

Southwest Hockey Association

Evaluations – F.A.Q



1. What will be different from last year?

- a. Any COVID protocols that remain in place prior to the start of the hockey season will be communicated via email. Members **MUST** adhere to all guidelines.
- b. Due to a new mandate from Hockey Calgary, evaluations will again begin after the Labour Day weekend.
- c. The initial groups for U7 and U9 will be arranged alphabetically. Refer to the **2021 Evaluation Procedures**; located on our website, for further details.
- d. The initial groups for U11, U13, U15 and U18 will be based on team placement from prior years. Refer to the **2021 Evaluation Procedures**; located on our website, for further details.
- e. **U11**: Continuation of the Hybrid Goalie position, which was introduced in the 2020-2021 season.
- f. **U13 AA**: Is now under the direction of the Elite Hockey Stream.
- g. **U13, U15 & U18** – barring any unforeseen circumstances, these age groups will start evaluations after the Elite players have been released back to their community.
- h. **Inquiries / Grievances**: There is an Evaluation Inquiry and Appeal Process. The Guidelines for these can be found on the Southwest website, and in the Evaluation Procedure Guideline Manual. Please ensure you read the documents carefully as the process has changed this year to electronic form submissions.

2. When will evaluation sessions be held?

- a. Evaluations will begin after the Labour Day long weekend.
- b. There may be some initial Pathway Skates (non-evaluated skates) scheduled for U9, U11 & U13 groups prior to Labour Day.

3. What are Pathway Skates?

- a. Pathway Skates are **free; non-evaluated**, optional ice times for participants. These skates provide an opportunity for participants to start the new hockey season in a 'non-formal' format.
- b. SW Coaches will run participants through various drills.
- c. Pathway Skates are applicable from U9 to U18. With the exception of U11; these age groups will receive a minimum of two (2) sessions. Then as per the Hockey Canada U11 Player Pathway, U11 will receive four (4) Pathway Skates.

4. Where can I find the evaluation schedule?

- a. The evaluation schedule can be found on the SW website at: www.southwesthockey.ca
- b. Click on: Parents > Evaluations > then scroll to the evaluation schedule section.

5. What is being evaluated?

- a. Refer to the **2021 Evaluation Procedure Guidelines**; which can be found on our website.

6. Who will be conducting the evaluations?

- a. Skaters are generally evaluated by volunteer coaches within Southwest Hockey. These volunteers may have coached with Southwest in the past or may have general hockey knowledge. We ask evaluators to maintain a **professional demeanor** when conducting evaluations of the participants.
- b. Volunteer coaches **ARE NOT** permitted to evaluate their own player(s).
- c. For goalies, an outside professional evaluation company(s) will be used under the supervision of the Director of Evaluations. The professional evaluation company(s) will be approved by the SW Hockey Board.

7. What should my child wear to the evaluation sessions?

- a. Full equipment is **mandatory**, which includes:

- CSA approved helmet & full shield
- Mouth guard
- Neck guard
- Shoulder pads
- Elbow pads
- Shin pads
- Hockey pants
- Protective cup
- Skates
- Hockey gloves
- Hockey stick



- b. **IMPORTANT:** Participants are asked to **NOT** wear any “rep, all-star, or select” team socks or jersey. If worn, the player may be requested to turn their jersey inside out.

8. What can you tell me about the helmet stickers?

- a. The system uses individual helmet numbers to identify each player. The numbers assigned are random and do **NOT** indicate a player’s “ranking” within the group.
- b. Helmet stickers will be handed out at the 1st skate, at the Welcome (check-in) Table.
- c. These stickers **MUST** remain on the player’s helmet for the **ENTIRETY** of the evaluation process.

9. Does my child’s jersey colour or helmet number mean something during evaluations?

- a. Each player is assigned a unique helmet number; which are generated randomly and holds no bearing to a player’s standing during evaluations.
- b. Evaluators will only know the players’ helmet number, and whether they are evaluating as a forward or defence (when applicable), and not by their name.
- c. There is no correlation between the helmet number, the jersey colour and the player rank during the sessions.

10. How are the players notified of their standing within the process?

- a. Age Division Evaluation Lead Coordinators are responsible for tracking evaluations and will contact parents / guardians, players via email.
- b. **Email is the MAIN form of communication and Members MUST check their email on a regular basis during evaluations to ensure timely receipt of updates and any potential schedule changes.**
 - **NOTE:** It is recommended that members periodically check their Spam / Junk folders as well and mark SW emails as 'safe' – to ensure emails are not missed.

11. How will the evaluation information be used?

- a. Evaluation results will be used to place players on a team where they will have the appropriate skill level to ensure a fun and competitive environment.

12. What happens after evaluations conclude?

- a. Upon completion of evaluations, your assigned Head Coach will contact all players on the team.
 - **NOTE:** If you have not submitted the Volunteer Bond Agreement Form, and post-dated cheque, then you will **NOT** be notified of your player(s) team placement **UNTIL** the Volunteer Bond Agreement Form **AND** postdated cheque have been received.
- b. During the initial introductions, the Head Coach may introduce the Assistant Coaches. The Head Coach may also outline any other team positions that need to be filled, as well as the first team practice(s). The first Parent Meeting date may also be communicated to discuss the season.

13. How soon after evaluations, does the season start?

- a. The season typically starts immediately after evaluations are completed; which in most cases is late September or early October.
- b. Your practice schedule will be uploaded to your team in TeamSnap.

14. Is there anything else I need to bring to the 1st evaluation session?

- a. **Yes.** Families must bring the Volunteer Bond Agreement Form, and postdated cheque.
 - For further details about the Volunteer Bond Program, visit: www.southwesthockey.ca
- b. At this time, the Association has not yet received confirmation if facility waivers for Cardel Rec or Seven Chiefs will be required; therefore, as a proactive measure, facility waivers may be included at the time of registration for parents to acknowledge.



REMEMBER:

Participants MUST check-in for EVERY session --- at the Welcome Table!