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 2026/27 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.

Evaluation Committee

Each division shall have an Evaluation Committee consisting of the Division Director, Vice President Operations, 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. Where a member of the evaluation committee is unavailable, another Division Director or VP-level officer may participate.

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 and are not evaluated based on a set position. Players may be designated as a goalie and be evaluated as such.

- **U13 and U15** - 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 will be required to indicate their position (forward, defense, or goalie) at the time of registration and will be evaluated according to their position.
- **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. Timelines

Evaluation timelines will be set from year to year based on ice availability in conjunction with league start dates for each division. Every effort is made to ensure that teams are finalized at least seven (7) days in advance of league play, allowing time for practice(s) prior to gameplay. Below are the general timelines based on prior league history

- U9 Evaluations - Starting Early to Mid September
- Fuzion Jr Kings - Starting Late-August
- U11 Evaluations - Starting Early to Mid September
- U13 Evaluations - Starting Early to Mid September
- U15 Evaluations - Starting Early to Mid September
- U18 Evaluations - Starting Early to Mid September

2.2. 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

The SPS Fuzion Evaluations Manual will be posted on the Association website so that all parents and players are able to understand the evaluation process. The VP Operations and Division Directors will be available to any parent that has a question about the evaluation process.

2.3 SPS Fuzion Required Apparel

The Time Trials process uses a 100% objective method. Players can arrive for these sessions in any apparel that they choose.

For U9 through U18, once the evaluation games begin, players are representing SPS Fuzion, not other programs, and should do so with a sense of pride. Players must only wear SPS Fuzion issued jerseys and hockey socks throughout the evaluation game process. This includes SPS Fuzion game socks. Gamewear from third-party programs, clubs or associations is prohibited. This is to ensure that there is no subjective influence on an evaluator via representation of another program. Players will be provided with a numbered game jersey at check-in. SPS Fuzion may have a supply of game socks on hand at check-in that can be purchased if needed. It is highly recommended that a player come prepared with a previous pair of SPS Fuzion game socks. Should a player refuse to wear SPS Fuzion apparel during an evaluation game, that player may not receive an evaluation score for that respective game.

2.4. Player Positions

- U9 Age Group - positions will not be assigned to players
- U11 Age Group - players will be assigned a position by the volunteer working the bench of the respective evaluation game. The player is expected to play the position that they are assigned for that respective shift. The bench staff will work on a best-efforts basis to ensure that every player gets as close to an equal rotation at the forward and defensemen positions. Players are to be evaluated on their game understanding respective of all positions.
- U13 to U18 Age Groups - players will be required to indicate their position (forward, defense, or goalie) at the time of registration and will be evaluated and ranked according to their position.

2.5 Evaluation of Players Released from SPKAC

The Association recognizes that due to the nature of the SPKAC program, the timing of releases from that program are somewhat unpredictable due to the effect of releases from teams outside of the SPKAC program such as other AAA teams and Junior level teams. As such, players released from SPKAC may miss and/or be unavailable for some, or all, of the Association's evaluations for a particular level. Effective communication and collaboration between the SPKAC Hockey Operations (Head Coach, Evaluators and Division Director) and SPS Fuzion's Hockey Operations (VP Operations and Division Directors) is key to the successful placement of released individuals. The Association has developed the following guidelines for communicating with, and the evaluation of, SPKAC players:

- Prior to August 1 of the current hockey season, the Association's President and Senior Director shall meet with SPKAC to determine a cut off deadline for U13 (the "U13 Cut-off Date"), U15 (the "U15 Cut-Off Date") and U18 (the "U18 Cut-Off Date") in accordance with this Article.
- SPKAC shall inform all released players that they must contact the Association's appropriate Division Director, within five (5) days of their SPKAC release date, of their intention in regards to playing with the Association, and must appear in the next grading session following such. The provisions of this Article (2.5) shall not be available to any player that does not provide such notification within such five (5) day period or does not appear in the next grading session following such notification.
- If a player is released by SPKAC prior to the commencement of the Association's evaluations for such division commencing then such player shall be ONLY evaluated pursuant to the Association's evaluation procedures for such division.

- If a player is released by SPKAC before the final grading game evaluation, the player shall be evaluated during such remaining grading game evaluation ice time. Provided the player attends such grading game evaluation, the VP Operations and the applicable Division Director shall utilize such grading game evaluation as well as feedback or comments from SPKAC Evaluators and Coaches in determining which initial grading team such player should be placed. If such a player does not attend such grading game evaluation ice time, this Article(2.5) shall no longer be applied to such player and they shall be treated like a regular Association registrant that missed grading sessions.
- If said player or goaltender is considered to be a “final cut” (i.e. last 1-2 skaters or goaltenders to be released) the expectation is that they shall be placed for the season on the top level (female tier 1).
- Notwithstanding all of the above, if the SPS Fuzion and SPKAC Hockey Operations Directors advise and recommend that such player is placed in a position other than as determined by this policy such applicable Division Director shall be entitled to place such player according to such.
- Following the U13, U15, and U18 Cut-Off Dates, as applicable, any further SPKAC releases will be placed in accordance with the Association’s prior policies and they shall be treated like a regular player registrant that missed evaluation sessions.
- For clarity, players released from SPKAC U18 and U16 shall be treated independent of each other meaning when comparing placement releases from U18 will be compared to previous U18 releases and players released from U16 shall be compared to previous U16 releases.
- In the event the Association needs to release players from its program in accordance with Article 2.6 below, released players from SPKAC shall be treated the same as all other Association registrants in determining which players are released.

2.6. 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 18-20 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:

- 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.
- 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.

2.7. Team Size and Tiering

The number of tiers, and number of teams in each tier, is regulated by the Alberta One Tiering Model as determined by Hockey Alberta. 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.

2.8. Movement

The evaluation process is structured to give players the opportunity to move between tiering groups based on their performance. Players may be moved up or down from a group at any time during the evaluation process. Decisions on player movement are made after each session, and any movement will be applied for the next evaluation session.

2.9. Pre-skates

All players in U9 to U18 may be offered warm-up ice sessions prior to their respective evaluation session. A warm-up session may consist of a variety of different elements such as drill practice, scrimmage, and individual skill development, pending the age group's evaluation process.

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 pre-emptively address any potential problems with blade sharpness.

2.10 Time Trials

U11 & U13 Divisions will utilize Time Trials to determine placement for evaluation games only. All players within the same division will be tested utilizing the same set of drills. Players will be ranked based on the Time Trials results, and this ranking is used to form the initial evaluation game groupings.

Player times will be verified by the Evaluation Committee and/or the General Manager and then ranked within their division based on a weighted cumulative ranking formula. Cumulative ranking

takes a player's rank against peers in each individual drill and combines them (with drill weighting) for an overall rank score.

Drills are selected, tested and finalized by Competitive Thread. The drills test age-appropriate Hockey Canada-defined core skills including, but not limited to, skating speed, agility, edge control and puck handling. A link to evaluation drills can be found on the SPS Fuzion website.

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. If a player falls during an attempt, they must get up and finish the drill. A disqualification will only be assessed if the drill pattern is not completed properly.

In the case that a player is disqualified (unable to complete the drill pattern properly) on both attempts, they will be assigned a score equal to the lowest completed score for all players for that respective drill in that respective session. This would only be applied in the case where the player does not have a completed attempt. If they were to have a completed attempt, even with a fall or a lost puck, that score would be used.

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. While SPS Fuzion may rely on parent volunteers to assist with functions such as opening gates during Evaluation games, this will be actively managed by means including, but not limited to, assigning parents to the opposite bench as their player.

2.11 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 to twenty (16-20)) players. These teams will be randomly split into two groups of eight to ten (8-10) 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-seconds intervals, giving each player the same amount of gameplay. 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 approximately fifteen (15) players and one (1) goaltender. Each game will feature two 23-minute halves. Goalies will switch at the half. 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-seconds intervals, giving each player the same amount of gameplay. 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 - Full Ice Free-Flow Game Model
    - Evaluation teams will be created with desired roster sizes of approximately fifteen (15) players, including nine (9) forwards and six (6) defense, and one (1) goaltender, subject to change based on the number of players evaluating at each position overall. Each game will feature two 23-minute halves. Goalies will switch at the half. The format will be 5-on-5 hockey in which players will be evaluated at their designated position. Shifts will run in 60-seconds intervals, giving each player the same amount of gameplay. 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. .

- U15 to U18 - Standard Game Model
    - Evaluation teams will be created with desired roster sizes of approximately fifteen (15) players, including 9 forwards and 6 defense, subject to change based on the number of players evaluating at each position overall. The

expected shift length is 75-seconds, and players will change on the fly. Players will have a 5-minute warm-up and 40- minute scrimmage. 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 based on their designated position.

2.12. Initial Evaluation Game Placement

The initial placement of players into groups for the purposes of evaluation games is based on the Time Trials results. These groups are not defined tiers. The grouping structure is used to promote the movement of players between groups depending on game play performance. The number of evaluation games can fluctuate based on the availability of ice and the number of registrants. After each defined round of evaluation games, player evaluation scores will be tabulated and player movement will occur between groups. Note that players may move up or down depending on evaluation results. Injured, sick or absent players will be assigned subject to Article 2.15.

In the event that players are released from a separate evaluation stream (e.g., SPKAC) after the conclusion of community Time Trials, the Evaluation Committee reserves the right to place these players into an appropriate initial evaluation group based on their demonstrated performance in the preceding evaluation stream. Such placements will be made with the intent to align players with similarly skilled peers and to preserve fairness and balance in the evaluation process. These players are not considered absent and are therefore exempt from the comparable player average provisions outlined in Section 2.15.

- U9 & U11
    - After Time Trials, players will be ranked amongst their age category based on a weighted cumulative score. Division Directors will utilize this ranking list to place players in evaluation groups. Within an evaluation group, the Division Directors will create evaluation teams using a serpentine method. There will be a defined number of evaluation teams per evaluation group. Initial placement for evaluation games will be completely objective and not open to appeal.
- U13 & U15 & U18
    - After Time Trials, players will be ranked amongst their age category based on a weighted cumulative score as it pertains to their designated position (forward or defense). The Division Director will utilize this ranking list to place players in evaluation groups. Within an evaluation group, the Division Director will create evaluation teams using a serpentine method. There will be a defined number of evaluation teams per evaluation group. Initial placement for evaluation games will be completely objective and not open to appeal.

2.13 Team Finalization

- U9 & U11
    - Upon the completion of the evaluation games, players will be ranked based on their weighted aggregate score. Once player movement is completed, players will be assigned to a team. Tiers with more than one team will play at least one parity game.
    - Head Coaches do not reserve the right to recommend player movement from one tier to another and any such requests will not be considered by the Division

Director. The Evaluation Committee has the final say in all team placements and their decision is not open to appeal.
    - Regarding the number of players per team at the U9 level, the normal guideline is 18 players per team in accordance with the Hockey Alberta Intro to Hockey Model. This may be varied at the Division Director's discretion in consultation with the appropriate Vice-President.
    - At the U11 level, the normal guideline is 15 to 17 players per team. This may be varied at the Division Director's discretion (in consultation with the appropriate Vice-President) depending on total players in any division.

- U13, U15 & U18
    - Upon the completion of the evaluation games, players will be ranked by position based on their weighted aggregate score. Head Coach finalization will happen at this phase.
    - For A+, Coaches may select any player within 5 ranked positions of the last assigned ranked player of the same position, subject to approval by the Division Director and VP Operations.
    - Tiers with more than one team will play at least one parity game. Players may be moved between teams within the same tier in order to achieve balanced teams.
    - Regarding the number of players per team at the U13 level, the normal guideline is 15 to 17 players per team.
    - The normal guideline for U15 and U18 divisions is 19 players per team (17 players and 2 goalies). This may be varied at the Division Director's discretion (in consultation with the VP Operations) depending on total players in any division.

- NOTE FOR U9 THROUGH U18 - 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.

2026/2027 Evaluation Weighting

Age Group	Time Trial Weighting	Game 1 Weighting	Game 2 Weighting	Game 3 Weighting
U9	50%	50%	n/a	n/a
U11	10%	30%	30%	30%
U13	10%	30%	30%	30%
U15	10%	30%	30%	30%
U18	10%	30%	30%	30%

2.14 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 to U18 divisions. There will be no dedicated goalies at the U9 division, 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 to U18 levels by the 3rd party evaluator. This session(s) will be adhered to by the Association based on the recommendations of placement criteria as set out. 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.

Goaltenders will play in evaluation games for U11 through U18 and the evaluation committee will affirm goalie placement based on performance in the games.

2.15. 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 three (3) players immediately above and below (for a total of 6) of 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. SPS Fuzion values the health and safety of all of its players, volunteers and members.

2.16 Suspensions

Any player who receives a major penalty resulting in a game ejection during an evaluated ice session will be placed at the bottom of the group for that session and their infraction is subject to review by the Discipline Liaison Member. The VP Operations, Division Directors and/or the on-ice Officials, have the right to eject players based on their on-ice actions. All decisions made by the VP Operations, Division Directors and/or on-ice Officials are final.

2.17 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.

<u>Criteria:</u>
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 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 games. 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.

General:
If the underage applicant is successful in the older division evaluation, there are a couple additional items of note:

- Approval will only be granted for one year;
- The player must play on the top tiered team(s) of the division;
- The player will not be affiliated to any other teams; and
- The player will count towards the team's roster limits.

3. Administration

3.1. Coach Selection

Coaches are selected by the Coach Selection Committee as per the SPS Fuzion Coach Selection Policy.

3.2. Member Communications

Information regarding a player's first skate (pre-evaluation skate, Time Trials or Evaluation game) will be communicated via email. All future information regarding player movement will be made available via TeamLinkt and through the SPS Fuzion website. Players will receive communications via TeamLinkt when group movement is complete, and the results may be posted on the SPS Fuzion website. It is the responsibility of the parents/players to check the website/TeamLinkt for information regarding group, skate time, and location. Please make sure you check all of the groups in your player's division for your player's next scheduled time.

3.3 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.

3.4. Tiering Disputes

SPS Fuzion recognizes that player performance during evaluations varies. The evaluations are structured such that it is expected that any perceived misplacements will be addressed and resolved through the completion of the process. That is, should an initial placement via Time Trials or placement matrix result in a player being excessively misplaced (i.e. poor performance in skills testing), it is expected that the player's game play ability, and the opportunity presented in the player movement diagram, will allow the player an opportunity to be promoted to the appropriate skill group. SPS Fuzion discourages members from contacting other members to question a player's placement at any point during the evaluation process. Another member's opinion on a player's ability, or perceived placement, will not influence a player's placement. SPS Fuzion is committed to adherence to the process outlined in this document. The only tiering dispute that will be recognized by the SPS Fuzion Executive is that which qualifies under the Grievance Process, and therefore violates the Evaluation Guidelines.

3.5. Grievance Process

If, after reviewing the Evaluation Guidelines, you feel that the Evaluation Guidelines were not adhered to, the following is required to file a Grievance to be investigated by the Grievance Committee:

1. Grievances will only be accepted between 24 and 72 hours after either
    a. the conclusion of the session in which the grievance refers; or
    b. after player movement has been communicated.
2. Submit an Evaluation Grievance Request Form.
3. Your submission will be reviewed within 24 hours. Once your submission is reviewed, you will be notified of whether the Grievance is accepted as being a procedural violation, and not based solely on placement. If accepted, there will be a $150 fee required to proceed with an investigation, and the Grievance Committee will investigate the evaluation process for your player as described in the grievance.
4. Once the investigation is complete, you will receive an email report detailing the above findings.
5. If there was an error in the evaluation process, appropriate player re-assignment may occur if warranted.
6. If there was an error, the $150 will be refunded
7. This will close the Evaluation Review process

All decisions of the Evaluation Committee are final pending review by the Grievance Committee. A grievance resolution will consider the impact on all players, not just the player(s) included in the grievance. A grievance resolution may not change player placement but may result in a process change. Should a request to move a player be included as part of the proposed resolution, all factors including team size, Hockey Alberta Rules and Regulations compliance, and affiliation ramifications must be considered.