

Blackfoot Hockey Association



2020-21 Blackfoot Evaluation Information Summary & Guide

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Introduction

Blackfoot Hockey Association (BHA) incorporates an annual evaluation process each hockey season developed in partnership with the Hockey Development Committee and based on Hockey Canada guidelines. This process facilitates the placement of players within their appropriate teams based on the combined evaluation of hockey skills and knowledge of the game through age appropriate skills sessions and games. The evaluation process is subject to review and may change from year to year.

Evaluations are an Association process that affects all players and members, and as such, relies heavily on Association volunteer commitment positions. The success of the process is integral to the success of the Association and ultimately its players. It is expected that the more members who contribute, the more successful the outcome for everyone. Through increased member participation each member will also gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the process.

Blackfoot Hockey Association Evaluation Goals

- To provide a fair assessment of a hockey player's ability and understanding of the game during both the skill and/or game sessions.
- To ensure that all players have a reasonable opportunity of being assigned to a team appropriate to their skill level as determined during the on-ice evaluations of the current year.
- To provide a consistent process from year to year as players grow into age groups and develop into different skill levels within the Association.
- To form teams that maintain balanced and competitive play where the player can develop and participate equitably, while having fun playing hockey throughout the season

Purpose Statement

The intent of this document is to provide players and parents with an understanding of the overall purpose of evaluations along with an outline of the evaluation process. Each player shall have the opportunity to earn a spot on the appropriate team level based on their own individual efforts. Every effort will be made by the Association to provide a safe structured environment to allow players demonstrate their skills and abilities.

New Players

For the first evaluation, players new to the Blackfoot Hockey Association will be placed in the appropriate ice grouping based on the Hockey Calgary division they played in the prior season. Players new to Hockey Calgary will be placed in an appropriate age group at the discretion of the both Vice Presidents and appointed Hockey Development Coordinator.

U7 Age Group

Players will be split into Jr. and Sr. U7 (generally 5 and 6-year old's). Ice times will be used as conditioning skates and any initial player movement if needed. Movement will be determined by the U7 Hockey Development Representative. In each of ice times players will be ranked as top third, middle third or bottom third. These rankings will be used to determine the U7 teams.

The goal is to create teams that are all Jr. U7 teams of equal strength (same number of 1, 2, and 3 ranked players on each team, parity) and Sr. U7 teams of equal strength (same number of 1, 2, and 3 ranked players on each team, parity). Depending on the number of registrations it is possible that Jr. and Sr. mixed teams may exist.

Friend/Coach requests will not be available for the 2020/21 season.

House League

Blackfoot Hockey will offer a House League option for our U9, U11 and U13 Age Groups participating in the Hockey Calgary House League. Our House League teams are not evaluated, and each house league player will take part in preparation and balancing skates where we ensure that we have parity among our House League teams. The number of preparation and balancing skates will follow Hockey Calgary guidelines. The House League players are not evaluated and or ranked during this ice session. We look at the overall skill level of the teams, not the overall skill level of each player. The House League teams will represent the association and will not be combined with other associations. There may be players from other associations on a Blackfoot team when that association did not have enough registrations to make a team.

U9, U11, U13, U15 and U18 Age Groups Initial Player Placement

Players need to be arranged in groups in order to start the evaluation process. The initial player placement has no barring or consequence. It is only a starting point. Once each player completes the skills sessions, they will be placed in groups based on their individual results. The skills sessions will start the evaluation process and player movements will be made from there on. The Initial Player Placement groupings are only the starting point for the evaluation process and may change by age group should it deemed necessary.

Note – These group sizes, # of groups and placement are subject to change based on registration #'s which may cause players from the previous year's team to be in different groupings for initial placement. This is not based on any pre-determined rankings from the previous season.

Conditioning Skate

In addition to the pre-season conditioning camp provided by Blackfoot all players will be provided with conditioning skates prior to beginning the evaluations process. The conditioning skates will include age group appropriate drills and will be run by Blackfoot Hockey Association. The groups based on final registration #'s for the conditioning skate will be set with the recommended initial placement (as outlined above) with no pre-determined rankings from the previous year. The number of conditioning skates will vary by age group and be in conjunction with Hockey Calgary and Hockey Alberta guidelines.

On-ice volunteers may be required to assist with the conditioning skates.

Skills Session

After the conditioning skate all players will participate in one skills session. The groups for the skills session will be set with the recommended initial placement (as outlined above) with no pre-determined rankings from the previous year. All skills sessions will be run by a third-party supplier, Fuel Performance Testing. All skill drills will be measured by an electronic timing system using timing gates and all results will be recorded and reported electronically. **The final rankings will be based on the average rank of all drills.** In the highly unlikely event of a tie between two or more players total skills will be used to determine final rankings.

The skills timed during these sessions will include age category appropriate drills for forward, backward, agility and transition skating. Each player will be given two opportunities to complete each drill with their best time for each drill being recorded. At Blackfoot Hockey Association's discretion and within reason extra opportunities may be provided for a player to complete the drill should the player not complete the drill or drills properly. The results from the skills testing (for all players) will be used to place the players in the appropriate initial group level to begin the game portion of the evaluation process. No scoring from the skills sessions will carry over to the evaluations process.

After the skills portion of evaluations, the software system will notify families of their next ice time. There is no need to monitor the website as there will be no information posted there, you will be notified by email only. Please be sure to check your junk mail folder regularly just in case.

Players Not Able to Attend the Skills Sessions

If a player is unable to make or attend the skills session for an Excused Absence and is a returning player to Blackfoot, the player will be placed by Blackfoot Hockey Development. Blackfoot Hockey Development will confer with the player's previous season coach and place the player in the appropriate group based on comparisons with the player's peers from that previous year's team (positional peers for U13 and above). The player will have 4 evaluation movement games to change their final roster placement. **This placement for the initial game will be final.** For all unexcused absences and for players who were not with Blackfoot the previous year, Blackfoot Hockey Development will place them in the lowest group and assess their skill level within that peer group (i.e. if the age group has groups A, B, C and D the player will be placed in D). If movement is required, the player will be moved accordingly and given the opportunity for movement within the evaluation movement games.

Excused Absences can include but are not limited to; injury (doctors note may be required), sickness (doctors note may be required), school event (within reason), family emergency. **It is the parent's responsibility to communicate to your Blackfoot Age Group Coordinator, or Age Group Vice President prior to any ice time that will be missed. Absences without communication from parents prior to will be treated as unexcused absences.**

Unexcused Absences can include but are not limited to; participation in other sport activities, any absence not communicated to your Blackfoot Age Group Coordinator or Age Group Vice President.

Evaluator Roles and Responsibilities

All Evaluators will be provided by Fuel Performance Testing. The main goal behind hiring external evaluators is to provide a completely fair and unbiased evaluation process. All evaluators will have played hockey at a high level, including Junior, University, and Pro, are educated, over the age of 25 and have experience evaluating hockey players at various levels.

Under no circumstances is anyone to approach any Evaluator during the Evaluation Season or approach the roped off Evaluators Area in all rinks used by the Blackfoot Hockey Association. *

Blackfoot Age Group Coordinator

- Responsible for ensuring the evaluation process runs smoothly
- Is present for all ice times in their division
- First contact for parent communication
- Communicates to members important information pertaining to the evaluation process
- Ensures all volunteers have a good understanding of their responsibilities

Blackfoot Bench Management Volunteers

- Manage fluid circulation between all players.
- Vary line combinations
- Ensure all shifts (U13, U15 and U18) are kept to appropriate game scenario length of 0:30-1:00
- Provide warnings to Blackfoot Players not abiding by the appropriate shift length and provide the players identification # to the Blackfoot Age Group Coordinator or Assistant Coordinator.

Player Evaluation System

All players are evaluated and ranked according to their demonstrated ability in each of the following facets of the game of hockey. External evaluators will be ranking players based on the 3 facets that BHA thinks is important to the identity of a Blackfoot Hockey Player. Each player will be evaluated on 3 components on a 10-point sliding scale.

- 1.) Overall Impact on the game (70%)
 - a. Positioning
 - b. Play making ability: moving the puck, advancing the puck, avoiding turnovers.
 - c. Offensive production: Goals, assists, overall opportunities.
 - d. Noticeability: continuously involved in the play in a positive manner.
- 2.) Battle and Compete (20%)
 - a. Puck pursuit
 - b. Stamina
 - c. Puck possession control and protection
 - d. Assertiveness
 - e. Aggressiveness
- 3.) Overall Skill (10%)
 - a. Puck handling
 - b. Skating
 - c. Shooting
 - d. Passing

Evaluation Metrics and Reporting

During the evaluation movement games evaluators will focus on the metrics outlined under the Player Evaluation System section of this document.

Players will be evaluated in game scenarios as outlined in the Movement Game Structure section of this document to determine their final rankings. **Evaluations are subjective and based on opinion on the areas outlined in our Player Evaluation System section of this document. Our External Evaluators have been brought in for their expertise to evaluate all Blackfoot Hockey Association Players.**

Evaluators may have discussions during the game and/or after the game if needed to finalize the rankings of each player. Player Evaluation Scoring from each Movement Game will be collected, after the final rankings have been determined, and provided to the Blackfoot, Age-Group Vice-Presidents and President who will then submit to the Blackfoot office for official record keeping. The final rankings will be entered into the Evaluations System by the evaluators directly using tablets provided by the association, and/or Manager, Hockey Development and approved by the Age-Group Vice-Presidents and President.

After Movement Games are completed (ex. All Movement Games #1 must be completed within a specific age group if they are being held on different days due to ice scheduling) and final rankings are determined families will be notified by a system generated email from the evaluation software of their next ice time. There is no need to monitor the website as there will be no information posted there, you will be notified by email only. Please be sure to check your junk mail folder regularly just in case.

Movement Game Structures

U9 Age Group Cross Ice 3 on 3 Games

Games for this age group will be run time with 60 second intervals. The games will be cross-ice between the end boards and blue line with nets on both sides. The games will be two 20-minute periods. Players will be given a 5-minute warm up with a 1-minute intermission between periods. There will be no mid-game movement of players.

U11 Age Group Full Ice 5 on 5 Games

Games for this age group will be run time with 75 second intervals. Players will be given a 5-minute warm up and 1-minute intermission between periods. Each interval will start with a face off at center ice. If a goal is scored players on the scoring team are to return to the red line and set up for the other teams break-out. Players on the team who were scored on will retrieve the puck from their goal and initiate their break-out. When pucks are saved by a goalie, opposing players are to return to the offensive blue line and defending players are to retrieve the puck from their goalie and initiate a break-out.

By having each interval start with a face off it will allow players to demonstrate their abilities in more of a game setting and provide evaluators with a broader view of the players skill sets and abilities.

For the U11 age category 5 on 5 game all players will rotate through each position (i.e. forward and defense) allowing the evaluators to view them in different game situations.

Blackfoot Hockey Association will follow Hockey Calgary's guidelines for evaluating players participating in the U11 Hybrid Goalie program

U13, U15 and U18 Age Group Full Ice 5 on 5 Games

Games for this age group will be run time with full stoppage on goals, off-sides, goalie puck stoppage. Players will be given a 5-minute warm up and 1-minute intermission between periods. Forwards will play wing as well as center and defensemen will play both right and left. There will be no designated center or right/left wing for positional play. This format of play will allow evaluators to see how players play in different settings similar to sessional game play. Players will play against all lines on the opposing side as line changes will be made at separate times throughout the game.

Referees will officiate all games and Hockey Calgary Rules will apply. High hits, hits from behind and major stick infractions will be dealt with as in a typical game. If a player is given an infraction like this, it will result in a game ejection and affect the players' ability to be evaluated properly. Penalties will be called and assessed with the player who was offended given a shoot-out with the penalized player chasing. Players are to use contact when appropriately in the context of the game. Players are not to use contact to make a big hit or make an impact that does not benefit play. Unnecessary contact and/or checking will negatively impact the player's evaluation rankings.

Shift lengths are to be kept to normal hockey shifts i.e. 30 seconds – 1 minute. Players exceeding this length will be warned, and if long shifts are re-occurring, will be sat. Bench management will be managed by a volunteer coach who will monitor player shift times.

Players will be required to mix lines, as to give evaluators a perspective on how each individual plays with their peer group.

Players should be reminded that hockey is a team sport, so use your teammates on the ice. Individual play will possibly hurt you.

Movement Games Outline

All evaluation of players will be fully outsourced to Fuel Performance.

Players will be evaluated in larger groups by 6 to 8 evaluators. Sub groups will consist of 10 to 15 players and will be ranked within this group. The size of group is determined by the number of registrations in each age group for the evaluation year.

Fuel will evaluate all players throughout all games and provide a final full ranking of players.

This will expand the number of players being evaluated in sub groups allowing greater movement based on rankings from a larger number of evaluators. This larger group size has been tested in other associations of similar size in Alberta and has been considered to be of best practices by 3rd party evaluation organizations.

The number of players moving between groups may vary due to Fuel's request to see players evaluated with peer groups.

After the skills session all players will be placed into groupings based on final registration #'s. Initial placement in these groupings will be based on results from the skills session.

The movement games for each age category will be:

U9: Four 3 on 3 Cross Ice Sessions (no mid-game movement)

U11: Four 5 on 5 Full Ice Games

U13: Four 5 on 5 Full Ice Games

U15: Three 5 on 5 Full Ice Games each for contact and non-contact

U18: Three 5 on 5 Full Ice Games each for contact and non-contact

NOTE: Additional games will be added if deemed necessary.

There is an expectation that every individual who wants to coach or assistant coach you are expected to volunteer. Failure not to volunteer may affect being considered as a Coach or Assistant Coach.

In an effort to ensure proper movement, players may be moved upward and downward from a group at any time during the evaluation process. Evaluators will be encouraged to identify stronger players in a group that should be moved up and weaker players in a group that should be moved down a group. At all of the first movement games for each ice group, Blackfoot Hockey Development will watch for discrepancies that have occurred as a result of the Skills Session and, at its discretion, will move a player up or down to a group more suited to their individual game play.

U21 C Evaluations

Blackfoot Hockey Association has one Junior C team for play within Hockey Calgary. In the event that more players register for Junior C that allowed on the final team roster BHA will hold Junior C Evaluations to set the final team roster. The Junior C Evaluations will consist of two 5 on 5 games to evaluate the players ability to play at the Junior C level. The Junior C Evaluations will be conducted by the Junior C Evaluations Committee which will consist of the Age Group Vice-President, Junior Age Group Coordinator, Blackfoot Hockey Development Representative, Junior C Head Coach and Assistant Coach. BHA reserves the right to add, change or delete members from the Junior C Evaluations Committee.

As Hockey Calgary rules allow for players at the Junior C level to play outside of their community association boundaries the following criteria may also be used as part of the Junior C Evaluations Process:

- Over age player allowance. Hockey Calgary allows for a maximum of four (4) over age players to be on a final Junior C team roster. If more than four (4) over age players register BHA will need to cut these players down to maximum of four (4) players regardless of the final number of players registered.
- Existing Blackfoot Hockey Association players, i.e. individuals who have played the majority of their minor hockey within the Blackfoot Hockey Association.
- Previous level of play ex. U18 Division 1, U18 Division 2, U18 Division 3, U18 Division 4, U18 Division 5.
- Returning players to the BHA Junior C Team
- New players to the BHA Junior C Team who have not played within the Blackfoot Hockey Association previously.

These Junior C Evaluations will only be conducted if deemed necessary by BHA Hockey Development based on the final registration #'s.

Players Not Attending Evaluation Movement Games

If a player is unable to attend an evaluation movement game due to an excused absence, they will remain in the sub-group determined by their evaluations. Through their previous play or skills session and will be given an opportunity to skate at their next ice time within that sub-grouping. This will not affect any other players' movement up or down as all players will be given the opportunity to skate in the sub-group determined by their evaluations. For sickness or injury, a **Doctor's note may be required.**

If a player does not attend an evaluation movement game due to an unexcused absence they will be ranked at the bottom of their current sub-grouping and dropped down to the next-sub grouping as per our evaluation guidelines. This will continue for all unexcused absences.

Excused Absences can include but are not limited to; injury (doctors note may be required), sickness (doctors note may be required), school event (within reason), family emergency. **It is the parent's responsibility to communicate to your Blackfoot Age Group Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator or Age Group Vice President prior to any ice time that will be missed. Absences without communication from parents prior to will be treated as unexcused absences.**

Unexcused Absences can include but are not limited to; participation in other sport activities, any absence not communicated to your Blackfoot Age Group Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator or Age Group Vice President.

For players who were not with Blackfoot the previous year, Blackfoot Hockey Development will place them on the lowest team and assess their skill level within that peer group (i.e. If the age group has teams 1 through 6, the player will be placed on 6). If movement is required, the player will be moved accordingly by Blackfoot Hockey Development. **Doctor's note will be required.**

U15 and U18 Body Checking & Non-Body Checking Evaluations

Based on Hockey Calgary seeding for the 2019-20 season Blackfoot Hockey Association will have 2 to 3 U15 teams and potentially 3 U18 teams playing within Hockey Calgary body checking divisions (both to be based on final registration #'s). The remaining teams will be in divisions with non-body checking.

For both U15 and U18 age groups evaluations will be run the same way and will not begin until after the final release of quadrant players. All players, including released quadrant players, will partake in a skills session and grouped accordingly based on results for their age group and registration in contact or non-contact.

Those players registered for contact will then play in 3 evaluation movement games and placed on the appropriate team.

Depending on registration numbers, Hockey Calgary's grid, and ultimately the cut lines, if there are more players registered for contact than there are spots available, they will be moved into the non-contact group, placed according to their skills session results, and evaluated accordingly within that group. As a result, and if necessary, the non-contact group will be provided with 3 ice times for general conditioning while waiting for the contact evaluations to be completed.

After the 3 evaluation games for the contact group, the non-contact will play 3 evaluation movement games.

NOTE: The above is subject to change based on final registration #'s and changes to Hockey Calgary Final Seeding Grid. All changes will be communicated to BHA U15 and U18 players and families.

Player Identification

Players will be assigned pinnies for each evaluation movement game. It is very important that all players wear the pinnie given to them at check in for the appropriate session and return them to the player check in area after each session.

Players are not to wear red or yellow jerseys during evaluations as the pinnies used are red and yellow. NOTE: The pinnie #'s do not reflect any player ranking at any time and are assigned randomly.

Final Team Selection and Placement

After each age group has completed the entire evaluation process, the Age Group Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, Director of Coordinators, Manager, Hockey Development, both Vice Presidents and the President meet to place the players on teams based on their evaluation results. **At this point in the process sick, injured or returning Quadrant Hockey players will be placed in to the appropriate evaluation ranking and special requests are approved. This may cause player movement and could change your assumption of your players' final roster placement. Due to family and player confidentiality we are unable to release any details on these placements or requests.** Final roster sizes are determined based on final registration #'s and Hockey Calgary roster guidelines and +/- roster requirements and careful consideration of what is best for the Blackfoot Hockey Association.

This process may take 48 to 72 hours to complete after the final evaluation movement games are completed for each age group. Head Coaches are provided with their rosters, and in turn will notify players by email (most common) or phone as to which team they are on.

Coach Selection

All coaches should ensure they have filled out the online coach application in the registration package on the Blackfoot Hockey website, www.blackfoothockey.com, to be included in the coach selection process.

During the Team Selection meetings Head Coaches are finalized. Head Coaches are selected using several different criteria including; coaching philosophy, coach survey feedback, coaching training/certification, previous coaching experience within the Blackfoot Hockey Association, have they met the Evaluation Volunteer Requirements, previous coaching experience in other sports, etc. The Age Group Coordinators, Assistant Coordinators, Director of Coordinators, Manager-Hockey Development both Vice Presidents and the President will participate in the Head Coach Selection. Assistant Coaches are selected by the Head Coach with the approval of the appropriate age group Vice President.

Age Group Coordinators will contact the Head Coaches to advise them of their final team roster. All potential coaches should ensure the Age Group Coordinators for the Age Group they would like to have their cell phone # to be contacted should any questions, etc. arise during the coach selection process.

Players Returning from Quadrant Hockey Evaluations

The Blackfoot Hockey Association acknowledges in the U15 and U18 age groups some players may still be participating in Quadrant evaluations during the Blackfoot Hockey Evaluations Process. Blackfoot Hockey will begin U15 and U18 evaluations only after the final release of players from Quadrant evaluations.

Players that return from Quadrant evaluations will be required to participate in a skills session and players will still have to compete for a spot within the Blackfoot Hockey Association as there are no guaranteed placements for any players within the Blackfoot Hockey Association.

Note: Players returning from Quadrant Hockey Evaluations during or after the Blackfoot Hockey Evaluations Process can affect your players' final placement. Please review the Final Team Placement and Selection section of this document for further details.

Grievances

With the evaluation of players being fully outsourced and controls in place to identify anomalies through our electronic systems, there is no longer a grievance process.

Abuse or Harassment

Blackfoot Hockey Association has a zero-tolerance policy for abuse of any kind or format towards volunteers and Board Members. Any individuals not acting in accordance with this policy may have a Game and Conduct investigation or hearing being initiated