

Southwest Hockey Association



Placement Procedures 2020 – 2021 Season



Section	Table of Contents	Page
1.0	Amendment to Procedures	2
2.0	Acknowledgements	2
3.0	Objectives of Player Evaluations	2
4.0	Transparency & Impartiality	2
5.0	On-Ice Coaches & Evaluators	2
6.0	Evaluation Committee	3
7.0	COVID-19	3
8.0	Audits & Grievances	3
9.0	Expectations	3
10.0	Evaluation Schedule	4
11.0	Placement Process	4
12.0	Placement Drills	5
13.0	Initial Player Placement	5
14.0	Initial Group Placement	5
15.0	Skaters → Scoring & Ranking	6
16.0	Goalies Rankings / Placements	7
17.0	Group Movement	7
18.0	Locking Players	8
19.0	Cohort Placement	8
20.0	Final Team Placement	9
21.0	House League	9
22.0	Release Process	9
23.0	Contacts for Evaluations	9



1.0 AMENDMENT TO PROCEDURES

This Procedure Manual is an amendment from the previously approved Southwest Hockey Evaluation Policy and Procedures Guidelines.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Southwest Hockey Association would like to acknowledge and thank Hockey Calgary for providing guidance during these unprecedented times of the 2020-2021 season.

3.0 OBJECTIVES OF PLAYER EVALUATIONS

Southwest Hockey has several purposes with its player placement process:

- To provide a fair and impartial assessment of a player's total hockey skills.
- To ensure that players have a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a cohort with players that have similar skill levels; as determined during the on-ice sorting sessions and also based on feedback from previous years coaches.
- Placement policies and process are developed to ensure players are given fair opportunities; which are in the best interests of the hockey player.

4.0 TRANSPARENCY AND IMPARTIALITY

The Placement Process will be fair to all players and as transparent and impartial as reasonably possible.

Under absolutely no circumstances will a parent evaluate their own child.

All drills will be posted on the Southwest Hockey website along with this Placement Procedure Guide. The Evaluation Committee will be available to any parent that has a question about the evaluation process.

Each player will be identified by a helmet sticker; with a randomly selected number. Each player will be observed and will move groups according to this helmet sticker identification.

5.0 ON-ICE COACHES & EVALUATORS

Every attempt will be made to assign on-ice coaches and evaluators to specific age divisions; for the duration of the process.

In an effort to reduce traffic flow in and out of the facilities by different people, we can not have 'partial commitment' this season; as we aim to support safe protocols.

The Director of Evaluations in conjunction with the Director of Coaches will be selecting the On-ice Coach Leads and Age Division Evaluators. We will attempt to have four (4) to six (6) evaluators for each session.

Evaluators will **not** be permitted to evaluate their own player(s).



6.0 EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The Evaluation Committee includes the Director of Evaluations, Asst-Director of Evaluations, Evaluation Coordinator and Age Division Eval Coordinators.

Together the Evaluation Committee has the authority to make decisions during the placement process to ensure the process is conducted in a fair manner.

The decisions of the Evaluation Committee during the placement process are final.

7.0 COVID-19

With the fluid changes regarding COVID-19 the Placement Process is subject to change; as per recommendations from Hockey Canada, Hockey Alberta, Hockey Calgary, Alberta Health Services, Government of Canada and / or Government of Alberta.

The Evaluation Committee will communicate to the membership with as much notice as possible.

Due to the compliance with facility policy's regarding COVID-19 procedures, there will be no attendance permitted for parents / guardians, and no visibility to the ice surface during the placement process.

Exceptions may be made with the U7 (Timbits) age division, and will be subject to adhering to the facility policies.

8.0 AUDITS & GRIEVANCES

There will be no grievances for cohort or team placement for the 2020-2021 season.

9.0 EXPECTATIONS

9.1 Parent(s) / Guardian(s)

- Abide by special facility guidelines for AHS Phase 2 regarding pre and post ice time process and parent attendance.
- Ensure you and your player understand the process.
- Practice proper sports etiquette and adhere to the principles outlined in Respect in Sport. Each family is required to have a complete update RIS certification.
- Parents will only be admitted to the building to tie skates and must leave the building immediately after.
- Masks must be worn upon arrival and upon leaving – social distancing must be maintained.
- Assist your player in being prepared. Ensure your player is at the Welcome Table no earlier than 30 minutes before their ice time.
- Your player will be allowed into the dressing rooms 15 minutes before their scheduled ice time.
- Players are to be in full equipment (except for helmets, gloves, and skates); Skates and helmets on 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 players.
- **Goalies** - Every effort will be made to provide access to dressing rooms 30-minutes prior to an ice time, **however** this may not always be possible. Goalies must also come dressed in as much gear as possible to minimize the amount that would need to be put on at the arena.



9.2 Players

- Masks must be worn upon arrival and upon leaving and up until helmets are put on 5min prior to the ice-time.
- Be prepared for placement skates by arriving 15 minutes early and fully dressed (besides skates, gloves, and helmets); be dressed and seated on the bench inside the dressing room 5 minutes prior to start time.
- For U15 and U18, they are to enter the facility dressed in their equipment up to the waist, with the exception of their skates, gloves and helmet. A **small duffel size** bag can be brought to carry the remaining gear, and we ask that you do NOT bring full-sized hockey bags into the facility.
- Follow coach instructions and always maintain social distancing.
- Do your best and have fun. Perform the drills to the best of your ability.
- Understand the process for your age appropriate level. Ask questions of the on-ice volunteers and evaluation volunteers when you need clarification.

10.0 EVALUATION SCHEDULE

The Southwest Hockey schedule is following recommendations with regards to having smaller grouping sizes. Having smaller groups will allow the on-ice coaches to manage the player social distancing, and will allow for ice splitting drills to provide players multiple opportunities to participate in the drills.

11.0 PLACEMENT PROCESS

Prior to the commencement of the Placement Process, a meeting will be organized by the Evaluation Committee with the evaluators to outline the objectives of the Placement Process.

In order to maintain impartiality, prior to the commencement of the evaluation process, each player will be identified by a randomly numbered helmet sticker and goalies will receive a randomly numbered pinny. Each skater and goalie will be evaluated according to their number and evaluation results will be entered to the tracking software by this evaluation number.

Each evaluator will be provided with an evaluation sheet which they will be required to complete and submit immediately following the sorting session. Each evaluator will provide their data according to the players' helmet number. The evaluation sheets will be maintained by the Age Division Eval Coordinators.

In an effort to ensure proper movement, players may be moved both upwards and downwards; at any time during the placement / sorting process. Evaluators will be encouraged to identify stronger players in a group that should be moved up a group and weaker players in a group that should be moved down.



12.0 PLACEMENT DRILLS

U7 (Timbits)	Forward Skating – without puck Forward Skating – with puck Backward skating – without puck
U9 / U11	Timed Skates Speed / Edge work Shooting, Passing & Stickhandling Combined – Skating, Shooting and Passing
U13 to U18	Timed Skates Speed / Edge work Shooting, Passing & Stickhandling Positional Drills
All drills can be found on the Southwest Hockey website, under the Parent > Evaluation tab.	

13.0 INITIAL PLAYER PLACEMENT

13.1 U11 – U18 Players

These players will be placed into groups based on their previous season team placement.

For players moving up an age group, players will be placed into groups based on historical team placement and based on the end of season feedback received from coaches. Group sizes could be between 18 – 24 players; with the goal to keep the groups small enough where each player gets an opportunity to run through the drill's multiple times.

13.2 U7 Players

These players will be divided into junior and senior, then alphabetically for initial placement.

13.3 U9 Players

Players in this age group will be divided alphabetically and placed into groups.

Note: Initial group placement is dependent on registration numbers and the Evaluation Committee may adjust group sizes and placement(s) as deemed necessary.

14.0 INITIAL GROUP PLACEMENT

14.1 U7 & U9 Players

These players will be placed as mentioned in **Section 13.0**

14.2 U11 Players

Players in the U11 age group will be initially placed in groups depending on which division they played in last year. Previous season coach feedback reports may also be used.

The order of group placement is: U11 Team 1, U11 Team 2, U11 Team 3, U9 Team 1, U11 Team 4, U9 Team 2, U11 Team 5, U11 Team 6, U9 Team 3, U11 Team 7, U9 Team 4.



14.3 U13 Players

Players in U13 will be initially placed in groups depending on which division they played in last year. The previous season coach feedback reports may also be used.

The order of group placement is: U13 AA, U13 Team 1, U13 Team 2, U11 Team 1, U13 Team 3, U11 Team 2, U13 Team 4, U11 Team 3, U13 Team 5, U11 Team 4, U11 Team 5, U13 Team 6, U11 Team 6, U11 Team 7.

14.4 U15 Players

These players will initially be placed in groups depending on which division they played in last year. The previous season coach feedback reports may also be used.

- Players must designate body checking or non-body checking.
- There will be body checking and non-body checking cohorts.
- Rankings will determine a player's final cohort placement.
 - **NOTE:** A player may be placed in a non-body checking cohort even if they designated body checking at registration.
 - **NOTE:** There will be no checking sorting sessions. Checking Clinics will happen after players have been placed in a cohort

The order of group placement is: U15 Team 1, U15 Team 2, U13 AA, U15 Team 3, U13 Team 1, U15 Team 4, U13 Team 2, U15 Team 5, U13 Team 3, U15 Team 6, U13 Team 4, U15 Team 7, U13 Team 5, U13 Team 6.

14.5 U18 Players

Will be initially placed in groups depending on which division they played in last year. The previous season coach feedback reports may also be used.

- Players must designate body checking or non-body checking.
- There will be body checking and non-body checking cohorts.
- Rankings will determine a player's final cohort placement.
 - **NOTE:** A player may be placed in a non-body checking cohort even if they designated body checking at registration.

The order of group placement is: U18 Team 1, U18 Team 2, U15 Team 1, U18 Team 3, U15 Team 2, U18 Team 4, U15 Team 3, U15 Team 4, U18 Team 5, U15 Team 5, U18 Team 6, U15 Team 6, U15 Team 7.

15.0 SKATERS → SCORING / RANKING

Players are ranked according to the number of players in the age group (example if there are 100 players in U11 the players will be ranked 1-100, Goalies will be ranked 1-15).

In the U13 to U18 age divisions, players will be ranked within the position they have declared (example forwards 1-60, defense 1-40, goalies 1-15).

The criteria for ranking players will be done using the 4-skilled skates. Coaches feedback may also be used.



Evaluated Criteria

Speed	Edge Work	Stick Handling	Passing
Shooting	Effort	Hockey IQ (Coach Feedback)	

16.0 GOALIE RANKINGS / PLACEMENT

Designation of goaltenders in U11 – U18 groups is mandatory on the Official Hockey Canada Rosters.

It is important for goalies to be aware that when they elect to evaluate at the goaltender position, **they will be expected to remain at that position through the balance of the year.**

Exception: There would be an exception for the U11 Hybrid Pathway. This is a goalie who may also participate as a player if they evaluate within the approved division placement guidelines.

16.1 Process

Goalies will be pre-seeded based on last year’s age group, team and feedback from previous season coach reports.

Goalies will participate in two (2) goalie specific skills sessions. Both of these sessions will be overseen by an approved 3rd party evaluator.

Goalies will also participate in a minimum of two (2) skill-based skating sessions with skaters, that are also evaluated by the same 3rd party evaluator.

Final team placement will follow the same principles as outlined in **Section 20** (Team Placement).

Goalies will be evaluated by a 3rd party evaluator in cohort scrimmage sessions during the Development Phase.

Goalie specific drills being used to evaluate will be posted on the website.

16.2 Skills Session

The two (2) skills placement sessions will be weighted and count for a significant portion of the goaltenders final ranking. Drills will be used which highlight modern goaltending techniques and attributes.

16.3 Evaluators

It is important that the individuals evaluating goalies have a strong understanding and knowledge of the specific and unique skill set to this position. To ensure effective and optimal evaluation of goaltenders, outside accredited goalie evaluators will be utilized in the goalie skills sessions.

16.4 Cohort Placement

The number of goaltenders per cohort will be determined based on the number of designated goalies and the number of cohorts in an age group.



16.5 Hybrid Goalies (U11)

U11 Hybrid Goalies will be evaluated at the goalie specific skills sessions and minimum one (1) skill-based shooting session.

They will skate as players for the timed skate session (Skate 1) and minimum of two (2) general skills sessions.

17.0 GROUP MOVEMENT

The Placement Process will follow social distancing guidelines and therefore will be structured to give players the opportunity to move groups after each skate.

Similar to previous years, players may be moved up or down groups at any time during the evaluation process.

Player movement may happen after all groups have completed the scheduled skate or between skates on subsequent days.

Example: Previously; player movement generally has occurred after all the U11 Skate 2 sessions have been complete. This season, the schedule is being constructed in a way that will allow a player who is skating in Group 4 Skate 3 on Wednesday, to be moved to Group 3 Skate 3 on Thursday.

17.1 For U13 to U18

Groups may be formed in the later skates by the designated player position.

This means that groups may be formed with forwards only or defensemen only and position specific drills will be executed and evaluated during these ice sessions. Parents will be notified if their player is participating in a position specific ice-time.

17.2 Injured, Sick and Absent Player Placement

The guidelines for placing injured, sick or absent players will be as follows:

- If a player is absent, sick or injured; every attempt will be made to correctly place the player.
- SW Hockey reserves the right to contact the player's Coach from the previous season for additional input to assist with the players' placement.
 - **NOTE:** There is **NO** guarantee that the player will play at the same level as they played the season prior.
- In the case of injury or illness, a medical note from the players' doctor will be requested by SW Hockey.
In the event of any long-term injuries, defined as; requiring a recovery time of greater than 4 weeks, the player will be placed at the same level they played in the previous season.
- If this player is able to show that they can play at a higher level, this player **may** be moved to a higher level.

All decisions made by the Evaluation Committee will be final.

18.0 LOCKING PLAYERS

Players may be 'pulled' or 'locked' into cohorts prior to the completion of the four (4) skates. This may be done to help reduce the number of players per groups and provide opportunities for other players to move up groups.

Parents will be notified via email if their player is being locked onto a cohort team.



19.0 COHORT PLACEMENT

A player ranking throughout the process will determine their initial cohort placement. The players pre-seed, scores from all skates and previous seasons coach feedback will be utilized to determine cohort placement.

NOTE: A player placed in Cohort 1 **does not mean** they are on “Team 1” for the “Return to Hockey” post-December participation.

During the Development Phase of this season players within the cohort will practice and play intra-squad games together.

NOTE: There will be evaluated scrimmage sessions throughout the Development Phase which will help determine team placement once the official “Return to Hockey” is in affect.

20.0 FINAL TEAM PLACEMENT

To select Final Team Placement; Cohort Coaches and Independent Evaluators will be consulted.

Player performance demonstrated during the Development Phase, initial cohort rankings and evaluated cohort scrimmage scores will all be used to make-up the final team placement upon entering the “Competition Phase” (post-December Return to Hockey guidelines).

21.0 HOUSE LEAGUE

All House League players will be put through two skill-based sessions to determine their overall skill sets.

Players will then be placed on teams based on the overall scores of these two sessions.

Teams will be made equally to ensure they are balanced.

22.0 RELEASE PROCESS

All players are required by Hockey Calgary to register with the hockey association designated to their primary community. If, for any reason, a player wishes to play outside of his or her designated area, a release is required.

A formal request must be made through Hockey Calgary, and Hockey Calgary rules will govern all releases.

23.0 CONTACTS FOR EVALUATIONS

If there are any questions please feel free to contact

Position	Email
Director of Evaluations	evaluations@southwesthockey.ca
Assistant Director of Evaluations	asst-evaluations@southwesthockey.ca
Vice President On-Ice	vpon-ice@southwesthockey.ca