



PLAYER PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Process Guidelines

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PPP Goal:

The goal of the PPP is to fairly rank and then place each player in a division of players with like skill sets and ability. The intended outcome is that each player in a specific age group is given a rank within that age group (i.e. if we are placing 200 kids, we will rank them from 1-200). Each player will be then be placed in the appropriate cohort based on their rank and assigned to a specific mini team. The intent is that each mini team in a specific cohort are balanced to enhance game play within the cohort. Another critical goal of the process is to review coach applications and provide recommendations on Head Coaches within each cohort.

The 2020 evaluation process will follow the Covid-19 Phase 2 restrictions outlined in the HC guidelines provided to SMHA. A link to the latest guideline is located on the SMHA website.

POSITIONS:

- 1. Age Group Liaison, (U9, U11, U13, U15, U18, U21)**
 - a. Is a SMHA Board Member that does not have a player in the age group.
 - b. Responsible to work in conjunction with the Coordinator of an age group.
 - c. Responsible to facilitate Board approval of Evaluation team for the PPP.
 - d. Ultimately responsible to review final teams and as per Hockey Calgary guidelines and work with Board to approve recommendations for Head Coaches for each team.
 - e. Manage escalated issues and ensure SMHA Board is informed of Age Group issues throughout entire season.

- 2. Coordinator, (U9, U11, U13, U15, U18, U21)**
 - a. Responsible to coordinate & execute the Player Placement Program (PPP) for the age group they coordinate.
 - b. Responsible to select 8-12 Evaluators for the PPP.
 - i. U11 & above: Coordinate Goaltender Player Placements
 - c. Responsible for selecting:
 - i. Assistant Coordinator (ideally part of a succession plan)
 - ii. Communication Coordinator
 - iii. Data Manager
 - iv. Health Check Manager (Managing Covid-19 Health Check Info)
 - v. On Ice Leads
 - vi. Evaluators
 - d. Responsible for selecting approved drills for each session.
 - e. Ultimately responsible to submit final teams for Board Approval as per Hockey Calgary guidelines and provide recommendations for Head Coaches for each team.
 - f. Manage ongoing issues and ensure communications are maintained throughout entire season.
 - g. Collect Season ending player evaluations from coaches.

- 3. Assistant Coordinator (U9, U11, U13, U15, U18, U21)**
 - a. Works in concert with the Coordinator to execute the PPP.
 - b. Ensure Pinnies are provided to each player prior to the first PPP session

4. **Manager, Communications (U9, U11, U13, U15, U18, U21)**
 - a. Works in concert with AGC to ensure PPP group information is distributed via email
 - b. Bring concerns and questions forward to the AGC
 - c. Distribute communications from the Coordinator throughout the entire season to ensure a consistent message is heard.
 - d. Manager, Communications is effectively the Manager of all team Managers
 - e. Collect team budgets to be submitted for Board review.

5. **PPP Data Manager (U9, U11, U13, U15, U18, U21)**
 - a. Responsible for data integrity throughout the entire PPP process.
 - b. Responsible for managing placement data to rank players through the PPP process. Data is to be kept in strict confidence with only the Data Manager, Coordinator & Age Group Board Liaison. This information is not to be shared with the evaluators.
 - c. Responsible to have all Evaluator sheets ready before each session, by color, by jersey number.
 - d. Strong skills in Excel are required.
 - e. Must be present at all evaluations.

6. **PPP Evaluator, (U9, U11, U13, U15, U18, U21)**
 - a. Provide impartial evaluation of all players in age group based on criteria as outlined by Coordinator.
 - b. Must be present at all evaluations.
 - c. Separate evaluators for Goalies are required.
 - d. Note: Evaluators do not evaluate their own player.

7. **PPP Health Check Manager**
 - a. Responsible for collecting Covid-19 Health Check Data
 - b. Responsible to work with AGC and SMHA First VP (John Taylor) with any positive cases and/or issues identified.

EVALUATION GUIDELINES:

We will follow the Hockey Calgary Return to Hockey guidelines, which mandate socially distanced drills that were developed by SMHA coaches and approved by Hockey Calgary. The Return to Hockey guidelines outline a skill based evaluation process for each age group.

EVALUATION PROCESS:

Each Age Group Coordinator will manage & execute the following:

- Select a group of 8-12 evaluators. (To be approved by SMHA Executive)
 - U13 & above: Where position specific evaluations occur a minimum of 6 evaluators per position is recommended.
- Select drills approved by HC (that meet social distance guidelines) for each player placement session. These may vary depending on the caliber of each group.
- After each round the players will be ranked and re-grouped as appropriate for the next sessions.
- The AGC and Assistant AGC (the Data Manager provides the data) review the data and provide a player movement recommendation to the appropriate SMHA Board Liaison for approval.

Principals for On Ice Sessions

Players will be seeded into initial groupings for the first ice time based on the minor hockey level played in the previous year. In cases where the evaluation team has limited information on a player new to the association, the player will be placed in a reasonable group based on what we do know.

Each ice time will result in each player being ranked and then reseeded for the next skate. Players with top marks in an ice session will likely move up and we may need to move players down (who will be given the opportunity to move back up again). This is necessary in order to have them compete against the players that they are most closely ranked with, and ultimately settle into their exact ranking.

There is more opportunity than existed before for player movement, so the players just need to go out and do their best. If they do that, we are confident they will end up where they belong. They may end up as one of the top ranked players on their team or one of the lower ranked players. Either scenario is an opportunity for growth and development if they are willing to and encouraged to embrace it!

Final Ice Session – “The Bubble Skate”

The final player placement session is used to provide the final ranking of the players at the top and bottom of each cohort to determine final cohort placement.

Coordinator & Data Manager will identify up to 10 skaters above/below “the line” to be evaluated. Evaluators will only score the players on the bubble to improve the time they have to score this smaller group of players.

IDENTICAL SCORES - TIEBREAKERS

Tie-breaking procedure based on players who evaluate equally:

1. 2nd year (older) player gets the higher placement than a 1st year (younger) player.
2. If both players are 2nd year players (or both are 1st year players):
 - a. Refer to Coaches evaluations from previous year and Age Group Coordinator makes judgment based on ranking/comments.

PLACEMENT OF INJURED PLAYERS:

If a player is unable to skate - refer to the final rankings from last year's year-end coach evaluations. Place the player with other players with the same ranking from the previous season. This is done at the discretion of the Age Group Coordinator/Data Manager and approved by SMHA Executive.

Note: This placement is subject to review & player may be moved if deemed necessary.

PLACEMENT OF PLAYER MISSING A SESSION

Players must earn a ranking to move up into another group. Players can NOT be promoted into another group if they miss a session, but they may be demoted if the data supports it. This is handled at the discretion of the Age Group Coordinator/Data Manager and approved by SMHA Executive.

GOALTENDER EVALUATIONS

See Goaltender Guidelines Document for Details.

CREATING TEAMS

The number of Cohorts and Mini-Team guidelines are provided in the Appendix of the HC Return to Play guidelines. There is to be no deviation from the grids provided by HC, but there is some flexibility within the guidelines to help create balanced teams within each cohort. It is important to create balanced mini teams that have good coaches to support them.

In cases where we have more teams than goaltenders, some cohorts will need to share goaltenders and this needs to be taken into consideration when planning games.