

# RAIDERS

2024-25

## 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.

## Evaluation Overview

The Raiders strive to provide a fair and consistent evaluation process for every athlete. Every effort is made to ensure evaluators have minimal to no knowledge of the players that they are scoring.

Please refer to each specific age division below for the format of your athlete's evaluation.

At the completion of each session the athlete's scores from each evaluator are averaged and a final score for the session is locked in. Player movements are based on this final score.

An email will be sent to each athlete with the time of their FIRST evaluation session. Please note that this will be the ONLY email sent out. All subsequent sessions will be posted on the Raiders website. Evaluation groupings (by jersey number), ice times, arena, and the focus of those evaluations (e.g., skills or game) will be posted online under "Evaluations" on the Raiders Hockey Club website. It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure they attend all assigned sessions as the Raiders Hockey Club will not contact individuals to provide them with their ice times.

Please arrive 45 minutes to an hour prior to your first evaluation. There will be a table set up for you to collect your athlete's 2 evaluation jerseys. Your child will wear these jerseys to all evaluation sessions. Once you have received your jersey, please proceed to the check-in table to register your player for your first session. **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.**

PLEASE NOTE: For all remaining evaluation sessions athletes are asked to arrive 30 minutes prior to their ice time.

Once the evaluations are complete, athletes will receive an email from their head coach inviting them to participate on the team most appropriate with their skill level, informing them of their first practice time and location.

**Please direct any questions to your Age Division Coordinator who will put you in contact with the Evaluation Team if necessary.**

## 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.
- We will be using GDI (Goalie Development Inc.) to complete our evaluations. They will be completing all technical and gameplay evaluations.
- GDI has provided a link to both a PDF of all technical drills, as well as a link to the video versions of all drills for your child to review prior to the start of the technical evaluation session. This will allow all goalies the chance to fully understand the movements and drills they will be evaluated on during this session. These drills can be found here [Raiders HC 2024 Goalie Technical Drills](#)
- Goalies are not required to come fully dressed to the arena if they can fully dress themselves. For younger goalies, parents may help their child if they cannot fully dress themselves.
- A combination of the technical and gameplay score will be used for final team placement once all evaluation sessions are completed.
- Final team placement from previous years does not guarantee or dictate that a goalie will be placed on an equal or higher team this year.
- Goalies are expected to attend all evaluation sessions. If a goalie misses an evaluation due to illness or injury, they will be tied to a goalie of equal skill for their evaluation time and will receive the score of that goalie for the missed evaluation session. If injured, a goalie must provide a note from a doctor clearing them before proceeding with any evaluation ice times. If a goalie is evaluated with an injury, this is not taken into consideration by the evaluators and may affect their scores and overall placement.
- Goalies may be moved between groups between game sessions to allow for evaluations of multiple goalies at different skill levels. This will be based on their scores and current rankings. Not all goalies may be moved during the gameplay evaluation. The movement of goalies between gameplay groups is only used to assess goalies of similar skill at different levels to see how they perform at each level. (Goalies should not assume that throughout the evaluation process the gameplay team assigned for each session will be their final placement).
- **Goalies who are unable to attend a session for any reason must contact the Goalie Coordinator.**

Please contact your Goalie Coordinators with any questions. Please note they will not discuss the goalies scores or ranking at any time during the evaluation process.

## Attendance

All athletes are to attend all evaluation sessions. If an athlete misses an evaluation, it may impact their final team placement. In the event of an unavoidable absence, the absence must be communicated in advance to the Age Division Coordinator or Goalie Coordinator.

If your athlete is injured a doctor's note is required, and the injured player process will apply.

## Equipment

As per Hockey Calgary regulations, full hockey equipment is required for all evaluations.

Athletes not wearing the required equipment will not be permitted on the ice. This includes mouth guards for all players aged U9 and up. No score will be provided for that session which may affect the athlete's final placement.

Players are required to wear Raiders socks, or plain black or plain white to evaluations. **No elite hockey shells or socks will be permitted.**

## Spectators

All spectators need to remain in the viewing areas of the arena. Please respect the posted signs for areas that have restricted access.

All spectators are required to abide by the Raiders Evaluation Spectator Policy located on our website.

## Positions (U13-21)

U13-U18: Declared positions (Forward, Defense, Goalie) may not change once evaluations have begun. It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure that they have registered for their desired position. Any changes to an athlete's position must be communicated to the Age Division Coordinator prior to the athlete's first evaluation.

U15-U18: At registration, every player declared their desired category (BC – Body Checking, NBC – Non-Body Checking). Any changes made to an athlete's category is subject to the evaluation team's discretion.

## Evaluation Format

- U7: 2 Technical Skills Sessions (Sort Skates)
- U9: 1 Placement Skills Session; 1 Technical Skills Sessions; 2 Games
- U11: 1 Technical Skills Sessions; 1 Small Area Games; 3 Games
  - Full Time and Hybrid Goalies: 2 Technical Goalie Sessions; 3 Games
  - Full Time Goalies: 1 Small Area Games Technical Skills Session but will not be scored/ranked
- U13: 1 Small Area Games /Technical Skills Sessions; 4 Games
  - Full Time Goalies: 2 Technical Goalie Sessions; 3 Games
  - Full Time Goalies: 1 Small Area Games Technical Skills Session but will not be scored/ranked

- U15-U18 5 games
  - Full Time Goalies: 1 Technical Goalie Sessions and 5 games
- U21: 2-3 Games, based on the number of athletes registered for the U21 division



## Initial Placement

All athletes will initially be placed in an evaluation group with their prior season's team. Movements from that group will be dependent on the individual's performance.

## U15/18 Body Checking/Non-Body Checking Categories

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:** After 2 evaluation sessions, athletes are placed in their respective body checking or non-body categories. No movement will occur between the two categories after the second session.

## Athlete Movement

**All players are subject to both upward and downward movement between groups.**

## Athlete Acceleration

Performance Criterion:

A \$150 application fee will be assessed to any athlete requesting acceleration. If the athlete is successful, that fee will go towards their registration.

Athlete Acceleration is only eligible for players entering their 2nd year of a 2-year age category. Athletes will be evaluated in the higher age division category. Athletes wishing to accelerate must be ranked in the top 5 forwards, the top 3 defense or the top 2 goalies for every session.

Any application for player acceleration must be submitted by August 15<sup>th</sup> to the Raider's administrator. Approval is subject to the Evaluation Team's approval.

The athlete must attend the evaluation sessions of the higher age division. If the player falls below Raiders acceleration criteria outlined above, they will be moved back to their respective age division.

If the Athlete achieves the performance criteria at the older age category, the request for acceleration is deemed to be successful and the athlete will now be registered in accelerated division. The difference in payment for accelerated division will be required prior to being placed on a team.

## Athletes Returning from CNHA/NWCAA Tryouts<sup>4</sup>

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 initial placement in the top group. Athletes will be placed accordingly with their previous seasons team. If an athlete was not registered with the Raiders in the previous season they will be placed in a starting group at the discretion of the evaluation team.

## Injured Players

Upon receipt of a medical note stating an athlete is not able to participate in evaluations, the evaluation team will refer to last year's team as a guideline to properly place a player on a team. The player will be tied to two (2) players of similar skill level as per the coach of the previous team. The evaluation team will track the two players that the player has been tied to and determine the appropriate team for the injured player to the best of their ability.

If a player is medically cleared to return to evaluations, a doctor's note is required prior to being permitted on the ice.

If an athlete evaluates an injury, the injury is not taken into consideration by the evaluators and may affect their scores and overall placement.

## Evaluation Reviews

A parent may request a formal review of their athlete's placement in writing to the Evaluations 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.
- No documentation will be released to the athlete upon completion of the meeting.

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.

**\*\*Raiders Hockey Club reserves the right to review and change evaluation process as deemed necessary.\*\***