
SPS FUZION

Evaluation Policy

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1. Overview

1.1. Evaluation Policies and Procedures

SPS Fuzion (the “Association”) recognizes that the evaluation process is important to players, parents/guardians, Evaluators and the Association. All efforts are directed to ensuring that the evaluation process allows a player to demonstrate their hockey abilities and skills.

SPS Fuzion Evaluations Policy and Procedures are to be applied in accordance with this policy. This policy has been approved by the SPS Fuzion Executive and may be amended, as necessary. All registration and evaluation fees (if applicable) must be paid in full, or arrangement made to pay by payments, prior to the player attending evaluations.

SPS Fuzion will be utilizing Competitive Thread for our athlete testing/evaluations for the 2023/24 hockey season.

2.1. Evaluation Objectives

- To form balanced and competitive teams within each applicable Division category & tier where the athletes can develop and participate equitably.
- Ensure that players have a reasonable opportunity to be placed on a team appropriate to their skill level as determined during the on-ice evaluations.
- To provide a fair and impartial assessment of a player’s total hockey skills during the Time Trials and scrimmage sessions.
- While recognizing that it is impossible to eliminate all subjectivity, or previous coach/player experiences, the selection process will attempt to only reflect on-ice performance during the evaluation period.
- The selection criteria developed for each age category will be consistent for all players at that level. All evaluations will be documented to ensure consistency in the evaluation process.
- All attempts and efforts will be made to ensure that the evaluation process is impartial and unbiased.

1.3. Evaluation Committee

Each division shall have an Evaluation Committee consisting of the Division Director, and Vice President Operations & Development, and President. The Evaluation Committee has the authority to make decisions during the evaluation process to ensure that the evaluation process is carried out in a fair manner. The decisions of the Evaluation Committee during the evaluation process are final.

1.4. Evaluation Format

- **U9** - Evaluations will consist of Time Trials followed by evaluation games. Time trials results determine placement for evaluation games. Time trial results and Evaluation game results will be weighted as per section 2.10 to determine final team placement.
- **U11** - Evaluations will consist of Time Trials followed by evaluation games. Time trials results determine placement for evaluation games. Time trial results and Evaluation game results will be weighted as per section 2.10 to determine final team placement.



- Players should be rotated through forward and defensive positions. Players may be designated as a goalie, and be evaluated as such.
- **U13** - Evaluations will consist of Time Trials followed by evaluation games. Time trial results determine placement for evaluation games. Time trial results and Evaluation game results will be weighted as per section 2.10 to determine final team placement.
- Players will be required to indicate their position (forward, defense, or goalie) at the time of registration and will be evaluated according to their position.
- **U15 & U18** - Evaluations will consist of Time Trials followed by evaluation games. Time trial results and Evaluation game results will be weighted as per section 2.10 to determine final team placement.
- Players will be required to indicate their position (forward, defense, or goalie) at the time of registration and will be evaluated accordingly to their position.

1.5. Processes Subject to Change

The policies, procedures and fees contained within this document are subject to change without notice, if necessary. The SPS Fuzion Executive reserves the right to make these changes, as deemed necessary, in order to comply with the goals set out, and approved, regarding the evaluation of all registered players and goalies.

2. Evaluation Process

2.1. Transparency and Impartiality

- The evaluation process is intended to be fair to all players, and as transparent and impartial as reasonably possible.
- Under absolutely no circumstance will a parent be permitted to evaluate their own child. All efforts will be made to avoid a parent evaluating in an age category, tier and/or position in which their evaluation score may influence the placement of their child. Should the unlikely situation occur in which a parent is in a position to provide evaluation results for their own child and does so, those results will be immediately removed by the Division Director. That parent's evaluation results for all other players will be reviewed and will be considered for removal at the discretion of the Evaluation Committee
 - U18 Evaluations - Starting Late September

2.2. Preparation

- We strongly advise ALL participating athletes to ensure they have skated at least two to three times prior to their testing session. This precaution is to guarantee that athletes are familiar with their skates and not attempting them for the first instance during the testing. Furthermore, we recommend having your skates sharpened and used at least once prior to the session to preemptively address any potential problems with blade sharpness.

2.3. Evaluation Process



- All athletes are requested to be ready and equipped at least five minutes before their scheduled session to ensure timely group starts. We will not accommodate delays, and any missed drills will result in a score equivalent to the minimum for that specific test.
- Upon arrival at the rink, All athletes will be assigned uniquely numbered wristbands by a designated association member. A manifest correlating each athlete's name with their wristband number will be available. Please verify the accuracy of your name and number on the wristband prior to preparing for your session.
- All Athletes are required to affix their assigned wristbands to their right wrists or helmets depending on instructions at the event. Following the conclusion of the final test, please return these wristbands to the Competitive Thread staff.
- Each athlete will be provided two attempts to complete each test, with their BEST score factored into the overall rankings. A Competitive Thread staff member will demonstrate each drill, and no extra attempts will be granted. Failure to complete the test in two attempts will result in a score equivalent to the lowest for that test.
- All athletes are required to start each test with their front foot on the designated line to ensure fairness. Scores obtained through line violations will be disqualified.
- Please note that waving your stick in front of the sensor will not enhance your score. The body core detection sensors (BCDS) register time based on the passage of the largest object, which, in this case, is the player's body.
- Please be advised that, barring instances of severe injury, parents, family members, or friends are strictly prohibited from accessing the bench, opening any gates, or interacting with the players on the ice surface in any way.

2.4. SPS Fuzion Releases

When determining the number of teams in each division each year, the Association's Division Directors, in conjunction with the appropriate Vice President, shall work to structure as many viable teams as the number of registrants will permit, recognizing that too few players on a particular team will create a team that may not be viable. Teams will not be set with insufficient players to be a viable team. It is recognized that the number of players required to form a viable team will increase as the age of the players increases. Best efforts will be given to having a minimum of 15 skaters plus a goalie for all teams in U11 and above. U9 teams will target team sizes of 18 players to accommodate the gameplay model. However, if during the registration and evaluation process, the number of registrants in a particular category does not permit the creation of a number of viable teams that would allow all players to be placed on teams, decisions regarding the release of one or more participants will be made under the following guidelines:

- A. The Division Director will communicate to all participants as soon as practical in the evaluation process if the Association anticipates having to release any participants at that level, and will inquire as to whether



any of the players are willing to voluntarily be released to another minor hockey association.

- B. If the need to release players remains despite voluntary releases, priority for placement on teams will occur in the following order:
- Priority of placement in the Association will be assigned to participants based on the greatest number of years that a player has been registered with the Association as a proportion of the total number of years that a player was able to play hockey, including SPKAC. Those players with the lowest proportion of registered years with the Association would be the first to be released.
 - For example, a second year U11 player who has played with the Association for 2 years would have a calculated proportion of 33% based on 2 years in SPS Fuzion divided by 6 total eligible years to play (2 years U7, 2 years U9 and 2 years U11).
 - If after taking into account the relative number of years that players have been registered with the Association as set out above, there are a number of players with equal time spent in the Association, priority will be assigned to participants based on the date of registration for the current season, with either the Association or SPKAC, and having either paid or made arrangements to pay for such registration, with the earlier registrants receiving priority over later registrants.
 - If after considering the factors above, players have equal time with the Association and registered at the same time, the Division Director, in conjunction with the VP, will do a random drawing of those players to determine who will be released.

2.5 Team Size and Tiering

The number of teams, and placement of teams, for the league tiering round will be communicated to the parent group during the evaluation process and is subject to change based on registration numbers. The number of players on each team is determined by the Evaluation Committee, and their decision is final.

Prior season's evaluation and placement will not guarantee a player a spot in the same, or higher, tier. As such, a player may be placed on a team in a lower tier than their previous season based on that player's current season's evaluations.

2.6 Evaluation Game Structure

Evaluation games introduce subjective scoring into the evaluation process. SPS Fuzion puts emphasis on subjective criteria during the evaluation process. This may include, but is not limited to, *skating, game understanding, technical skills, compete, and checking skills (where applicable)*. Each gameplay model has a target number of players per roster however it should be noted that pending registration numbers, an evaluation team may have more players or fewer players than the target number.

U9 - Half-Ice Free-Flow Game Model

Evaluation teams will be created with desired roster sizes of sixteen (16) players. These teams will be randomly split into two groups of eight (8) for each game. These two groups will participate in two simultaneous half-ice



games with another team. The format will be 4-on-4 hockey with no designated positions and 3'x 4' nets (if available). The net size is the mandate of the Edmonton Federation Hockey League. Shifts will run in 90-second intervals, giving each player the same amount of gameplay while playing every second shift of the game. The rules of gameplay will follow the Hockey Alberta Intro to Hockey Half-Ice gameplay model. Players will not be required to participate as a goaltender during the evaluation game process. Evaluation games will utilize shooter tutors when volunteer goalies are unavailable or at the discretion of the Division Director. A reminder that there is no goaltender evaluation at the U9 age category.

U11 - Full-Ice Free-Flow Game Model

Evaluation teams will be created with desired roster sizes of fifteen (15) players and one (1) goaltender. Each game will feature two 12-minute halves. Goalies will switch at the half. There will be three 30-minute game slots within a 90-minute ice slot. The format will be 5-on-5 hockey in which players will be asked to rotate through all positions during the game. Shifts will run in 60-second intervals, giving each player the same amount of gameplay while playing every second shift of the game. The rules of gameplay will be modified to maintain the flow of the game and to limit stoppages. This includes no offsides, no icing and no faceoffs (except to start each half). Egregious infractions will be noted by the on-ice official and will result in a play-it-live penalty shot with everyone else chasing. If a goal is scored, players on the scoring team are required to clear the red line before engaging the other team. On the buzzer, the puck is to be left where it is and players are to exit the ice while the new line entering the ice is able to play-the-puck-live.

U13 - U18 - Standard Game Model

Evaluation teams will be created with desired roster sizes of fifteen (15) players, including 9 forwards and 6 defense. These teams will participate in standard 60-minute full-ice games. The format will be 5-on-5 hockey in which players will be evaluated respective of their designated position.

2.7 Goaltender Evaluations

The evaluation of goaltenders is made difficult due to the specialized nature of the position and the unique abilities, and experience, required of the Evaluators. Goalie evaluations will be completed in the U11-U18 divisions. There will be no dedicated goalies at the U7 & U9 divisions, and as such, goaltenders will not be evaluated at those levels.

A goalie-specific skill session to decide initial placement into the evaluation process will be performed at the U11-U18 levels by the SPMHA Hockey Improvement Director - Goalie and the selected Lead Goalie Evaluators. This session(s) will be adhered to by the Association based on the recommendations of placement criteria as set out. A majority of goalie evaluators will be paid and independent at every level. Additionally, goalie evaluations will consist of multiple drills evaluating multiple factors of goaltending with at least one drill focused entirely on goalie movement/skating at all levels within the goalie evaluations.

Thirty minutes prior to each Goalie Placement Session a brief parent meeting will be held with the goalie parents within that division and the Hockey Improvement Director - Goalie and/or someone within the Goalie Evaluation Process. It is expected that at least 1 parent attends this meeting.



2.8. Injured, Sick and Absent Players

- Injured, sick or absent players will be treated as fairly as possible. The Evaluation Committee will make decisions on the placement of players that are injured, sick or absent. The decisions of the Evaluation Committee will be final.
- If a player misses Time Trials, a *Comparable Player Average* will be taken into consideration to assign that player a weighted cumulative score. The player's prior season Time Trials results will be reviewed to determine comparable players. To be considered a comparable player, two conditions must be met: (1) The comparable player must share the same birth year as the injured/sick/absent player; and (2) the comparable player must have participated in this season's Time Trials. Based on the weighted cumulative score of the injured/sick/absent player in the prior season and the player's relative ranking to its peers, a group of six (6) comparable players will be selected to create the comparable player average. The 3 players immediately above and below (for a total of 6) the injured/sick/absent player's prior season rank after Time Trials will be selected and those players' weighted cumulative scores in this season's Time Trials will be averaged to provide a comparable score for the injured/sick/absent player that missed the Time Trials session. For example, Player X, who missed Time Trials this year, finished 60th in relative ranking in last year's Time Trials. The Director will select the 3 comparable players above and below that player from last year's Time Trials. The Director will average the results of those 6 players from this year's Time Trials and will assign that result to Player X.
- Players with multiple absences (Time Trials and evaluation games) may be placed in an evaluation group, or on a team, according to a variety of factors. These factors may include any of the following: the level that they played during the last season; prior coach feedback; and where other similarly ranked players were grouped. The Evaluation Committee will have the final say on a player's placement for evaluation games, or on a player's final team placement.
- Players that are injured before evaluations commence, and are therefore not able to participate in the evaluation process, may be placed on a team as determined by the Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee will consider a number of factors including: the level that the player played in the previous season; prior season coach feedback; evaluation results from the previous season(s); and what team other similarly ranked players might be on. The decision of the Evaluation Committee will be final.
- Players that become injured or sick during the evaluation process will be paired up with the players who were ranked one ranking above them, as well as one ranking below them. The injured or sick player will mirror these players throughout the evaluation process and may be moved up or down throughout the process. In situations where the player ranked below the injured or sick player moves up a group, the injured or sick player is not guaranteed to move up. The player's movement is determined by the Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee has the final say in all injured and/or sick players



placements, and their decision is final. The injured or sick player will not be notified of the players that he or she is mirroring.

- There will be no subjective consideration given for poor performance due to illness or injury.
- SPS Fuzion strongly recommends that all players participate in all parts of the evaluation process if not injured or sick.
- SPS Fuzion strongly recommends that no player participates in any part of the evaluation process while injured and/or sick. A Division director has the discretion to remove a player from an evaluation skate if it is determined that the player is participating while sick and/or injured. SPMHA values the health and safety of all of its players, volunteers and members.

2.9 Underage Tryout Process

Hockey Canada programs and divisions are intended to focus on the overall quality of the hockey experience. Each age division has pre-defined goals and recommended focus areas of development. As a player moves through each age division, skills and knowledge learned in the earlier division are built upon in a systematic manner. There may be times when an individual player significantly exceeds the skill level of their age group and are also superior in skill and ability to the next division. In rare circumstances like this, it may be beneficial to the player and the Association to advance a division even though they are “underage”.

Movement of such a player will be considered under exceptional circumstances. Parents who, after discussion with their player, feel that their child is an exception, may make an application under this policy to advance their child. Players making application under this policy will possess the physical, psychological, social and educational maturity to match their superior hockey skills.

Criteria:

Applications will only be accepted for players meeting the following criteria:

- The player is entering their final year of their respective age-eligible division as determined by Hockey Alberta.
- Letters of Recommendation: An application should include letters of recommendation. The sources of recommendation may include the previous season’s Head Coach, a member of the executive from the previous year’s Association or Club and/or an identified skills coach where deemed appropriate (i.e. goaltenders). The recommendations should identify justifiable reasons to support the player’s application as an underage player at an elite level of hockey. A letter cannot come from a parent/guardian that served in one of the identified roles.
- No application will be accepted if the older age category is capped for registration, and has an established waiting list of players.
- The number of underage tryout applicants per year will be subject to any restrictions established by Hockey Alberta as it pertains to such an application. Any exception above and beyond an established restriction will be at the discretion of the Association and subject to approval from Hockey Alberta.

Process:

All steps in the process must be followed or the player will be considered ineligible for the older division:

- Parents/Guardians must apply to the VP Operations & Development for their child to try out as an underage player.

If the application is declined, the player is expected to register in their age-eligible division of play. If the application is approved, the next steps are as follows:

- The player will be invited to participate in the older division evaluation process and will be assessed by the standards of that division and its respective evaluation process. This approval grants permission to the player to participate in evaluation pre-skates, Time Trials and evaluation game. The player's performance will be reviewed at that time and a decision will be made by SPS Fuzion as to whether to allow the player to continue in the evaluation process or to assign the player to the age-eligible Division. This decision is final and not subject to appeal.
- To successfully evaluate for the older division, the conditions are as follows:
 - When trying out as a skater, the player must grade in the top one-third (1/3) of the highest ranked team(s) in the division; or
 - When trying out as a goaltender, (a) when there is only one team at the top level of play, the goaltender must grade as the top goaltender in the division; or (b) when there are two teams at the top level of play, the goaltender must grade as one of the top 2 goaltenders in the division.
- Where the above conditions are not met, the player will be assigned to their age-eligible division and subject to its evaluation process. If the older division evaluation process interferes with the evaluation process of the player's age-eligible division, placement within the age-eligible division evaluation process will be subject to the same policy as those players that missed an evaluation skate(s) due to absence (Section 2.16).
- If the player is successful during evaluations and is selected to a respective team in the older division, in accordance with the identified criteria, the player will be monitored. If it is determined, in the opinion of the SPS Fuzion Executive, that playing in the older division has negatively impacted the player, consideration may be made for the player to be reassigned to their age-eligible division. This would happen prior to the defined Hockey Alberta roster deadline date, which is November 15th of the current season. This would be communicated to the Coach and the player. The SPS Fuzion Executive reserves the right to the final decision.

2.10 Evaluation Scoring

The evaluation of each athlete will be based on a total of SIX scores for those in the U9 category and SEVEN scores for those in the U11 to U18 categories. These scores will all be time-based. Athletes are highly encouraged to familiarize

themselves with the specific protocols pertinent to their age category ahead of the event.

2023/2024 Evaluation Weighting

AGE GROUP	TIME TRIAL WEIGHTING	GAME 1 WEIGHTING	GAME 2 WEIGHTING	GAME 3 WEIGHTING
U9	50%	50%	N/A	N/A
U11	40%	20%	20%	20%
U13	25%	25%	25%	25%
U15	20%	26.60%	26.60%	26.60%
U18	15%	28.30%	28.30%	28.30%

2.11 Parent & Spectator Code of Conduct

All parents/spectators will be held accountable to the standards outlined in the Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct as outlined in the SPS Fuzion Conduct Policy. SPS Fuzion recognizes that an evaluation decision may elicit an emotional response from a member and expects that member to act cordially, and with respect. Inappropriate conduct towards a member of the Evaluation Committee, a member of the SPS Fuzion Executive, or any other member of SPS Fuzion or Strathcona County Facilities may be reported and subject to the SPS Fuzion Conduct Policy for potential further discipline.

