



# 2024 – 2025 Hybrid Goalie Guide

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



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**IMPORTANT**

If there is a discrepancy between this Hybrid Goalie Policy and any of the following documents; the Hockey Calgary Rules/Regulations, Hockey Canada Casebook, Bylaws or the Southwest Hockey Policy and Procedures, those will take precedence over the policy.

Any discrepancies should be brought to the Administrator's attention promptly.



## 1.0 OVERVIEW

The U11 'Hybrid Goalie' Policy is in place to allow participants in the U11 age category the opportunity to dress and play 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 (2) positions are not inappropriately impacting the game.
3. Participants 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.

## 2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Southwest Hockey Association (SWHA, SWH or SW Hockey) would like to acknowledge and thank Hockey Calgary for providing a comprehensive document with regards to the 'Hybrid Goalie' Policy.

## 3.0 BACKGROUND

At the U9 age category, the 'goaltender' position is an opportunity provided to all participants on a rotating basis, and U9 is also played on ½ ice with many modified rules that differ from a full-ice game. With these modifications in place, none of these participants will have had the opportunity to play as a 'goaltender' in a full-ice environment; prior to transitioning to U11.

During the 2019-2020 season, there were two Hockey Calgary Minor Hockey Associations that ran a pilot project allowing 1<sup>st</sup> year U11 participants the chance to participate as **both** a 'goaltender' and a 'skater'; so long as they met certain criteria. This 'Hybrid Goalie' Policy is derived from the learnings of that pilot; in an effort to allow interested U11 participants the opportunity to play as both a 'goaltender', and 'skater'.

## 4.0 DEFINITIONS

- **Participant:** A registered minor hockey player.
- **Hybrid Goalie:** A participant with the ability to dress AND play as both a 'skater, and 'goaltender'; who is registered in HCR as a 'skater'; which allows them to dress and play in both positions.

## 5.0 ELIGIBILITY

All U11 participants are eligible, so long as they meet the following criteria:

1. Must evaluate as **BOTH** a 'goaltender' and a 'skater'; as per the Evaluations Guidelines.
2. Are responsible for acquiring their own goalie gear. If this causes a financial limitation to participating as a Hybrid Goalie; reach out to [registrar@southwesthockey.ca](mailto:registrar@southwesthockey.ca)
3. Must identify their position (Hybrid Goalie or Goalie) during the registration process. Participants will not be permitted to change; unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated.



## 6.0 EXPECTATIONS

### 6.1 Expectations of Associations

For transparency, and as per Hockey Calgary, Associations **must** adhere to the U11 'Hybrid Goalie' Policy. As such, this '**Hybrid Goalie**' Policy Guide has been created for all U11 SW Hockey members to review for understanding purposes.

### 6.2 Expectations of Coaches

Coaches who have 'Hybrid Goalie(s)' on their team, **must** follow the U11 'Hybrid Goalie' Policy, along with any other requirements that may present themselves over the season; as per SW Hockey. Coaches **must** also follow the guidelines set forth in **SECTION 7.0** with regards to practice and game rotations.

### 6.3 Expectations of the 'Hybrid Goalie'

During the season, the 'Hybrid Goalie' **is expected** to commit to this position and **fully** participate as **both** a 'skater' and as a 'goaltender' in **both** games and practices. The percentage breakdown regarding practices and games can be found in **SECTION 7.0**.

## 7.0 GAME & PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

The Association has sole discretion to determine the 'split' for games and practices; that the 'Hybrid Goalie' will dress for as a 'goaltender' and as a 'skater'. 'Hybrid Goalies' are required to adhere to the 'goaltender' / 'skater' schedule for practices and games; as determined by the Association and the Head Coach.

Coaches **SHOULD** be tracking the rotation for the duration of the season. An excel tracking rotation form can be found on the SW Hockey website under Coaching Resources.

### 7.1 Practice Rotation

Coaches **must allow 'Hybrid Goalies' to dress both as a 'skater' and a 'goaltender' on a rotational basis for practices.** 'Skater' and 'goaltender' rotations should follow these guidelines for practices:

- If a team has **all 'Hybrid Goalies'**: the participants should be scheduled **equally** in practices as both a 'skater' and as a 'goaltender'.
- If a team has **both a 'Hybrid Goalie' and a 'Full-time' Goalie**, the 'Hybrid Goalie' will be permitted to practice as a 'goaltender' in a larger percentage of the practices.
- Coaches should make every effort to have their 'Hybrid Goalie' dress in practice – for the position that they will be playing at, in an upcoming game.

**EXCEPTION:** If there is a specific development session that has been set up for goalie development; then **ALL** 'goaltenders' should be scheduled for this session; regardless of where the percentage is for the season.



## 7.2 Game Rotation

Coaches must allow 'Hybrid Goalies' to dress as a 'skater' when not scheduled to play in a game, as a 'goaltender'.

With regards to game day; goalie rotations, Coaches must schedule the 'goaltenders' as follows:

- If a team has **all 'Hybrid Goalies'**: then the participants should be scheduled for games **equally** throughout the season as both a 'skater' and as a 'goaltender'.
- If a team has **one (1) 'Hybrid Goalie' and one (1) 'Full-time' Goalie**, the 'Full-Time' Goalie will be permitted to play 60-70% of the games. The 'Hybrid Goalie' will split the other 30-40% as equally as possible for the season.
- If the team has one (1) full-time goalie and more than one (1) hybrid; the full-time goalie gets 50% of the games and the remaining 50% will be split equally between the total # of hybrids.

## 8.0 U11 'HYBRID GOALIE' – ROTATION FORM

In an effort to help support the coaching staff with regards to tracking the 'Hybrid Goalies' rotation, Head Coaches **SHOULD** use the '**U11 Hybrid Goalie Rotation Form**' for the duration of the season. The '**U11 Hybrid Goalie Rotation Form**' must be available upon request; for review by SW Hockey, at any time during the season.

**For an Excel Printable Form**, go to the SW Hockey website > TeamOps > Head Coach > Resources

## 9.0 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Refer to the SW Hockey website on the Coach & Manager tab for a copy of the FAQ.

## 10.0 CONTACTS

### 10.1 During evaluations:

Position	Email
Assistant Director of Evaluations	<a href="mailto:asst-evaluations@southwesthockey.ca">asst-evaluations@southwesthockey.ca</a>
Director of Evaluations	<a href="mailto:evaluations@southwesthockey.ca">evaluations@southwesthockey.ca</a>
Vice President On-Ice	<a href="mailto:vpon-ice@southwesthockey.ca">vpon-ice@southwesthockey.ca</a>
Registrar	<a href="mailto:registrar@southwesthockey.ca">registrar@southwesthockey.ca</a>

### 10.2 During the season:

Position	Email
Goalie Div Lead 1	<a href="mailto:goalie-div-lead1@southwesthockey.ca">goalie-div-lead1@southwesthockey.ca</a>
Goalie Div Lead 2	<a href="mailto:goalie-div-lead2@southwesthockey.ca">goalie-div-lead2@southwesthockey.ca</a>
Assistant Director of Coaches	<a href="mailto:asst-coaches@southwesthockey.ca">asst-coaches@southwesthockey.ca</a>
Director of Coaches	<a href="mailto:coaches@southwesthockey.ca">coaches@southwesthockey.ca</a>
Vice President On-Ice	<a href="mailto:vpon-ice@southwesthockey.ca">vpon-ice@southwesthockey.ca</a>