

# SSMHA Representative Player Evaluation Procedures & Guidelines

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# SSMHA Representative Player Evaluation Procedures & Guidelines

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## Player Evaluation Procedures & Guidelines

### **1. Introduction:**

The intent of this “Representative Player Evaluation Procedures & Guidelines” document is to provide an overview of the process that will be followed for the selection of all South Simcoe Minor Hockey Association (SSMHA) teams. There are often variables that cannot all be accounted for, and at times decisions may need to be made based on rationale that provides fairness not only to the individual player, but to those players that they are competing against.

### **2. Representative Hockey Operations Committee:**

The Representative Hockey Operations Committee shall be co-chaired by the Vice President – Hockey Operations and the Vice President – OMHA Delegate, and shall consist of the Player Development Director and the Coach Development Director, and any additional directors as required. This committee will sit in on all evaluations, hear all appeals and vote in non-biases for the good of the organization.

### **3. Player Evaluation Objectives:**

South Simcoe Minor Hockey Association will assess each player based on their skills and abilities at the time of evaluation in a fair and transparent manner.

Player Evaluations are broken into three phases:

Phase 1 – Skills Evaluation

Phase 2 – Skills Evaluation

Phase 3 – Skills Evaluation/Scrimmage

### **4. Purpose of Player Evaluation and Selection:**

This “Representative Player Evaluation Procedures & Guidelines” document is a guideline and procedure manual, written in the best interest of our whole association. It is intended to represent the outline of what the board of directors’ feel is best for our players and the program we have built to serve them.

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This procedure document is built on the auspice of common sense when interpreting. Most questions you may have can be answered by the Vice President – Hockey Operations. Please refer to the South Simcoe Minor Hockey Association website for the latest updates.

## **5. Objectives of Player Evaluation:**

- i. To provide a fair and impartial assessment of a player's hockey skills during the skills evaluation and scrimmage sessions.
- ii. To ensure that players have a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a team appropriate to their skill level.
- iii. To provide coaches with the opportunity and flexibility to build a team with consideration of their own coaching philosophy and with knowledge of player skills and abilities.
- iv. To provide uniformity and consistency in the evaluation process such that player and parent expectations are consistent from year to year as players move through the various levels of our association's program.
- v. To form teams to maintain balanced and competitive play where the athletes can develop and participate equitably and have fun playing hockey during the season.

## **6. Team Composition:**

At minimum each team will consist of the following:

- a) 15 Skaters
- b) 2 Goalies (If available)
- c) U18 can roster up to 19
- d) 1 Head Coach
- e) 1 Assistant Coach
- f) 1 Trainer
- g) 1 Manager

Teams may roster a total of 5 Bench staff. The team manager may or may not be registered as a member of the bench staff.

## **7. Evaluation Team:**

- i. The “Evaluation Team” will consist of independent evaluators and select coach applicants and/or appointed non-parent head coaches.

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- ii. The “Evaluation Team” will be chaired by the Player Development Director, and overseen by the Representative Hockey Operations Committee.

## **8. Evaluator Procedures:**

- i. No board member will be privy to the results of evaluations from their child’s division.
- ii. Players will be assigned a Player Evaluation jersey on day 1 with a designated number for the duration of Player Evaluations.
- iii. The Coach Development Director and the Player Development Director will determine any and all evaluation tools used by the evaluators.
- iv. All players will receive a confidential anonymous ID number provided by South Simcoe Minor Hockey to be used for team selection.
- v. U14 and above players that have previously had a season with contact or provide proof of taking a (1) hitting clinic will be able to be evaluated at the AA, A level.

## **9. Evaluation Process:**

- i. Players will be placed in Skills Testing groups. Groups will be created based on the colour of Jersey.
  - a) Day 1 – Skills based Combine Testing
  - b) Day 2 – Skills based Combine Testing
  - c) Day 3 – Game-based evaluation for all divisions
  - d) Exhibition Game If Possible
- ii. Some players may not play the exhibition game based on being a top-ranking player at this stage of the process.
- iii. Goalie Evaluations will occur if needed.

## **10. Releases During Player Evaluations:**

- i. Players can be released to the division below after the first Player Evaluation. Players will then report to the next division below at no extra cost to continue Representative Player Evaluations.
- ii. Players can be evaluated at any level they feel best fits their needs.
- iii. BB will be a non-hitting category for U14, U15, U16, and U18 for those wishing to play without contact.
- iv. U10, U11, U12, and U13 representative players not offered a spot on an AA or A team will be eligible to be evaluated for a team that will play at a

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category below A that is yet to be determined. The category will be determined prior to the start of the season.

## **11. Non-Residential Players:**

- i. Players must qualify as per OMHA regulations and must adhere to all OMHA regulations per the OMHA Manual of Operations.
- ii. As per the new OMHA guidelines regarding “open borders”, and to continue to offer competitive hockey to our local athletes, South Simcoe Minor Hockey will limit roster composition to a maximum of five (5) “non-resident” athletes per roster.

## **12. Final Team Selection:**

During Player Evaluations successful candidates will be notified anonymously through the SSMHA website using the participants individual anonymous ID number. Players will check the SSMHA association website and if their number is posted they will move on to the next Player Evaluation. At the conclusion of Player Evaluations teams will be selected in the same manner by the Coach once approved by the Representative Hockey Operations Committee. No players will be signed at the evaluation process. The signings will be done during the next team function (i.e. team fitting night etc.).

## **13. Injuries and Sickness:**

- i. Injuries sustained prior to Player Evaluations:
  - a) Players with medical exemptions must have a doctor’s note to excuse attendance for legitimate reasons (i.e. - broken arm or leg) prior to Player Evaluations commencing for that division.
  - b) If the player is sick and considered contagious - please do not come to the arena!
  - c) All medical notes excusing a player from Player Evaluations needs to be submitted directly to the Vice President - Hockey Operations.
  - d) If the injury is substantial, and the player is unable to return for a period of time, the coach may hold a spot for that player if the player was on the team during the previous season or if the player played at a higher level in the previous season.
  - e) All requests for holding spots for injured players must be made in writing to the Vice President - Hockey Operations prior to the start of Player Evaluations (up to 24 hours before) and are granted or denied

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based on the decision of the Hockey Operations Committee. These decisions cannot be appealed.

- ii. Illness or Injuries sustained during Player Evaluations - (Short Term Injury);
  - a) All injuries that occur during Player Evaluations while at the arena need to be reported and recorded using Hockey Canada's Medical report form. SSMHA will provide the forms and complete the details, but it is a player's/parent's responsibility to ensure that injuries sustained as a result of the Player Evaluation are reported.
  - b) All injuries that prevent a player from continuing in the Player Evaluation, need to seek medical attention and a doctor's note needs to be provided to the Director of Risk Management indicating the nature of the injury, as well as that player's ability to continue on the ice.
  - c) If a player cannot continue on the ice as per doctor's instructions, a doctor's note will be required that "clears" that player to return to the ice when ready.
  - d) The Player Development Director will take note of all evaluations completed up to the point of injury.
  - e) If the player is ill or injured prior to completing Player Evaluations the player may be added to the team at the coach's discretion. If the player is unable to return to the team the coach would be required to add a player who was cut from Player Evaluations if one is available. Any financial ramifications from the coach's decision will be the responsibility of the team.
- iii. Injuries Sustained during Player Evaluations (Long Term Injury);
  - a) Process is the same as 12.2 (Short Term Injury) with the following exception.
  - b) All players who are deemed to have a long-term injury whom the coach wishes to add to their team must have a meeting with the Hockey Operations Committee and Director of Risk. At this meeting the player and coach must outline a return to play plan with supporting documentation from doctors and specialists. Coaches must show a detailed plan for the player's return and demonstrate benefits to both player and team. All decisions of the Hockey Operations Committee are final and are not eligible for appeal.

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- iv. “No Show” or “Unapproved Absence” during Player Evaluation Process;
  - a) Players who do not attend Player Evaluations cannot be added to a team prior to the start of the season.
  - b) Players who did not attend Player Evaluations can only be added to a team if they meet all the requirements under the section entitled Affiliate Player Recommendations and Process.

## 14. Short Bench

No South Simcoe Minor Hockey Association team will be permitted to roster less than 17 players without the express written consent of the President and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice president of South Simcoe Minor Hockey Association.

## 15. Affiliate Player Recommendations and Process

- i. All teams are required to have a minimum of 3 Affiliate Players (AP).
- ii. AP’s can be asked to pay a small fee in order to attend rep practices under the following circumstances;
  - a) If the AP player attends a tournament, they may be required to pay their portion of the entry fee (e.g., 1/17<sup>th</sup> of the total cost of tournament) at the coach’s discretion.
  - b) If the AP player attends a practice on ice that has been purchased above and beyond the teams SSMHA ice allocation (e.g., 1/17<sup>th</sup> of the total cost of the ice rental) at the coaches’ discretion.
  - c) If the AP player attends a practice in which a skilled instructor has been hired (e.g., 1/17<sup>th</sup> of the total cost of the instructor).
  - d) Any other circumstances must be approved by the Vice President - Hockey Operations.

## 16. Underage Player Policy

- i. Underage players may attend Player Evaluations for the team 1 year above their own age.
- ii. Underage players must attend their own age Player Evaluations as well as the team 1 year above. Their own age tryouts take precedent.
- iii. Underage players may be signed to the team 1 year above if they meet the following requirements:

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- a) Forwards must be ranked as the number 1 Forward
- b) Defense must be ranked as the number 1 Defenseman
- c) Goalies must be ranked as the number 1 Goalie
- iv. If a coach would like to sign an underage player, they must inform the Player Development Director who will make a recommendation to the Hockey Operations Committee who will then vote on the recommendation. The Player Development Director will then let the coach know of the committee's decision.
- v. Once an Underage player has been signed to a team above their own age, they are no longer required to continue attending Player Evaluations for their own age.

### **17.Appeals:**

- i. All appeals must be submitted in writing to the Vice President - Hockey Operations.
- ii. Appeals must be received within 48 hours of the release.
- iii. Appeals will be heard by the Hockey Operations Committee.
- iv. Appeals will only be heard based on policy not being followed.
- v. All decisions of the Hockey Operations Committee are final.

### **Guideline Disclaimer:**

Every effort will be made by the South Simcoe Minor Hockey Association Board to adhere to this process. Failure to do so will not guarantee a re-evaluation. It is our goal to provide each player wishing to attend Player Evaluations for a rep team, the fairest possible opportunity to do so.

### **Notwithstanding clause:**

There may be some exceptions under special circumstances. All exceptions must be approved by the South Simcoe Minor Hockey Association Executive Committee and ratified by the entire board.