particular participant or participants on another team.
- 2) Desire to play for a particular Coach or Assistant Coach on another team.
- 3) Desire not to play with a particular participant on the assigned team.
- 4) Desire not to play for a particular Coach or Assistant Coach on the assigned team.
- 5) Previous year(s) performance or placement alone.
- 6) Placement in relation to another particular participant or particular participants and;
- 7) Such other reasons as the Committee may advise.

Appeals made for such reasons as mentioned in **SECTION 24.4** will be denied.

24.5 Appeal Hearing

If a hearing is required, a date and time will be set. This date and time will **NOT** be rescheduled. Failure to attend the appeal hearing will forfeit the appeal.



An Appeal Hearing will include an opportunity for the Parent/Guardian (& possibly participant) to present the appeal and all evidence supporting the appeal. The time limit for this presentation will be a maximum of 20 minutes.

NOTE: Additional partakers will not be allowed in the Appeal Hearing unless agreed upon, in writing and **PRIOR** to the meeting, by the Director of Evaluations, Assistant Director of Evaluations or the VP On-Ice.

Following this presentation there will be a question period to allow the Appeals Committee to gather additional information it requires to assist in its decision. The length of the question period is determined by the Appeals Committee at its sole discretion. Once the question period is over the Appeals Committee will meet privately to deliberate on the appeal and make its decision.

24.6 Appeal Decisions

The decisions regarding the final review by the Evaluations Appeal Committee will be communicated by the President. A copy of the decision may be attached to the participant's file.

The decision by the Evaluation Appeals Committee is FINAL.

25.0 CONTACTS FOR EVALUATIONS

Contacts for Evaluations	
Director of Evaluations	evaluations@southwesthockey.ca
Assistant Director of Evaluations	asst-evaluations@southwesthockey.ca
Vice President On-Ice	vpon-ice@southwesthockey.ca
President	president@southwesthockey.ca