

St. Vital Minor Hockey Association (SVMHA)

Player Evaluation, Coach Selection and Team Formation Process

Hockey Canada Mission Statement

Lead, Develop, and Promote Positive Hockey Experiences.

Hockey Canada Mandate

- Hockey Canada believes...
- In a positive hockey experience for all participants, in a safe, sportsmanlike environment.
 - In the development of life skills which will benefit participants throughout their lives.
 - In the values of fair play and sportsmanship, including the development of respect for all people by all participants.
 - In hockey opportunities for all people regardless of age, gender, colour, race, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status and in both official languages.
 - In the importance for participants to develop dignity and self-esteem. To always instill the values of honesty and integrity in participants.
 - In the promotion of teamwork, the belief that what groups and society can achieve is greater than that which can be achieved by individuals.
 - In the country of Canada, its tradition in the game of hockey, and the proud and successful representation of this tradition around the world.
 - In the value of hard work, determination, the pursuit of excellence and success in all activities.
 - In the benefits of personal and physical well-being.

Player registration

Resident players of St. Vital Minor Hockey Association (SVMHA) must be registered each year using Hockey Canada online registration system. All players must also have access to an email account so they can join a program called TeamSnap.

Hockey Divisions

The following table lists the divisions a player is eligible to register for based on their age as of December 31 of the current year.

House League	Co-ed A Hockey	Female A Hockey
U7 house league U9 house league	U9 A1 U11 U13 U15 (NBC and BC) U18 (NBC and BC)	U9 U11 U13 U15 U18

1 OVERVIEW

St Vital Minor Hockey Association (SVMHA) recognizes that the evaluation process is important to players, parent/guardians, evaluators, and SVMHA. All efforts are directed to ensure that the evaluation process allows a player to demonstrate their hockey abilities and skills.

The goal of this document is to provide a clear explanation of established procedures regarding key aspects of player evaluation, coach selection and team formation, in accordance with Hockey Winnipeg Rules and Regulations.

Hockey Winnipeg Rules and Regulations, Section D: Hockey Zones, requires that Area Associations must form teams equally according to player ability. This forms the basis of the SVMHA player evaluation and team formation process, along with the following guiding principles as set forth by Hockey Canada.

Hockey Canada has mandated at the U11 age that all players should be offered the opportunity to participate in early season ice sessions to permit players to get their playing legs so to speak. SVMHA has accepted this and expanded to all our age groups

2 HOCKEY PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Team formation process:

(a) To provide, as much as is possible, a fair and impartial assessment of a player's total hockey skills using technical skill testing and scrimmage sessions. This ensures that all players have a reasonable opportunity of making a team appropriate to their skill level.

(b) Although it is impossible to eliminate all subjectivity, or previous coach/player experiences, our process will rely on objective skill testing to initially benchmark players and then view players in subjective evaluations against their skill peers using game like scrimmages.

(c) The selection criteria developed at each division will be similar for all from U9 to U18. This ensures consistency in the evaluation process. However, changes which now include Non Body Contact divisions at U15 and U18 Co Ed, have made it necessary to alter the process at those levels.

(d) A primary goal of the evaluation process is to form balanced and competitive teams where players can develop and participate equitably and have fun playing hockey during the season.

(e) Testing and evaluations scores are documented and remain confidential. Individual scores and rankings are required for the purpose of forming teams. Under no circumstances will results be released to parents/guardians or players. The evaluation sheets and the ranking criteria are maintained by the Vice President of Evaluations and Development, with the assistance of the Executive Director. These rankings are also made available to the appropriate Vice President of each level of play and the participating coaches during team formation meetings.

(f) Any injury, illness or other absence which prevents a player from completing the testing /Evaluation process will be dealt with by the Vice President of Evaluations and Development in consultation with the appropriate Vice President. They shall be entitled to utilize prior season evaluations, prior season level of play and prior coach reviews regarding the player in question in deciding on placement for that year. All players are strongly encouraged to make every effort to attend sessions as relying on previous season's information is not as accurate and may result in your child being placed in a lower tier than expected.

(g) In this policy the duties and responsibilities of the association's hockey Vice Presidents are indicated. In all cases a hockey Vice President can delegate any of their responsibility to another Person. As well the VP can determine that a player was placed incorrectly into a peer group and move that player directly to a more appropriate skill level peer group, at any time in the evaluation process. This move will be made after consultation and concurrence of the Evaluation Vice President.

3 EVALUATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

(a) U11 and U9 divisions will receive at least three non-evaluation pre-season warm-up skates prior to testing and evaluations. Players will be grouped as they register as this placement has no bearing on the evaluation process. The U9 ice times will consist of IP skates.

- (b) After the preseason ice times where required divisions will undertake Technical Skill testing. . This session cannot occur prior to or during the first week of school.
- (c) For Goalies in divisions with more than four registered goalies, a technical skill testing session will occur, which is based on Hockey Canadas Level one goaltending manual. Click [HERE](#)
- Based on the scores of these skill tests, goalies will be placed into tier groupings consistent with their skill peers for additional evaluations.

SVMHA goaltender evaluation model includes both technical sessions as well as gameplay skates.

- (d) For Skaters SVMHA will utilize the Hockey Canada Standard Skills Testing Program to objectively test the core skills of all our players. Based on the scores of these skill tests, players will be placed into tier groupings consistent with their skill peers for additional evaluations. Typically, three groups will be formed after testing, however in divisions with low numbers two or one tier may be formed. When tiers are formed, the number of players advanced to the top tier will be restricted and based on the number requirements for the evaluation tournaments of the tiers below.
- (e) During each testing or evaluation session players shall be assigned a number. Every effort will be made to ensure players remain anonymous to testers and evaluators during evaluations.
- (f) SVMHA uses the evaluation platform known as **TeamGenius**, which allows for real-time entry of scores onto a web-based platform, which then averages scores entered by evaluators. Also, the program rejects the highest and lowest scores given. All these processes defeat any attempt to stack a score in favor of any player.
- (g) All evaluations, after the skill testing, will use game play to determine placement within that group. For each game the goal is to have a minimum of five independent evaluators hired by SVMHA. In cases where three or more goaltenders are assigned to a peer evaluation group for evaluation games, a dedicated evaluator will be used.
- (h) Skill testers, paid evaluators, and volunteer coach evaluators must have an appropriate background to effectively conduct the testing in a consistent manner and evaluate player skills and performance. Those individuals hired by the Association will be under the direction of the Vice President of Evaluations and Development, with the assistance of the Executive Director, who will supervise, train, and schedule the testing and evaluation sessions.
- (i) Preferable background characteristics can include, but are not limited to the following:
- Experience with player evaluation and performance systems.
 - Suitable background in hockey either as a player or as a coach.
 - Players or coaches from other levels of hockey programs.
 - A willingness to evaluate players in divisions in which they do not have a child registered.
- (j) The primary goal will be to have consistency of evaluators for a given age group or division. This continuity ensures that the players are being observed by a group of evaluators who have a benchmark for skill performance and knowledge of the overall ability of the group that they are observing.
- (k) Registration will start on **July 15 and will close August 15**. After August 15th all efforts will be made to accommodate late registrations.
- (l) The start date for player evaluations is set by Hockey Winnipeg. Once this start date is determined, SVMHA will post a tentative schedule and format for each division. Included will be up to four warm up skates (depending on Division), the testing session, and the evaluation sessions for each group within the division. Registrants are responsible for ensuring their child is available for the posted dates and times.

- (m) The female program will follow the same evaluation process as indicated above, however as the female program is smaller, in some cases changes will be made.
- (n) To avoid players moving from one hockey program to another, once a female player has stepped onto the ice for either a co-ed or female evaluation skate, they will then be considered part of the program for the entire season.
- (o) The evaluation format will consist of skills testing only at the U9 Level house level and a combination of testing and subjective skills evaluation during game play at all other levels.
- (p) SVMHA shall review this policy on an annual basis prior to the next hockey season to ensure the procedures and practices contained herein in accordance with the principles of the Association regarding evaluations.
- (q) The evaluation committee shall set the number and level of teams for each division based on the Hockey Winnipeg guidelines.
- (r) The committee will also post the expected evaluation processes for each division on the SVMHA Website prior to July 1st. Any modifications/amendments to these initial divisional evaluation processes must be posted on the SVMHA website, by Aug 22 of the current season.
- (s) All questions concerning the placement of a player shall first be directed to the Vice President of the appropriate division of play. Player evaluation and placement is not subject to the right of appeal. Any deviation from this policy will be dealt with in accordance with the SVMHA General Policies and Procedures.
- (t) The days for each age group's testing will be set and announced. All participating players will receive notice in the TeamSnap program confirming their ice time at least 48 hours in advance of that date.
- (u) Players who try out for the AA/AAA or High School programs will not register with SVMHA. Should they be released from those programs they can register with SVMHA and join the evaluation process at that time. Those who remain with the AA program to the end and then are released (**final cuts**) will be placed in the A1 program by the Vice President of that age division or the VP of Female Hockey having final approval.
- (v) Hockey Winnipeg, based on enrolment, determines how many U9 A1 teams SVMHA must form. Based on the skill testing results from the U9 testing, an appropriate number of players will be invited to participate in a selection tournament to select the teams. The number of players invited to tryout will be 13 players over the number of players required to roster the number of teams we are mandated to form.
- This number will be posted at the beginning of the process
 - Players will be invited to join the evaluation tournament by email and must then use their Hockey Canada registration profiles to purchase a U9A1 tryout ticket to cover the costs of the evaluation process.
 - There will be an additional fee for players to participate. Those invited will be asked to enroll through the HCR process.

4 EVALUTION RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- (a) All participating players must be dressed and ready to go 10 minutes prior to their scheduled session.
- (b) Players are asked to wear only a SVMHA jersey or a blank jersey under their pinnie. Summer program jerseys must not be worn.
- (c) SVMHA will provide a numbered pinnie to the player at the session sign in desk. This number is matched to your player in the program for that session only. The pinnie will be washed after each use.
- (d) At testing stations, all participating players will have two attempts to complete each drill and their best score will be used in their overall ranking. A third attempt may be allowed if a player falls or loses the puck, and a clean time was not achieved.
- (e) If a player is unable to complete the drill in three attempts, they will receive a score equal to the lowest for that drill from all participants from the same age group.

(f) Each test has a start line, and all participating players must start with both feet behind the start line. This rule ensures fairness and any score resulting from a line violation will not be kept. Should a player not start correctly, the tester will stop the player and have them restart. Should a player repeatedly disregard the start line, they will receive a score equal to the lowest for that drill from all participants from the same age group.

5 Coach Selection:

(a) SVMHA coaches are the backbone of our association, and we must acknowledge that our coaches for the most part are parent coaches. All efforts will be made to assign a head coach to teams after the players are evaluated. However, in some cases, when no coaches are identified the Vice Presidents require the flexibility to assign a coach prior to the end of evaluations. Only a head coach will be assigned, it is the responsibility of each head coach to appoint their assistants. All team staff must be approved by the SVMHA Executive prior to being placed on a roster.

(b) All coaches are required to be registered on the HCR and obtain the necessary certifications for the division in which they intend to coach. Any coach not meeting the required certifications by the eligibility date set forth by Hockey Manitoba will not be allowed to coach. For complete details, please refer to the Hockey Manitoba Website. The Registrar is responsible for ensuring only certified coaches remain on the official team roster.

(c) Coaches are required to complete the coach application form on the SVMHA website. Once all coach applications are received, the applications will be reviewed and a determination of their coaching status will be made using the following:

- SVMHA past parent and player review surveys
- SVMHA Suspension Lists
- Hockey Winnipeg Suspension Lists
- Hockey Manitoba Suspension Lists
- Hockey Canada Suspension List

The candidates who have submitted applications to coach are required to participate in the evaluation process, by evaluating during evaluation tournament games.

6 Team Formation

Hockey Winnipeg Rules and Regulations, Section D: Hockey Zones dictates the number of:

- Teams per division of play, including U9 A1
- Teams per skill level
- The minimum and maximum number of players per team

(a) SVMHA predicts the number of players based on the previous year's enrolment. The evaluation process is based on this projection, once registration is completed the numbers are finalized.

(b) SVMHA has adopted the use of a tiered approach to team formation as recommended by Hockey Canada. Initially players are grouped based on the results of the skill testing session. The goal is to evaluate players in these tiered groups so players can then be evaluated within their skill peer group and not be disadvantaged by competing with players with more advanced skills.

(c) Where possible the approximate number of players to be placed into each tier to start the process will be posted prior to the start of the evaluation process. In some cases, due to lower numbers, the process described above will be modified. As previously noted, players will receive or be offered up to three warm up sessions, a testing session, and at least two additional evaluation session in accordance with Hockey Winnipeg rules. The process for each division will be posted on the SVMHA website prior to the commencement of evaluations. (Sec 3.p refers)

- (d) Team formation meetings will be called by the Vice President responsible for the division, or their designate when the process has ended for a group (i.e., when the tier three evaluation sessions are completed). This process will continue until all teams have been formed.
- (e) Present at these meetings will be:
- Vice President of Division or designate
 - Vice President of Evaluation and Development, Evaluation and Development Member at Large, or Executive Director
 - Team Head coaches involved.
 - One additional SVMHA Board member
- (f) Vice Presidents will remove themselves from any discussions or decisions that are required to be made regarding his or her own child. The Vice President(s) will be replaced by either the Executive Director of SVMHA or another Vice President for this meeting.

7 Team Formation Meetings Process:

The number of players and teams in each division will determine the method of team formation used. What will remain consistent is that the Head coaches will be presented with a list of players for consideration as described below.

- (a) The purpose of the meeting is to provide Head coaches an opportunity to draft their teams from the list of players provided by the Vice President of Evaluations and Development or designate.
- (b) Prior to the team formation meeting, the Vice President of Evaluations and Development and the Executive Director will compile the rankings from the group being considered and identify the players to be promoted to the next higher group. In the case of the first tiered groups, the ranking of the players will be presented to the Head Coaches who will conduct a draft of the players to form the teams.
- (c) Depending on the number of players in an age group this last step may need to be varied. The process to be used will be posted prior to the start of the process. As indicated in Sec 3n.

Adopted by the SVMHA Board on:

July 2, 2025
