*WBHL Evaluation Process*

**This directive outlines the evaluation process for WBHL Divisions, Fort McMurray Minor Hockey Association.**

*NOTE: This process will be followed by the division directors for U7, U9, U11, U13, U15 and U18*

**Coordination of Evaluations:** The division director coordinates the evaluation and placement of players in their division. The VP of Operations, hereafter “VP OPs” oversees the evaluation and placement of all players on teams, for all divisions in the WBHL. Concerns or complaints over the process shall be directed to the Division Director via email, then if necessary be escalated to the VP Ops, and as a last escalation an appeal to the president. Please note by bypassing division director and or VP Operations, a member waives the right to an appeal.

**Timing:** Evaluations will start in September and will utilize all available ice surfaces/arenas in the area. The evaluation schedule will be posted on the FMMHA Web Site at least 4 days prior to the first Evaluation and communicated by email by division directors. U7 and U9 should expect 2 Ice times for each player. While U11, U13, U15 & U18 should expect 4+ Ice times per player.

**Late arrival / Inability to participate in Evaluation Process**

Players **MUST** attend their scheduled technical session and a minimum of one scrimmage to be placed on an appropriate tier. Any player who does not attend these evaluations will be placed in the lowest tier of their division and will follow the player movement process documented below, if the player is a second year in this division they will be placed in the same tier as the previous season.

**Affiliates:** The WBHL will follow the *Affiliation for Development Directive* and affiliation will be completed outside the initial evaluation process.

**Rosters**: Directors will use the following **guidelines** for final rosters:

U7, U9 – 12 Players per team

U11 - 14 Players team including One Goaltender

U13, U15 – 9 Forwards, 4 Defense, 2 Goalies (15 Players per team)

U18 - Full 19 player Roster

**Intro to Hockey Evaluations Process:**

*U7, U9*

**Technical Evaluations (2):**

On two separate days directors will schedule all registered players into two evaluation ice times. At each session players will be met at a sign in table where they will be assigned a jersey number and directed to a dressing room. Players must arrive with enough time to check in and get dressed 5 minutes before their ice time. **There will be volunteer helpers in dressing rooms for new parents who may need help with gear. All players require full safety gear**

In Session one On ice coaches will lead players through a series of 3-5 drills designed to assess a player’s skating ability. If a child has no skating experience or cannot skate as confirmed or communicated by parents, the player will not complete the drills and instead be placed on a team in the lowest level of play with the primary objective being learning to skate. If time allows in the ice time coaches may lead a fun scrimmage.

Session 2 Coaches will lead players through some drills and Small area games. Evaluators will be looking to see that all players have “like” skating ability.

Scores are collected from Coaches by the division director and turned into the VP Operations to record in an evaluation system. The system will average the scores of the evaluators and both sessions and assign players to the correct level A, B, C or D, these assignments are simply to ensure players are all at the same level of play.

Once players are tiered your division director will build teams – this is a complicated process as it involves – ensuring we have enough coaches that are balanced with availability, assigning a manager to each team and then ensuring that the teams are mathematically equal (a total of all players scores) to ensure competitiveness. Because this is a complicated process, we do NOT allow friend requests, but will ensure siblings that tier the same are on the same team.

**Hockey Evaluations Process:**

*U11, U13, & U15*

There will be 6 specific ice times for each player. Directors will schedule all registered players into their evaluation ice times. At each session players will be met at a sign in table where they will be assigned a jersey number and directed to a dressing room. Players must arrive with enough time to check in and get dressed 5 minutes before their ice time. Please note that as scores need to be tallied between sessions, we sometimes have short notice ice it is the responsibility of parents to watch for the schedules that will be posted on the division website and shared to division Facebook pages.

● *ICETIME 1****:*** **Technical Evaluation:** On ice coaches will lead players through a series of 5 drills designed to assess a player’s basic skills (i.e. skating, stick handling, shooting and passing). Evaluators will give players an individual Qualitative score based on their assessment of each skill. (i.e. Timed skates, counted shots in net, etc)

● *ICETIME 2 & 3:***Scrimmage Play:** Players will be broken into scrimmage sessions composed of three 20-minute runtime periods based on their scores from the technical evaluations. In these scrimmages, evaluators will be assessing skating, passing, shooting, positioning and hockey sense.

● *ICETIME 4:* **Level of Play Scrimmage:** Players will be broken into scrimmage sessions composed of three 20-minute runtime periods. In these short scrimmages, evaluators will be assessing if players are at the correct level of play comparatively to other players on the ice.

● *ICETIME 5:* **Level of Play Practice:** Players will be broken into evaluation teams and assigned a lead coach. The teams will receive practice. At this practice the coach will be focused on the level of play & coachability to determine if players are at the correct level of play.

● *ICETIME 6+:* evaluation teams will play a tournament style jamboree where coaches will again be looking at the level of play and coachability of players.

Please note for U18 We have only one level of play, so players will be evaluated in scrimmage games only for the purposes of ranking players for coach draft.

**Scores:**

Scores are collected from Coaches by the division director after each ice session and turned into the VP Operations to record in an evaluation system. Analysis on scores by VP Operations and Division director places player into their next ice time

After all sessions are completed division directors will formally tier all players and finalize teams. Parents should expect the possibility of movement throughout October to balance teams if necessary.

We will use a draft coach selection process where Coaches select players from ranked buckets of players (Ranked based on scores by division director and VP Operations). In these drafts they are essentially also selecting their assistant coaches and managers.

Because this is a complicated process, we do NOT allow friend requests, but will ensure siblings that tier the same are on the same team.

*Confidentiality:*The results of all evaluations will always be confidential and only seen by VP Operations and the Division director.

* Scores are entered into the system by volunteers, but names are “cloaked” by jersey numbers
* Any list of invitees or selected players list shall be published in alphabetic order.
* Scores and Rankings are cloaked by color coding so coaches do not know where players ranked.

Any participants in the evaluation process shall abide by the confidentiality of all discussions and proceedings.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

The following criteria will be part of the evaluation process:

*Skating*

* Quickness, Acceleration, Agility, Balance, Mobility
* Front, Back, Pivots, Turns, Strides

*Hockey Skills*

* Puck control: Passing, Receiving, Puck Protection, Puck movement
* Shooting: Accuracy, variety, quick release, goes to net, accuracy
* Checking: angling, stick check, Body Check & Pins, Physical Presence
* Hockey sense: Positioning, playmaking, understanding of game, read and react

*Work Ethics & Fitness*

* Effort, desire to win, competitive, concentration, motivation, intensity

*Coachability*

* Attitude, Motivation, Effort, Team Cohesion, Team first attitude
* Mental toughness, Pressure situations, Leadership
* Cooperation, Learning skills, Character

**Appealing a Level of Play:**

No Appeals will be heard until the evaluation process is completed and players are placed on a team. If a parent is concerned with the results of their child’s evaluation for any reason, the first step is to discuss with the division director and this discussion should be initiated via email.

If still unsatisfied then a formal appeal to the scores can be sent into the VP Operations – who will review scores with the director and players current head coach and rule on a decision - this may include sending evaluators out to a game or practice the player is currently on.

Members not satisfied with the final decision made by VP Ops or on a complaint submitted to his/her attention, may submit an appeal to the President of the Association in accordance with the by-laws.

Evaluation results will only be provided as part of the appeals process as outlined in this directive. ONLY results for the requesting member’s child can be discussed and no other member’s player can be discussed or alluded to, nor will their results be provided.

**Discipline:**

Players currently under suspension (from previous season) may participate in the evaluations, provided they have requested approval from their division director.

**A player may be removed from the evaluations for the following reasons:**

* behavior in arena (on or off the ice) that is disrespectful of the FMMHA, WBHL team, teammates or coaches;
* attempt to injure or injuring another player in a practice or game due to obvious disrespect of rules and regulations or directives provided by coaching staff;
* any use or possession of banned substances including alcohol and vapes;
* bullying incidents at any off-ice events related to try-outs or FMMHA

**A parent may be removed from attending an evaluation session for behavior not in accordance with the parent code of conduct including:**

* abuse of on ice team official, evaluators or another member of the FMMHA;
* failure to abide and accept the evaluation process and procedures;
* severe or repeated violation of the Parent’s Code of Conduct may lead to the exclusion of a player from the team