



# **ORONO YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

## **Pre-Season Player Evaluation Process and Criteria**

(effective August 2019)

### ***General***

The Orono Youth Hockey Association (OYHA) Coaches Board is committed to providing a fair and impartial pre-season player evaluation process/system in an effort to place players at the level where they will maximize their skill development and be challenged appropriately.

### ***Pre-Season Player Evaluation Dates***

Each year's dates will be determined by available ice time, but will generally begin mid to late September and be completed by early to mid October. (based on levels)

### ***Pillars of Orono Hockey***

#### **5 Attributes**

- Passion to Compete, Hockey Sense, Teamwork, Work Ethic, Attitude

#### **5 Skills**

- Movement with the Puck, Playmaking, Shooting, Puck Support, Anticipation

### ***Skater Evaluations***

#### **General Guidelines and Performance Metrics**

- Combination of performance in "Practices" and "Game Play"
- Skills and Attributes consist of the pillars stated above and are evaluated in practice and scrimmages.
- Game Play (scrimmages) consist of: a player's team skills (offensive & defensive), positional play, teamwork, and the ability to read and react to game situations.
- Each player will be ranked numerically based on their scores from the practice and scrimmage from which the pool split will be determined. After the players are split into pools, the players will participate in inside or outside scrimmages, depending on age-level.
- Scrimmages – Based on number of players and/or individual player scores, some players may be asked not to participate in outside scrimmages.

#### **Practices**

- The top level (AA or A) coach for each level will run a practice with evaluators in the stands.
- Players will be evaluated how they listen, apply their skills to the drills, and represent themselves as hockey players in a hockey practice setting. We will be looking how players add value to the practice whether that be offensively, defensively, physically, energetically, mentally, emotionally, intelligently or through leadership and most of all attentiveness.

#### **Scrimmages**

- Coaches and Evaluation Leads will be on the benches during scrimmages to coach the game not the individual player.
- Players will be evaluated how they approach game situations whether in the locker room, on the bench or on the ice.
- They will be evaluated how they adapt to game situations whether that be game play, coaching decisions/changes, and general adversity hockey brings.

- Again, players will be evaluated based on how they add value to the team whether that be offensively, defensively, energetically, mentally, emotionally, intelligently or through leadership and most of all attentiveness.

The following is the numbers of events and the weightings associated with those events:

### **2019-2020 Evaluations**

	<b><u>10U</u></b>			<b><u>Squirt</u></b>
<b><u>Pre-Split</u></b>				
Practice	40%			40%
3v3 Scrimmages	60%			60%
<b><u>Post-Split</u></b>				
Outside Scrimmage 1	50%			50%
Outside Scrimmage 2	50%			50%
<b><u>Pre-Split</u></b>	<b><u>12U</u></b>	<b><u>Peewee</u></b>	<b><u>Bantam</u></b>	<b><u>Junior Gold</u></b>
				<b><u>/ 15U</u></b>
Practice	40%	40%	40%	40%
Scrimmage	60%	60%	60%	60%
<b><u>Post-Split</u></b>				
Scrimmage 1	50%	50%	50%	n/a
Scrimmage 2	50%	50%	50%	n/a

After the split, the scores are zeroed and the players are scored against their peers within their post-split pool.

Note that in final team determination the head coach has discretion to move a player up/down by 15% of a player's total score at the final rankings. If the head coach elects to utilize this discretion, he/she will present the reasons to the members of the executive pre-season player evaluation group (consisting of the Chairman of the Coaches Board, the Head of the Pre-season player evaluation-committee level from the Coaches Board and the President of OYHA) for approval. Discretionary reasons can include but are not limited to information from former coaches and additional input from evaluators.

In the event that a 1<sup>st</sup> year and 2<sup>nd</sup> year player's scores are deemed to be in a statistical tie, the tiebreaker will go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> year player at the particular level, at both the A/B - B/C pool split point and the final team rankings.

### **New for the 2019-2020 season:**

The evaluation process for the top tier team (AA/A) will continue into the first week of practices. The AA coach will have the discretion to select more players than he or she intends to roster for the season in an effort to give more time for the players to demonstrate their abilities, level of competition and passion for the game, as well as giving the coach more time to evaluate the players. The players not selected to continue on with the top tier team will have a meeting with the coach to discuss the aspects of their play, abilities, and/or attitude to focus on for development. The coaches' selections for relegation will be reviewed by the evaluations level leads and coaches board to ensure sound judgment and decision-making was made.

The decision to carry more players into the first week of practice is at the top tier coaches' discretion and is not mandatory. The coach may choose his or her final roster at the end of the formal evaluations.

## ***Goaltenders:***

**Goalie Skills, approximately 50% of total grade** – during skills evaluation sessions, goalies will be judged based on:

- Movement in Standing position
  - Short Parallel Slides
  - Long Parallel Slides
  - Pivots
  - Forward backwards movement
  - T-Push
- Movements going down:
  - Full V (with/without pivots)
  - Full V (with recovery)
  - Shuffle, Full V, then push
- Movements from down position
  - Full V
  - Full V then recovery

**Goalie Team Scrimmages, approximately 50% of total grade** - During all scrimmages (full ice), goalies will be judged based:

- Pivots (being square)
- Forward / Backwards Movement
- Lateral Movement
- Rebound Control
- Angles
- Recovery
- Stick work
- Hands
- Pads

## ***Pre-Season Player Evaluation: Evaluators/Graders***

The OYHA Coaches Board will utilize evaluators/graders for the completion of graded events. The evaluators will possess the applicable hockey background and experience to complete the evaluation process and **NOT** be deemed by the OYHA Coaches Board to be in conflict with an impartial pre-season player evaluation process. At least three evaluators will be utilized per graded event. During scrimmages, a separate grader will be used to grade goaltenders. These criteria do not include/affect the following:

- Contracted Non-Parent Coaches at applicable levels/teams **MAY** grade at the level he/she will be coaching.

## **Parent Conduct**

During the pre-season player evaluation process it is important to remember all players feel some level of “pressure.” Pressure to succeed, pressure to win and pressure to perform. The best ways for parents to approach pre-season player evaluations is with encouragement for their players, and support their player by reducing as much outside pressures as possible, and reminding them to have fun. In an effort to reduce additional pressure on OYHA’s players **ALL PRE-SEASON PLAYER EVALUATION SESSIONS WILL BE CLOSED TO PARENTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC. Parents will be allowed in the Arena Lobby Only – NOT in the arena, NOT in the Birch’s Loft, and NOT in the dryland area. Anyone seen recording the evaluations or discussing players or play with the evaluators will be asked to leave the arena.**

- Bantam/U15; Peewee/U12 – parents/guardians may drop their players off at the rink, assist in registration if they wish, and are allowed only in the lobby during the ice session.
- Squirt/U10 – parents/guardians may assist their players in registration and getting dressed, i.e. tying skates and helping with equipment, and are allowed only in the lobby during the ice session.

- o In special circumstances the OYHA Coaches Board may give parent(s) permission to remain at the event if deemed appropriate.

### **Additional Information**

If a player cannot make their assigned time for pre-split practice or scrimmage, they will be required to attend a different session already scheduled but must notify the coaches board 24 hours before. There will be no makeup time for players missing post-split sessions.

Please make sure all of your child's equipment is in good condition **and is the Orono color scheme**. Helmets and breezers should be dark blue. For the pre-season player evaluation, all of the skaters should wear as generic a jersey as possible with no names on them, along with the appropriate helmet and breezer color. **Failure to not have the appropriate color schemes may result in the player not being able to participate in the pre-season player evaluation process.**

**Opt-out Pre-Season Player Evaluations:** Players have the option to opt out of pre-season player evaluations completely, and be automatically placed on the lowest level team for their age group, or, they can opt out of the top level (AA/A) pre-season player evaluations. If they chose to opt out of the top level pre-season player evaluations, they would only have to go to the post-split B/C pool session. Players who opt out of top level pre-season player evaluations may still have the opportunity to make a second or third tier team.

### **Absence Policy for Pre-Season Player Evaluations**

The following absence policy is to be used by the Coaches Board ("Board") to determine the placement of a player missing one or more of the pre-season player evaluation sessions. This policy is to be a set of guidelines for the Coaches Board in making their determination. This policy recognizes that there are a variety of factors that will need to be taken into account and that this policy cannot cover all situations. The final determination will be in the sole discretion of the Coaches Board and will endeavor to abide by this policy and its philosophy.

The pre-season player evaluation process is an important process for the Orono Youth Hockey Association ("Association") and is the process to place a player on his or her a team commensurate with their abilities displayed during the evaluation process. Absence from pre-season player evaluations is discouraged as it not only affects the missing player, but also impacts the association and the quality of the pre-season player evaluation process for all involved. Missing players has been a problem in our pre-season player evaluation process. Full attendance is needed for the Association to conduct fair and effective pre-season player evaluations for all players, and properly place players of similar abilities together on teams.

**1. Voluntary Absence from Pre-season player evaluations:** A voluntary absence from pre-season player evaluations exists when a player elects to miss pre-season player evaluations for any reason. A voluntary absence from a single pre-season player evaluation session would result in the player receiving the lowest scoring awarded any player during the missed event.

**2. Involuntary Absence from pre-season player evaluations:** An involuntary absence from pre-season player evaluations exists when a player misses pre-season player evaluations due to conditions that are uncontrollable by the player or parents. These include but are not limited to such things as:

- An injury resulting in a player being unable to pre-season player evaluation or unable to complete pre-season player evaluations (requires a doctor's note)
- An illness resulting in player being unable to pre-season player evaluation or unable to complete pre-season player evaluations (requires a doctor's note)

**3. A mandatory absence** (i.e. mandatory school function, church function etc.) that the Coaches Board is aware of and approves prior to pre-season player evaluations.

Team placement for players in categories 2 and 3 will be determined solely by the Coaches Board in closed session. Considerations for team placement include but are not limited to:

- Performance in pre-season player evaluations if partially completed
- Input from prior years' coaches
- Prior year level of play
- Input from current and former coaches
- The scores of players deemed similar in ability by former coaches and/or the Coaches Board.

### **Penalty Policy for Pre-Season Player Evaluations**

An important pre-season player evaluation objective of the Association is fairness and safety for the players. The safety of our players is a priority. Inside scrimmage session will be monitored by the level leads and/or Coaches Board members. Penalties committed will result in the offending player sent to the bench and miss the remainder of his or her shift. Repeated, flagrant, or penalties which were an attempt to injure may result in extended benching or ejection from the session. Outside scrimmage sessions are conducted as a part of the pre-season player evaluation process and experienced officials will be used. Penalties will be called and assessed. Any player receiving a penalty will serve his/her penalty in the penalty box, however teams will play even strength at all times. Inappropriate behavior exhibited by any player will be discussed by Coaches Board representatives and immediately addressed. This may include removal from the pre-season player evaluation process. As such, any removal of a player due to inappropriate behavior will be considered a voluntary absence from pre-season player evaluations and follow the appropriate procedures.

Contact the Coaches board or the OYHA Board if you have questions or concerns. Contact information can be found under the "Hockey Operations" tab on the [www.oronohockey.org](http://www.oronohockey.org) main page.