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Northeast Youth Hockey Association, Inc.

Player Assessment and Selection

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Player Assessment and Selection

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide a framework for the player evaluation/assessment process for the Northeast Youth Hockey Association. This framework is supported by a number of practical evaluation tools and resources provided by Hockey Canada. Hockey Canada, the originator of this document, promotes the use of their tools for organizations. Player assessment and placement, like player development, is an ongoing process. Effective management of the process, by the organization and participating families, will help make a young player's experience in our hockey organization a more positive one.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Simons Valley Minor Hockey Association
St. Albert Minor Hockey Association
Crowfoot Minor Hockey
Hockey Alberta
BCAHA Coach Coordinator Resource Guide
Hockey Canada's Hockey Development Council

Hockey Canada's Branch Technical Directors Hockey Canada's Athlete Development Committee:

- Barry Reynard, Chairman
- Marty Savoy
- Bernie Reichardt
- Bob Caldwell
- Corey McNabb
- Jean Francois Mouton
- Andre Arseneau

Player Assessment and Selection

PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE OF PLAYER ASSESSMENT

Player assessment can be one of the most difficult tasks for a youth hockey association to deal with. It can also be the foundation which an association is built upon. Many youth hockey associations only have enough players for one team at each level of play. In other instances, there may be multiple teams per level and tiering occurs. In either case, oftentimes an important aspect of player assessment that is missing in most associations, is the use of player assessment as a tool for coaches to develop their players. Having solid player assessment procedures in place will give: our association a tool for establishing balanced teams; our coaches a starting point in developing skills in our player; and all of us a blueprint for a successful season of learning.

GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTION BETWEEN PARENTS, PLAYERS, AND THE ASSOCIATION

As soon as assessment locations and times are known, parents and players should be informed in a timely and effective manner. For the process to be effective it is essential that a strong communication structure exist between parents and the association. Parents and players understanding of the assessment process will help ensure a multitude of positive benefits to the association as a whole and allow for constructive feedback.

Player Assessment and Selection

OBJECTIVES OF PLAYER ASSESSMENTS

- To provide a fair and impartial judgment of a player's total hockey ability during skill and scrimmage assessment sessions.
- To ensure that players are selected for a team appropriate to their skill levels, as determined during assessment.
- To provide uniformity and consistency in the assessment process so that player and parent expectations are consistent from year to year as players move through the various levels of the association.
- To form teams capable of a balanced and competitive level of play where the skaters can develop and participate equitably and have fun playing hockey.
- To provide feedback and input from parents and coaches in order to develop their players, support a player's continued participation and enjoyment throughout our association's various levels of play, and to strengthen our association.



Player Assessment and Selection

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND PLAYERS REGARDING ASSESSMENTS

1. **When are the assessments?** March 20-March 22
2. **What is the cost for assessment?** \$75.00
3. **How many assessment sessions will there be?** Two (2)
4. **What is being assessed?** See Assessment Core Criteria regarding specific skills.
5. **Who will do the assessments?**
 - Off-ice evaluators
 - Coaching Director
 - On-ice coordinators (only as it pertains to a player's ability to listen, follow directions, display sportsmanship, receive constructive criticism, and those intangibles not readily seen from the stands)

6. **What should my skater wear to assessments? Full equipment to include:**

○ Protective cup	○ Skates
○ Shin pads	○ Hockey gloves
○ Hockey pants	○ Hockey stick
○ Shoulder pads	○ Hockey helmet with full shield
○ Elbow pads	○ Neck guard and mouth guard
○ Solid color plain jersey	

*Players will be assigned a pinny upon their arrival at the rink. The Evaluators will only know the player by pinny number, not their name. Plain, solid color jerseys will be worn underneath the pinny. The Coaching Director will maintain a log of who is assigned each pinny number.

7. **How are the players notified of their standing in the assessment process?**
The Coaching Director will inform the parents and players via the Northeast Huskies Web Site as soon as practical. Players and parents will not be informed at the rink.
8. **Who has final authority on player placement at the conclusion of assessments?**
The Coaching Director
9. **Will the player be evaluated in a skill and game environment?**
In order to give each and every player a fair opportunity to exhibit the range of skills they possess, players will be evaluated in both a game and skill environment. At the younger age levels a greater emphasis will be placed on the evaluation of skills-as the players get older the scrimmage sessions will have a greater overall impact on the player placement within the organization. Refer to the ASSESSMENT CORE CRITERIA BREAKDOWN for the skill vs. scrimmage evaluation ratio.
10. **What happens after the assessment sessions?**
After notification is made by the Coaching Director, the parents/player will be contacted by the Head Coach of their son/daughter's team. The Head Coach will outline:
 - Season expectations
 - Rules
 - Practice schedule
 - Introduction of other coaches
11. **How will the assessment information be used?**
The player assessment is a starting point for a season of development. If players, their parents, and their coaches understand a particular skill they might be lacking in, or, why he or she has been placed on a particular team, they will be better able to work on the skills required to become more proficient and successful throughout the year.

Player Assessment and Selection

OVERVIEW OF ASSESSMENT CORE CRITERIA

***Not all skills listed would be appropriate for all age group. Assessments will be on age appropriate Skills (i.e. checking is 14U and higher)**

Skating: Forward and backward, acceleration, speed, mobility, agility, balance, stride, crossovers, pivots, controlled skating.

- Can the player perform the basic forward and backward stride?
- Are the players knees well bent with the back slightly forward and head up, or is the player hunched over bending at the waist with little knee bend, looking down at the ice?
- Good skaters use long strides with a complete recovery of the stride leg before striding with the other leg. Do their strides look smooth and appear to require little effort, or are their strides short and choppy?
- Does the skater look smooth when they skate or do they appear off balance?
- Can the player stop in both directions with equal proficiency?
- Can the player keep up with the flow of play or do they struggle to keep up?
- Do they effectively use their arms/extension to make the most efficient use of their strides?

Passing: Forward and backhand passing, receiving passes, passing choices, unselfishness with the puck, present a good target, passing accuracy to stationary and moving targets.

- Can the player execute a forward pass?
- Can the player pass the puck to its intended target with minimal effort?
- Can the player make accurate passes to a moving target?
- Can the player receive passes on forehand and backhand while moving?
- When passing, does the player slap at the puck, or is the passing motion smooth?
- Does the player call for the puck, bang their stick on ice, or say nothing at all?
- Does the player make eye contact with their intended target or do they blindly pass the puck?
- Can the player pass the puck off the boards to another player?

Puck Control: Head up, good hands, protects puck in small spaces.

- Does the player appear comfortable handling the puck while skating or do they appear to struggle to maintain control?
- Does the player keep their head up when skating with the puck?
- Can they stop quickly or change direction while handling the puck?
- Can the player continue to handle the puck while in traffic and under pressure?
- Does the player get pushed off the puck easily?

Shooting: Power, accuracy, quick release, can shoot while in motion, wrist, backhand, snap, slap-shot.

- Does the player follow through to the intended target on all shots?
- Does the shot have enough velocity?
- Is the player accurate when shooting on net?

Checking: Proper angling, body positioning, balance, control, strength, giving and receiving checks, timidity.

- Can the player execute basic body checks?
- Does the player check properly with their hands down or do they get their arms up?
- Can the player receive a check properly by not turning their back and staying close to the boards?
- Can the player check an opposing player and pin them on the boards?
- Does the player shy away from other players?

Thinking Skills/Game Understanding: Ability to see the play developing both offensively and defensively; moves to support play, judgment and anticipation.

- Does the player know where they need to be when in the offensive and defensive zones?
- Does the player have the ability to read and react to the flow of play appropriately?
- Does the player play both offensive and defensively?
- Is the player well-disciplined?
- Does the player show patience or panic when pressured?
- Does the player understand commonly called infractions/penalties, off-sides, icing, communication with teammates, sportsmanship.