

RAIDERS

2023-24

Evaluation Guidelines





Evaluation Objectives

- To provide a fair, consistent, and comprehensive evaluation of each athlete's overall skill set
- To ensure that all athletes are selected to a team appropriate for their level play
- To form balanced and competitive teams where the athletes can develop and participate equitably, while having fun playing hockey throughout the season
- To provide a reliable and consistent process so that all athletes and parents know what to expect throughout the evaluation process.

Parent Expectations

For the 2023-24 season, parents will be allowed in the arena to watch and support their athletes during evaluations.

- We request that parents practice proper sports etiquette and adhere to the principles outlined in Respect in Sport. Each family is required to have a complete update RIS certificate.
- DO NOT approach evaluators with questions about rankings or marks. Evaluation information is kept confidential.
- Assist your athlete in being prepared. Ensure your athlete is at the rink 30 minutes before their scheduled ice time and ready 5 minutes before their ice time. This will give on-ice instructors and age group coordinators the chance to explain the session to the athletes.
- Check equipment fits properly, and skates are sharpened before their session. Athletes change sizes over the summer and their safety is important.
- Stay positive and support your athlete through the process. They will perform at their best when stress is lower.

Moving forward, for the 2024-25 season, we will be instituting a no spectator policy for the Raiders Hockey Club evaluations for the U11 to U18 age groups. We ask that parents respect this policy when implemented. More information to come next season.

Athlete Expectations

- Be prepared for evaluation skates by arriving 30 minutes early and be fully dressed on the bench inside the dressing room 5 minutes prior to game start.
- Be respectful to volunteers and other players. Demonstrate good sportsmanship on and off the ice.
- Do YOUR best and have fun. Perform the drills to the best of your ability.
- Review the process for your age-appropriate level and understand what is being asked of you. On-Ice and Off-Ice volunteers will be there as resources so be sure to ask questions for clarification.





- No alcohol, marijuana (in any form), other illicit drugs, nicotine or vaping is permitted in the rink as all facilities have bylaws in place. Suspensions and fines will be levied if facility guidelines are violated.

Evaluation Overview

All evaluation processes are developed to ensure athletes are given opportunity and are in the best interests of every Raiders Hockey athlete. It is our intent to ensure all elements of the evaluation process are as open and transparent as possible. We rely mostly on evaluation scores provided by external evaluators when placing athletes. There may be circumstances where the evaluation committee will take other things into consideration such as injuries. Final rankings are based on a combination of technical skills, hockey knowledge/IQ, and compete level scores from each session. We will tabulate scores after each evaluation and begin athlete movements for the next session.

Evaluation groupings (by jersey number), ice times, arena, and the focus of those evaluations (eg. skills or game) will be posted online under "Evaluations" on the Raiders Hockey Club website after each session. It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure they attend all assigned sessions as the Raiders Hockey Club will not contact individuals with their ice times. We strive to have individual athlete times posted as quickly as possible before their next evaluation time – this sometimes can be difficult if a session ends late at night and their next session is the next day. We encourage our athletes to closely monitor our website during their evaluations.

We will try to schedule an evaluation jersey pick up day in advance of the start of evaluations. If this is not possible, a check-in table will be set up in/near the lobby of the arena where athletes will receive 2 evaluation jerseys (black and white) at their first evaluation session. Please make sure athletes are at the arena and ready to go at least 30 minutes prior to their ice time to check-in and receive their jersey. Athletes will keep these jerseys for the entirety of the evaluation process. The evaluation jerseys will be collected and must be returned at the end of evaluations. Failure to do so will result in a \$100 replacement fee per jersey.

Full hockey equipment is required for all evaluations and athletes will not be allowed to participate if they are missing any equipment. Athletes are also required to wear only Crowfoot or SVHA colored socks to all evaluations - no Elite hockey shells or socks will be permitted. Please note that all upstairs balconies will be closed to all spectators for the entirety of the evaluations process at all arenas during evaluations. Only evaluations-related volunteers, evaluators, and Coordinators will be permitted on the balconies or in designated areas within the arenas.

If an athlete does not attend all their evaluations, this may have an impact on their placement. In the event that an athlete is sick or injured in any capacity and will miss a session, they must contact their respective Division Director in advance of their scheduled session and provide a medical note when they return. It is important to note that athletes will not be penalized for missing an evaluation session for a pre-documented illness. Aside from injury or illness, we do ask that all hockey athletes make a commitment to attend all of these evaluation sessions. Parents are welcome to contact their respective Division Director with questions or for more information. Please note the Division Director will only





answer questions pertaining to your child and will not share any information about their evaluation scores or ranking.

U13-U18: Declared positions (Forward, Defence, Goalie) may not change once evaluations have begun. It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure that they have registered for their desired position. If a mistake has been made and changes are required, this must be done before the athlete's first evaluation session by contacting the respective Division Director.

U15-U18: Declared tier (body checking, non-body checking) may not change once evaluations have begun. It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure that they have registered for their desired tier. If a mistake has been made and changes are required, this must be done before the athlete's first evaluation session by contacting the respective Division Director.

IMPORTANT - We encourage Raiders Hockey Club members to ask questions about the evaluation process rather than engage in rumors or speculation that inevitably occurs when people don't fully understand the evaluation process. Raiders Hockey Club Board Members and evaluation team members will be available at the arenas to fully explain the process and answer any questions as evaluations progress.

Evaluation Overview - Goalies

In addition to the above evaluation overview, below is some goalie-specific information.

- Goalies will be assigned a jersey to wear for all sessions.
- Full goalie equipment is required. Per Hockey Calgary, mouth guards are not mandatory for goalies.
- Goalies (U11 Full Time and U11 Hybrid) are required to attend 1 Technical Skill sessions. Full Time goalies do not attend the Timed Skills Session but Hybrid goalies must attend the Timed Skills Session. The Goalie Coordinator will advise which goalies are required for the Small Area Games session – goalies will not be evaluated during this session but are needed to help evaluate the athletes.
- Goalies (U13 Full Time) are required to attend 1 Technical Skill sessions. Full Time goalies do not attend the Timed Skills Session. The Goalie Coordinator will advise which goalies are required for the Small Area Games session – goalies will not be evaluated during this session but are needed to help evaluate the athletes.
- Goalies (U15-U18 Full Time) are required to attend 1 Technical Skill sessions.
- Goalies are committed to play this position for the entire season, per Hockey Calgary regulations.
- If you are unable to attend a session for any reason, you must contact the Goalie Coordinator.

Our Goalie Coordinators are Bryon Calon and Curtis Adam. One or both will be at each goalie evaluation and be available to address any questions and concerns. Please note they will not discuss the goalies scores or ranking at any time during the evaluation process.

Evaluation Reviews





The parent's role in initiating a review process is contingent upon their genuine belief that an error has occurred during the evaluation process. It is crucial to understand that the review process **is not intended to alter a player's final placement** but rather to ensure fairness and accuracy in the evaluation system. When parents suspect that their child's placement may have been influenced by a mistake, they have the right to request a review. This process serves as a mechanism to rectify any potential discrepancies, maintaining the integrity of the evaluation system while providing parents with an avenue to address concerns and seek clarity without compromising the final placement outcome. The request must be placed in writing to the Evaluation Team. The request should clearly outline the reasons for the request.

What to expect in a review:

- Parents will be able to view their athlete's ranking and overall journey
- Address questions about the evaluation process
- All information shared in the meeting remains with Raiders Hockey Club and is to be treated as confidential.

All review requests must take place within 24-48 hours of the team announcement. **The cost of the review is \$250.** A meeting time will be set up once Raiders Hockey Club receives payment. Athletes are not permitted to attend the review.

Evaluation Format

- U7: 2 Technical Skills Sessions (Sort Skates)
- U9: 1 Timed Skills Session; 1 Technical Skills Sessions, 2 Games
- U11: 1 Timed Skills Session; 1 Small Area Games Technical Skills Sessions; 3 Games
 - Full Time and Hybrid Goalies: 1 Technical Goalie Sessions; 3 Games
 - Full Time Goalies: 1 Small Area Games Technical Skills Session but will not be scored/ranked
- U13: 1 Timed Skills Session; 1 Small Area Games Technical Skills Sessions; 3 Games
 - Full Time Goalies: 1 Technical Goalie Sessions; 3 Games
 - Full Time Goalies: 1 Small Area Games Technical Skills Session but will not be scored/ranked
- U15-U18 Round Robin
 - Body Checking: 5 Games
 - Non-Body Checking: 5 Games
 - Full Time Goalies: 1 Technical Goalie Sessions.
- U21: 4 Tryout Sessions





Initial Placement

- U7 – N/A
- U9 – Timed Skills Session
- U11 – Timed Skills Session & Small Area Game Group
- U13 – Timed Skills Session & Small Area Game Group
- U15 – Body Checking / Non-Body Checking Registration
- U18 – Body Checking / Non-Body Checking Registration
- U11-U18 Goalies – Technical Skills Session

Timed Skills Session – All athletes, new and returning, will participate in the timed skills session operated by Fuel Performance. This is considered Phase 1 of evaluations for ages U9, U11, & U13. For ages U11 & U13 groups will be formed for the next phase, Small Area Games Group. Ages U9 will be grouped for their Evaluation Skills & Games.

Small Area Games Group – U11 & U13 athletes will be evaluated for skills while engaging in mini skills sessions. These sessions are led by Evaluation On-Ice Leads. This is considered Phase 2 of evaluations and groups will be adjusted before the next phase, Evaluation Games.

Body Checking Tryouts – Athletes who register to participate in body checking divisions will “tryout” to make a body checking division. Not every athlete who registered for body checking will make a body checking team. Body checking divisions are determined by Hockey Calgary’s matrix for the number of teams in body checking and non-body checking.

Please note: NO ATHLETE is guaranteed a placement based on the previous year’s team, which means athletes may start the evaluation sessions lower or higher than previous teammates.

Evaluation Process After Initial Placement

- U7 – 2 x Sort Skates
- U9 – 1 x Skills Session/2 x Games
- U11/U13 – 1 x Small Area Games Skills Session/3 x Games
- U11/U13 Goalies – 1 x Technical Sessions/3 x Games
- U15/U18 (Round 1) – 2 x Games (for both body checking & non-body checking)
- U15/U18 (Round 2) – 2 x Games (for both body checking & non-body checking)
- U15/U18 (Round 3) – 1 Game to determine final placement (for both body checking & non-body checking)
- U15/U18 Goalies – 1 x Technical Skills Session/5 games

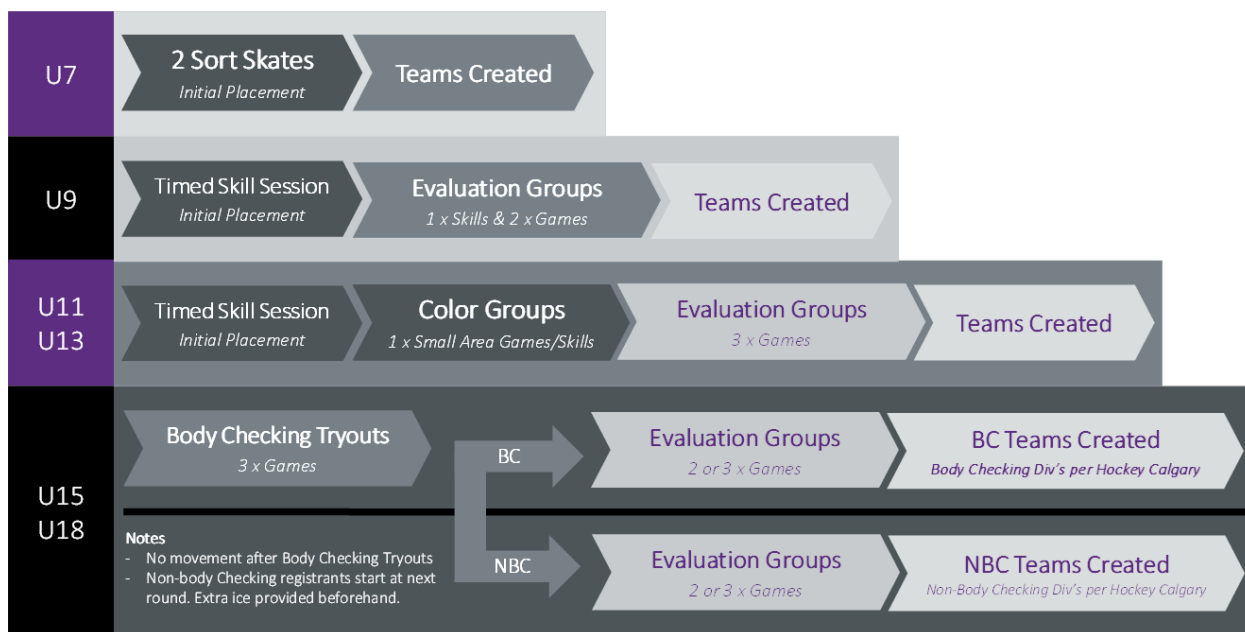
Please Note: Once athletes are placed in body checking or non-body checking after the body checking tryouts there will be no further movement of athletes up and down between these groups





Please Note: For ages U13, U15, & U18, Forwards and Defensemen are evaluated and ranked according to their position. Athletes will be placed and moved between groups based on their positional ranking.

Process Overview Diagram



Athlete Movement

U9/U11/U13/U15/U18 will be focused on BOTH **upward and downward movement**, the filling of group A, and balancing the number of athletes in each group. Upward movement of athletes, based on evaluator rankings and overall group rankings, will occur for the top ranked athlete after each ice time. The number of athletes moving will be different for each Division and each session. Downward movement of athletes, based on evaluator rankings and overall group rankings, will occur at the discretion of the evaluation committee for the bottom ranked athletes after each ice time.

Ice sessions will be staggered (where possible) such that an exceptional athlete who is asked to move will be able to immediately skate in the next group above for the same session number as the group that they just left. For example: a athlete who is new to Raiders Hockey Club begins in Group F and is, without question, in the wrong group. The athlete is then asked to move and will skate in Group E for the first ice session of that group as well.

Cascading movement will follow across all groups. Given the constant movement of athletes, they will be evaluated against like skilled athletes throughout their evaluation skates. As the athletes move amongst





each other based on their previous skates, the groups become increasingly focused, and the skills disparity decreases.

Please note: Athletes will be moved down at the discretion of the Evaluation Committee for instances such as athlete safety and are not subject to appeal.

Athlete Acceleration

Performance Criterion:

For U7 to U9 and U9 to U11 movement, the underage Athlete must achieve an overall evaluation ranking within top 5 of the top group in every evaluation skate. For U11 to U13 movement, the underage Athlete, as a forward, must achieve an overall evaluation ranking within the top 5 of every evaluation skate and, as a defenseman, must achieve an overall evaluation ranking within the top 3 of every evaluation skate.

There are two athlete acceleration scenarios:

1. When the Athlete's proper and older age categories' evaluation schedules are concurrent:
 - The Athlete participates in the evaluation skates for the category older than their age, subject to achievement of the Performance Criterion.
 - If the Athlete achieves the Performance Criterion, the request for acceleration is deemed to be successful and the Athlete may register on the top team in the higher age category.
 - If the Athlete fails to achieve the Performance Criterion, the Athlete will be placed in an evaluation group or team within their proper age category at the discretion of the SVHA Evaluation Committee.
2. When the Athlete's proper age category evaluation starts before the older age category evaluation:
 - The Athlete participates in the evaluation skates for their proper age category. The Athlete continues to be considered for acceleration subject to achievement of the Performance Criterion.
 - If the athlete achieves the Performance Criterion at their proper age category, the Athlete then participates in the evaluation skates for the category older than their age, in conformance with the provisions of athlete acceleration Scenario 1 (above).
 - If the Athlete fails to achieve the Performance Criterion at the proper age category, the request for acceleration is deemed to be unsuccessful and the Athlete remains registered in their proper age category in accordance with the SVHA Evaluation Guidelines.





If the Athlete achieves the Performance Criterion at the older age category, the request for acceleration is deemed to be successful and the Athlete will now be registered in the older age category. The difference in payment for the older age category will be required prior to being placed on a team. A \$150 application fee will be assessed to any athlete requesting acceleration. If the athlete is successful, that fee will go towards their registration.

Athletes Returning from CNHA/NWCAA Tryouts

The overall goal is to place athletes returning from CNHA/NWCAA within the Raiders Hockey Club at a level that is consistent with their ability and does not penalize them for their efforts within the CNHA/NWCAA organization. This year, we will commence our U15 and U18 evaluations at the conclusion of AA/AAA tryouts and accommodate returning athletes. Injured athletes will be placed at the discretion of the committee.

Please Note: Elite Hockey release does not ensure returning athlete placement on the top teams.

